

Revelation 11 Part 1

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we are looking at the book of Revelation chapter eleven. This is the twenty-seventh in our series on this book.

Verse one, *'And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.*

'But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.'

John the Apostle was given a reed, a measuring rod if you like, to measure the temple and so on. But the area outside where the Gentiles were was not given a measuring rod, he was not to measure that.

It's interesting that the Jews always had specific times. There were forty years in the wilderness. There was fifty years for a jubilee. There's a whole host of very precise numbers for the Jews, but that's not so for the Gentiles. There does not appear to be a specific time for the Gentile ages. It just seems to go on. And, although we know that the Lord Jesus is coming again, the actual year, the date we don't know. There's no simple way to work it out. We're not on the Jewish timetable. In fact, God always uses the Jews as His timepiece.

The Gentiles were in charge of Jerusalem, took over Jerusalem for forty and two months, which is, of course, three and a half years. So there would appear to be a coming world power, not necessarily military, that is actually going to control the city of Jerusalem, the capital of Israel.

Verse three, *'And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.'*

The one thousand two hundred and threescore days is, of course, under the Jewish calendar of thirty days in a month, three and a half years. So, there are two witnesses, two preachers if you like, two prophets who are going to come and preach for that period of time, and their message is judgement, their message is warning, hence the sackcloth.

Verse four, *'These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.*

'And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

'These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.'

Now there's two people in the Old Testament who did exactly those things. It was Elijah that stopped the rain for three and a half years. It was Elijah that could call down fire from heaven on his enemies. On the other hand, the one that turned the water into blood and was able to have a whole lot of other plagues occur, or prophesy a whole lot of other plagues, was, of course, Moses. These are the two witnesses that stand before God. Moses and Elijah. If there is anyone that the Jews will listen to it is those two prophets. And God sends them with the message of Christianity, of Christ, and from there a hundred and forty-four thousand, twelve thousand from each tribe, are converted and come to the Lord.

Verse seven, *'And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.'*

This is, of course, that world power we were talking about earlier, the one that is going to control and run the world for a while, for three and a half years.

Verse eight, *'And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.'*

That obviously is Jerusalem. Jerusalem has become a false place of worship. Jerusalem has become likened to Egypt and to Sodom. And although it's the centre of the religious areas of the world you can see what God thinks of it.

Verse nine, *'And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.'*

'And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.'

The true message, the true prophecies and teachings that these prophets give really cause a problem for the religious system of the world, because, of course, that world religious system is going to kill these two prophets, has not only got the economics system under its control and the political system under its control but it is also the centre of the religious system of the world. It has all three tied up.

Now something rather horrifying for the world occurs, verse eleven.

'And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.'

This was not only horrifying to all those people, but it is exactly what happened with Jesus Christ. The religious system of the world killed Him, and here these two prophets have gone through the same experience, they've been killed. We don't know if it was a cross or whatever, but they were definitely put to death by the religious system, the power of that time in Jerusalem. And now here they were being raised again, just as Jesus raised from the dead. These two are being raised. They're being raised by God. Jesus was, of course, raised by Himself, for He is God. But the principle, the look of the thing, must have been horrifying to the church system. It looks again for them, and it's a sign, that this is the end. This is going to really cause problems.

May God bless you.