

## REVELATION: Lesson 104

### Chapter 11:1-4, The Measuring of the Future Earthly Temple

14 September 2020

Most commentators teach that the temple being measured, and everything associated with it is a figurative form of the Church, the Body of Christ. Their reluctance to take the Bible literally has caused much confusion and leaves many parts of the Bible a mystery. We will look at the contrast between the figurative interpretation and the literal interpretation of this passage. In the end, the truth will be revealed.

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#### THE FAILURE OF THE COMMENTATORS:

- THE TEMPLE** (vss 1-2): this represents the faithful part of the Church that is living right. John is measuring the size of the Church.
- THE ALTAR** (vs 1): This is the Church in worship.
- THE OUTER COURT** (vs 2): This represents the activity of the Church.
- THE HOLY CITY** (vs 2): This is the Church.
- THE TWO WITNESSES** (vs 3): They represent the elect Church (saved Jews/saved Gentiles).
- THE WAR OF THE BEAST** (7): Symbolizes the Church experiencing opposition from Satan as they witness.
- DEATH OF 2 WITNESSES** (8): Represents Christ's death 2,000 years ago. When they rise, it represents Christ's resurrection. When they ascend, it's the victorious Church vindicated.
- ELDERS IN HEAVEN** (vs 16): This is the Church too!

\*You can point to a cow and say, "it's a duck," but that doesn't make it a duck!

\*The figurative method of interpretation is very flawed and always leads to confusion.

\*The figurative method makes it easier to change the parts of the Bible you don't agree with.

**Example:** "Fire doesn't really come out of their mouth; it only **represents** the harshness of their words."

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#### The Literal Interpretation (Believing what the Bible says)

- Everything in the first 3 verses pertains to the Jews, not the Church: a temple, an altar, an outer court, a holy city.
  - Where is the holy city? (Mecca, Rome?). According to **Nehemiah 11:1**, and **Isaiah 52:1**, Jerusalem is the holy city. (See also Daniel 9:24, Matthew 4:5, Matthew 27: 52-53).
- John is obviously measuring the temple, altar, etc. in the earthly Jerusalem.
- The Bible only recognizes one other "holy city:" the New Jerusalem in Heaven (Rev 21:2).
  - We know John is not measuring New Jerusalem. Gentiles can't get to it to trample it! (vs 2)
  - The temple and the holy city can't be the Church (saved people). Why?
    - The temple is divided between Jew and Gentile. No saved person is counted as a Jew or a Gentile. We are all one in Christ Jesus (**Galatians 3:26-28**).
    - We are begotten again unto a lively hope (**1 Peter 1:2-3, 9**), no longer Gentile/Jew.
    - The gates of hell shall not prevail against Christ's Church (Matthew 16:18). How can the Gentiles tread upon the Church (Rev 11:2)?
    - Christ rejecters tread upon the blood of Jesus Christ (Heb 10:29), not on the Church.

- Comparing Revelation 11:1 with Revelation 21:15, we find that the earthly city is measured with a “reed like unto a rod” while the heavenly city is measured with a “golden reed.”
  - The reed like unto a rod doubles as an instrument of chastening and punishment (see **Revelation 2:27, 12:5, 19:15**).
  - The golden reed (not a chastening rod) is used to measure New Jerusalem because the Church will not suffer under the wrath of God (Rom 8:1, 1 Thess 5:9).
    - Jesus Christ already suffered for us (Isa 53:5). He was the Rock that was smitten ONE time (Exod 17:6).
    - The Church was built on that Rock (Mat 16:18), not to be smitten by the rod.
      - The Church won’t be in the Tribulation.

The commentators attempt to point to the historical temples as the object of John’s measuring, not believing that a new temple could be built in such short time during the Tribulation.

- Solomon’s Temple: destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar (2 Kings 24 and 25).
- Zerubbabel’s Temple: destroyed by Antiochus Epiphanes in 168 B.C.
- Herod’s Temple (John 2:20): destroyed by Titus in 70 A.D.
  - John cannot measure something that’s been destroyed. He’s measuring a future temple.
  - Today the bodies of believers are the Lord’s temple (**Eph 2:21-22, 1 Cor 6:19**, 1 Pet 2:5).
  - The Temple that John measures has a wall of partition separating Jews and Gentiles. There is no such separation in the Church (**Ephesians 2:11-14**).
  - The temple contains an altar. The church has direct access to God because our sacrifice has been made once for all, no further need of an altar of sacrifice (**Hebrews 10:19-22**).
  - Christians need no holy city on earth to be in the presence of God (Eph 2:6).

- This temple is a new earthly temple where the Antichrist will sit, declaring himself to be God (2 Thess 2, Dan 9). He will set up the “abomination that maketh desolate” (Mat 24:15). Many will receive him (Jn 5:43) as being the Messiah.
- Today God doesn’t dwell in temples made with hands (**Acts 7:47**). When God turns again to dealing with the Jews, the temple is back, but the Antichrist will live there.
- The Jews who are worshipping in this temple have returned to Jerusalem in unbelief (if they had trusted their Messiah, they wouldn’t need an altar). (Zephaniah 2, Isaiah 66, 28).
- Jerusalem is currently being trodden down by the Gentiles (Luke 21:24), but it is presently not the holy city (**Matt 23:34-38**) because God is not in it.
- Israel must be reconciled to God before the Earth can be restored (**Romans 11:7-15, Deut 32:7-9**).
- Revelation 11 is setting things up for the Antichrist. The Jews are in the land with a temple, but are in unbelief, still rejecting Jesus Christ as their Messiah. It will require God’s chastening to turn them to Him.
- This chapter is the beginning of the time when God will personally begin to deal with the Jews and punish His chosen people.