

Revelation 11:1-12. *The Lord God Continues His Instructions*. John was given a reed to measure [μέτρησον, “metrayson,” [3354](#)] God’s temple, the altar and then was also told to count worshippers. In doing so, he was told not to measure the court of the nations [“gentiles”²²]. No need to measure it for it has been given to the nations who will travel within the holy city for 3.5 years. God then said power would be given to my “two witnesses,” and they will preach for about 3.5 years dressed in funeral clothes.

- Q Why was John told to “measure” the inner temple, but not the outer courtyards?
- Q What do you think of “trample” as a translation (verse 2)?
- Q Who are the “two witnesses?” Matthew 17:1-9; or, Luke 10:1-23?

They are like two olive trees and two lampstands [Zechariah 4] which stand before the “Lord of the earth.” Don’t mess with them as they will devour their enemies with fire; anyone who wants to hurt them will die in this way. They can shut the sky, prevent rain while preaching, turn the waters into blood, and send plagues whenever they want.

When finished the abyss beast will attack, overpower and kill them. With their bodies lying on the street of the “great city,” where the LORD was crucified. Everyone will see and refuse their burial for 3^{1/2} days. Earth inhabitants will gloat and celebrate by exchanging gifts because these two prophets had tormented them.

²²“Gentile” is a misleading term in biblical times, for the word used in the Greek is “ethne” (i.e., “nations”). The term “Gentile” originated from the *Latin* word “*gentilis*,” meaning “belonging to the same family, people, or nation.” It evolved linguistically to describe those not belonging to Jewish people, even though the original meaning was more about shared kinship or ethnicity. The Hebrew equivalent, “goy,” also meant “nation” and was used to describe both Israelites and non-Israelites, and similarly, eventually evolving linguistically to mean “non-Jew.”

The outer court of the Temple in Jerusalem was called Ezrat HaNashim (הנשים עזרת) in Hebrew, which translates to “Court of the Women.” This 26-acre area was designated for the use of ordinary Israelites, excluding non-menstruating women & was located between the Court of the Nations and the Inner Courts. It was also known as the “Middle Court.”

REVELATION 11:1-12 [SEE ALSO EZEKIEL 40]

I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told,

Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. ²But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample [πατέω, pateo, “tread” or “travel;” [3691](#)] on the holy city for 42 months. ³And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.

⁴These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. ⁵If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. ⁶These men [“men” is **not** there; see verse 10] have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

⁷Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. ⁸Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively [actually “spiritually”] called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. ⁹For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. ¹⁰The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these *two* prophets [male] had tormented those who live on the earth.

¹¹But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. ¹²Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

But the LORD God resurrected them after 3^{1/2} days. Survivors stood to their feet; the LORD God struck terror in all who witnessed this resurrection. Then the LORD God told the preachers/prophets to “Come up here!” As their enemies looked on, they went up in a cloud to heaven.

- Q Who/what are the olive tree and lampstands? Let us learn from Scripture, Zechariah 4. So, how many prophets were killed by the “beast from the abyss?”
- Q Why was the LORD God so protective of these two (four?) prophets? Why were they allowed to be killed by the “beast from the abyss?” [abyss = a (without) byss (depth, bottomless)]
- Q Why would Jerusalem be called spiritually “Sodom” and “Egypt?” What was Holy Spirit communicating here about the location of the prophets’ bodies?²³
- Q Why will we exchange gifts when the prophets are killed? And when they are resurrected? Why 3^{1/2} days?
- Q Can you imagine a greater command from the LORD God than “Come up here?”



²³Denial of burial was a flagrant violation of decency. And the “great city?” Possibly Jerusalem, though some extend the metaphor of “Sodom and Egypt” to mean Rome, Babylon or some other city. It may be symbolic of the world opposed to God (see Revelation 16:19; 17:18; 18:10,16,18-19,21). Sodom (cf. Isaiah 1:10) refers to its low level of morality (Genesis 19:4-11); perhaps “Egypt” symbolizes oppression and slavery. Others, oddly enough, assert Jesus could have been crucified in Rome as a metaphor for Rome’s power extending throughout the known world, thus becoming responsible as a whole for the Christ’s execution. Adapted from Compton’s Interactive NIV © 1996 as corrected and edited by D. Thomas Porter.

Revelation 11:13-19. Consequences of Messing with God's Prophets. With their passing on up to heaven, a 10th of the city collapsed from an earth quake—*seven* thousand were killed. Those spared gave glory to the God of heaven yet were still terrified. And so the second woe ended.

Now to the third woe—the *seventh* angel used a trumpet to announce:

The realm of the world has become the realm of our Sovereign and of the Christ. He will reign forever and ever!

As the 24 elders were seated around His throne, they fell on their face, worshipping the LORD God by saying—

We are thankful to the LORD God Almighty, who is and was because You have begun to reign with your great power.

The people, however, were angry because the time for judging those who served and those who reverence Your Name, both great and small, and of course, destroying those who destroy the earth.

God's temple (in heaven) was opened; and there it was, the Ark of the Covenant. Flashes of lightning, thunder, and hailstorms accompanied this opening of heaven's temple.

Q Why were there survivors from the severe earthquake [σεισμός, "seismo"]?

Q Why were the survivors terrified? A third woe to come? If so...?

Q What does it mean to "reverence" the name of the LORD God?

Q Why was the ark of the covenant opened? What had to happen before it was opened? Romans 3:25



REVELATION 11:13-19

At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.

¹⁵The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever."

¹⁶And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷saying:

"We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

¹⁸The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great—and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

¹⁹Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.