

Hope for The Future: A Study in the Book of the Revelation

11 – THE SOUNDING OF THE SEVENTH TRUMPET (REVELATION 11:1-12:17)

Review:

A. The key verse (1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19

B. A basic outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)
2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)
3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

C. A Basic Mindset

1. Don't be dogmatic about your interpretations.
2. Biblical prophecy only gives us a partial picture.

The Jews of Jesus' day did not completely understand the prophecies of the Messiah. It was only after His death and resurrection did the prophecies make sense.

I. The Two Witnesses & the Seventh Trumpet (Revelation 11:1-19)

A. The Measuring of the Temple (11:1-2)

1. What John is to measure (11:1)

- The issue is not a determination of actual dimensions but a conveying of truth.
- To measure something signifies ownership of the object.
- The measurement marks Israel, represented by the Temple, as belonging to God.

2. What John is not to measure (11:2)

- This refers to the oppression of Jerusalem for 3 ½ years by the Antichrist.

B. The Ministry of the Two Witnesses (11:3-6)

1. The commissioning of the two (11:3)

- Two witnesses are commissioned to proclaim God's word for 3 ½ years.

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Biblical Note: Two Witnesses

The two witnesses are described as a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy. They are described as the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of all the earth (Revelation 11:4). There has been much speculation concerning the identity of the two witnesses. There are two main views concerning their identity. (1) They are two men sent to prophesy to Jews during the tribulation. Various names of Old Testament believers have been proposed for the two witnesses. (a) Enoch and Elijah - This is because both did not experience death as they were taken to heaven (Genesis 5:24; 2 Kings 2:11). (b) Moses and Elijah - This is because the actions of the two witnesses bear much resemblance to Moses and Elijah. Moses and Elijah also appeared with Jesus at his transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-7). (2) They symbolize the witnessing church.

2. Their identity (11:4)

Scripture Zechariah 4:1-14

- John points out that they are a fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy.

3. God's protection of the two (11:5)

- Those who wish to harm the two prophets will be killed.

4. Their power (11:6)

- They will demonstrate power through great supernatural signs.

C. The Death of the Two Witnesses (11:7-10)

1. The killing of the two (11:7)

- When their ministry is complete, the Antichrist will kill them.

2. The location of their bodies (11:8)

- Their bodies will be left to exposure in Jerusalem.

3. The world-wide witness and celebration (11:9-10)

- The world will see their bodies and celebrate their deaths.

D. The Resurrection of the Two Witnesses (11:11-12)

1. The resurrection of the two (11:11)

- Great fear grips the world as the two witnesses come back to life.

2. The ascension of the two (11:12)

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- The two witnesses are called back to heaven.

E. The Resulting Judgment of God on Jerusalem (11:13-14)

1. The great earthquake (11:13)

- A great earthquake strikes Jerusalem and kills 7,000 people.

2. The proclamation (11:14)

- The writer proclaims that two woes have past but there is still one more.

F. The Sounding of the Seventh Trumpet (11:15-19)

1. The sounding of the trumpet (11:15a)

- The seventh angel sounds his trumpet.

2. The proclamation (11:15b)

- The angels proclaim the dominion of Christ over the earth.

3. The worship of God (11:16-18)

- God is worship and ascribed sovereignty as the second coming is foreshadowed.

4. The Ark of the Covenant (11:19)

- John sees the Ark which symbolizes God's communion with the redeemed.

II. The Woman, the Dragon and the Child (Revelation 12:1-17)

A. A Woman Clothed with the Sun (12:1-2)

1. The appearance of a great sign (12:1a)

- John sees a great sign that was a symbol of what God is about to reveal.

2. The nature of the sign (12:1b)

- John sees a woman who symbolizes Israel.

3. The woman gives birth (12:2)

- The woman gives birth to a child, who is Jesus Christ.

B. The Red Dragon with Seven Heads and Ten Horns (12:3-4)

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1. The nature of another great sign (12:3)

- John sees another sign of a great red dragon.

2. The actions of the dragon (12:4)

- The dragon extends his authority over a third of the angels.
- The dragon seeks to devour the Child as soon as it is born.

C. The Male-Child, Christ (12:5-6)

1. The nature of the child (12:5)

- He is described as one who will rule the nations.
- He was caught up to heaven to assume the throne of God.

2. The woman flees (12:6)

- The woman will flee from the dragon.
- She will be preserved by God for 3 ½ years.

D. Satan Cast out of Heaven (12:7-12)

1. The war in heaven (12:7)

- A war takes place between Michael and his angels and the dragon and his forces.

2. The dragon is defeated (12:8-9a)

- The dragon is defeated and cast out of heaven with his angels.

3. The dragon identified (12:9b)

- John identifies the dragon as Satan.

4. The proclamation (12:10-12)

- John hears a hymn of praise that proclaims the coming demonstration of power.

E. The Offspring of the Woman Persecuted by the Dragon (12:13-17)

1. The persecution of the woman (12:13)

- The dragon turns his attention to persecuting Israel.

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2. The protection of the woman (12:14-16)
 - Israel is protected by supernatural help as Satan seeks to exterminate her.
3. The dragon's persecution of the woman's offspring (12:17)
 - The devil goes to war against the remnant of Israel.