REVELATION: Lesson 105

Chapter 11:1-7, The Ministry of God's Two Witnesses, The Remnant and the Rejecters

18 September 2020

- 1-2 John is told to measure the temple, the altar, and them that worship therein. Measurements are usually given (Ezek 40, Rev 21:16), but not this time. A rod is used here to measure, symbolizing that God is marking them out for judgment.
 - John is sent as a surveyor, marking out a remnant of Jewish believers as God's heritage during the time of judgment.
 - Romans 9:6 tells us they are "not all Israel" just because they have Abraham as their Father (John 8:39-45) and are "of Israel."
 - Only a remnant belong to God: those who trust Jesus as their Messiah (John 14:6).
 - Today, you're not a Heaven-bound Christian just because you go to church or get baptized. You must put your faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ.
 - Most all Jews are looking for the establishment of the kingdom. They ought to be looking for the Messiah who will establish it.
 - Nobody (including the Jew) gets to Heaven through lineage or human relationships (Jn 1:13), but only by receiving Jesus Christ (Jn 1:12).
 - A remnant will receive Him during the Tribulation.
 - The majority are being regathered into the land for God's judgment.
 - o The Gentiles will trample Jerusalem underfoot for 42 months.
 - The first 42 months of Tribulation is to convince the Churchgoing Gentiles they couldn't bring in the kingdom (of God) without trusting Jesus Christ.
 - The Second 42 months of *Great* Tribulation should teach the Jew that they can't have their kingdom (of Heaven) without the King, Jesus Christ.

Lamentations 4:11-12 says the world will have a difficult time believing that God allowed the destruction of Jerusalem and the slaughter of His people.

- We see the Jews regathering into their nation and rebuilding the cities. It appears that God's blessing is upon them. But they are being regathered to repent or be judged.
 - o Bible believers know this today. After the rapture, the only ones who will know it are the 144,000 witnesses and the 2 anointed witnesses and their converts.
 - The witnesses will sound the warning to "get out of Jerusalem (Mat 24:15-22, Rev 12) because the Antichrist whom you trusted to rebuild your temple is going to kill you."
 - Those who don't believe the scriptures will ignore the warnings and die.

The Significance of 42

- 1 Samuel 5-7, The Jews made an idol out of the Ark of the Covenant. The Philistines captured the Ark and held it 7 months. 7 is the number signifying completion.
 - 42 months is the remainder of the Tribulation time after an idol is erected in the temple and the Jews worship the Beast (Rev 13:5).
 - o During this time, the holy things of God will be held captive by the enemy.
- Numbers: The Israelites wandered in the wilderness to pay for rejecting the Law, stopping at 42 stations along the way.

- Revelation 12: God tells the Jew to get out of Jerusalem and hide in the wilderness 42 mos.
- 2 Kings 2:24, two she-bears killed 42 people for mocking God's prophet. The beast is said to have feet like a bear (Rev 13:2).
- 2 Kings 10:14, forty-two leaders of Israel were killed by Jehu for making an alliance with idolaters (Ahab and Jezebel).

42 Months is used twice in Revelation: **11:2** — the period of the treading down of Jerusalem.

13:5 — the period of the Antichrist's destruction.

1260 days is used twice in Revelation: **11:3** — the length of the ministry of God's two witnesses.

12:6 — number of days that God will provide for the Jews in

the wilderness for believing His witnesses.

<u>Two Witnesses</u> (vs 3) God's Law requires a minimum of two witnesses in agreement to testify against any person and establish a matter (<u>Numbers 35:30</u>, <u>Deut 19:15</u>, <u>Matt 18:16</u>).

Wearing Sackcloth

Sackcloth is an expression of mourning and humiliation before God (Dan 9:3, Isa 37:1-2, Joel 1:13, 1 Kings 20:31, Jer 4:8). These Tribulation witnesses wear sackcloth because they are telling people about the terrible judgment that is about to fall.

New Testament Christians do not wear sackcloth when we witness because we have good news to proclaim (Philippians 4:4, 1 Pet 3:15)!

Breathing Fire (vs 5) Killing men with fire. This can't be the Church. When Jesus' disciples suggested calling down fire to kill some men, like Elijah did, Jesus rebuked them and told them He didn't come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. [Luke 9:51-56, 2 Kings 1:5-15].

Church-Age saints don't kill those who are unbelievers. We try our hardest to win them to Jesus Christ. We know that if they die in their sins, they'll go to Hell, so we'll even receive mistreatment by them rather than wish them any harm.

- The prophets were dealing with bodies and an earthly kingdom.
- The Church deals with souls and Heaven or Hell.
 - o IRA (Protestants warring with Catholics) is unbiblical.
 - o The Crusades (Catholics killing all non-Catholics) was unbiblical.
- In Rev 11, the two witnesses are back to dealing with the earthly kingdom.

Power to Shut Heaven, that it Rain not (vs 6)

Deuteronomy 28:15-24 God told the Israelites that if they would not obey His commandments, He

would stop the rain on their land.

Leviticus 26:1, 19 God's warning that He would stop the rain is connected to the Jew's idolatry.

God will stop the rain at mid-Tribulation when the Antichrist sets up his idol

and the Jews participate in idolatry.

Zechariah 10:1-2 God will start the rain again at Christ's Second Coming.

Haggai 1:9-11 God stopped the rain when people neglected His house.

Jeremiah 14:22 God is the only one who can cause rain.