

The Two Witnesses and the Seventh Trumpet

11:1-19

Introductory Notes

- This is one of the more difficult passages in the Book of Revelation and leaves many questions unanswered .
- Begins by describing events that are not chronological as a 3 1/2 year time span is described
- Ends returning by returning to the chronological order of the Trumpet judgments with the sounding of the Seventh Trumpet.

Outline

- The Two Witnesses - vs. 1-4
- The Seventh Trumpet - vs. 5-19

Notes

- vs. 1 - reed - as grow in wetlands, can be over 10' tall, and were often used to measure in Bible times.
- vs. 1 - the Temple being measured is the rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem.
- vs. 2 - the distinction is made here that only the Temple proper is to be measured and not the surrounding courts.
- vs. 2 - other times things are measured: Zechariah 2, Ezekiel 40, Revelation 21:15-17
- vs. 2 - 42 months - 3 1/2 years, half the Tribulation. I think this is reference to the last half of the Tribulation.
- vs. 3 - two witnesses - theories about them include:
 - Moses and Elijah - the miracles ascribed to them are similar
 - Enoch and Elijah - both were taken to Heaven by special means
 - Unknown witnesses - that these are just two people that God uses
- vs. 3 - 1,260 days - using 30 day months that is 42 months or 3 1/2 years. I don't think this refers to either the first or second half of the Tribulation specifically, but a period somewhere in the middle.
- vs. 4 - olive trees, candlesticks - hearkens back to the imagery of Zechariah 4
- vs. 5 - fire - similar to Elijah in 2 Kings 1:10-14
- vs. 6 - rain - similar to Elijah in 1 Kings 17:1
- vs. 6 - waters to blood - similar to Moses in Exodus 7:17-19
- vs. 6 - plagues - similar to Moses in Exodus 7-12
- vs. 7 - beast - Satan
- vs. 8 - the city is obviously Jerusalem
- vs. 9-10 - note that the entire world sees and knows they are dead as their bodies are displayed as trophies. This has only become feasible in the past century.
- vs. 11-12 - the witnesses are resurrected and ascend to Heaven as the world watches.
- vs. 12 - "come up hither" - this IS NOT the Rapture, but similar to Christ's ascension in Acts 1:9

- vs. 13 - earthquake - note the specifics of the damage: 10% of city destroyed and 7,000 killed.
- vs. 14 - Second Woe - the first in Revelation 8:13, and the Third Woe follows in the coming Vial judgments
- vs. 15 - Seventh Trumpet - this trumpet is the Seven Vial judgments in chapter 16.
- vs. 15 - kingdoms - note that God is claiming His property in anticipation of the Millennial Kingdom.
- vs. 15 - as a side note, the last part of this verse was used by Handel in the "Hallelujah Chorus".
- vs. 16 - 24 elders - remember them from Chapters 4 and 5?
- vs. 19 - we will begin another parenthetical section in Chapter 12, and then resume the narrative in Chapter 16 with a voice coming from this Temple.