Jannuary 30, 2022

All verses are copied from <u>https://biblehub.com/</u> in King James.

We have come to a pause in the trumpet judgments with an interlude in which God describes several events that were separate from the Trumpet Judgements: Revelation 10, in the first event John receiving the Little Book and the second event where we are starting Revelation 11. Here God reveals Two Witnesses that He dispatches to Jerusalem to testify against the World and then the 7th trumpet is sounded. But there are 3 chapters that deal with other things before we get to the 7 final bowl judgements of God's Wrath first.

In Chapter 12 we find:

A woman and a dragon	1-11
War in heaven	7-12
The dragon persecutes the woman	13-17

Chapter 13 we find:

Beast out of the sea	1-10
Beast out of the earth	11-15
Mark of the beast	16-18

Chapter 14 we find:

The Lamb and the 144,000	1-5
The three angels and Babylon fall	6-13
Harvest of the earth	13-20

We then get to Revelation 15, where the first of 7 vial judgements are to be poured out on the earth: God's Wrath.

Revelation 11

The Two Witnesses

John is now delivered to Jerusalem on earth during a time of immense upheaval within society. Satan's puppet the Anti Christ is now controlling the earth and its singular government.

This is quoted from Got Questions

https://www.gotquestions.org/one-world-government.html

"The Bible does not use the phrase "one-world government" or "one-world currency" in referring to the end times. It does, however, provide ample evidence to enable us to draw the conclusion that both will exist under the rule of the Antichrist in the last days.

In his apocalyptic vision in the Book of Revelation, the Apostle John sees the "beast," also called the Antichrist, rising out of the sea having seven heads and ten horns (<u>Revelation 13:1</u>). Combining this vision with Daniel's similar one (<u>Daniel 7:16-24</u>), we can conclude that some sort of world system will be inaugurated by the beast, the most powerful "horn," who will defeat the other nine and will begin to wage war against Christians. The ten-nation confederacy is also seen in Daniel's image of the statue in <u>Daniel</u> <u>2:41-42</u>, where he pictures the final world government consisting of ten entities represented by the ten toes of the statue. Whoever the ten are and however they come to power, Scripture is clear that the beast will either destroy them or reduce their power to nothing more than figureheads. In the end, they will do his bidding.

John goes on to describe the ruler of this vast empire as having power and great authority, given to him by Satan himself (Revelation 13:2), being followed by and receiving worship from "all the world" (13:3-4), and having authority over "every tribe, people, language and nation" (13:7). From this description, it is logical to assume that this person is the leader of a one-world government which is recognized as sovereign over all other governments. It's hard to imagine how such diverse systems of government as are in power today would willingly subjugate themselves to a single ruler, and there are many theories on the subject. A logical conclusion is that the disasters and plagues described in Revelation as the seal and trumpet judgments (chapters 6-11) will be so devastating and create such a monumental global crisis that people will embrace anything and anyone who promises to give them relief.

Once entrenched in power, the beast (Antichrist) and the power behind him (Satan) will move to establish absolute control over all peoples of the earth to accomplish their true end, the worship Satan has been seeking ever since being thrown out of heaven (Isaiah 14:12-14). One way they will accomplish this is by controlling all commerce, and this is where the idea of a one-world currency comes in. <u>Revelation</u> <u>13:16-17</u> describes some sort of satanic mark which will be required in order to buy and sell. This means anyone who refuses the mark will be unable to buy food, clothing or other necessities of life. No doubt the vast majority of people in the world will succumb to the mark simply to survive. Again, verse 16 makes it clear that this will be a universal system of control where everyone, rich and poor, great and small, will bear the mark on their hand or forehead. There is a great deal of speculation as to how exactly this mark will be affixed, but the technologies that are available right now could accomplish it very easily.

Those who are left behind after the <u>Rapture</u> of the Church will be faced with an excruciating choice accept the mark of the beast in order to survive or face starvation and horrific persecution by the Antichrist and his followers. But those who come to Christ during this time, those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life (<u>Revelation 13:8</u>), will choose to endure, even to martyrdom."

Remember in the last chapter we saw a mighty angel stand with

one foot in the sea and one on the land.

Revelation 10: <u>1</u>And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: <u>2</u>And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, One interpretation of that event was that the sea represents people and land represents governments, politics and nations. So, at this time God would be obviously inserting Himself once again into the lives of humanity with yet another warning and plea to repent.

John is given the task of measuring the Temple in Jerusalem.

1And 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.

We saw a strikingly similar event when we studied Ezekiel and Zachariah. There are a number of different Temples built or described as being built but only one physical temple that was ordained by God. As we look at history we can count the temples;

Solomon's Temple #1 ordained by God

Zerubbabel's temple #2 rebuild allowed but not ordained

Herod's temple #3 allowed but not ordained

Tribulation Temple #4 allowed but not ordained

Q. So what would constitute an Ordained Temple by God? His presence

We know that God's Presence was in the Tent of Meeting the traveling Tent of meeting that moved with Israel after fleeing from Egypt. The Tent of meeting was authorized and sanctified by God's presence but He did not abide there as He would in the Temple. Solomon built and dedicated the only authorized and ordained Temple. We also know that God's Presence left that temple before Nebuchadnezzar destroyed it. We learned this in

Ezekiel 10:18 Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims.

I find no place in scripture that the presence of God returns to any earthly Temple save one.

There appears to be yet a fourth temple that will be built in Jerusalem that is allowed by God but not ordained. Even though not ordained or not having God's presence in this 4th temple the audacity of the Anti-Christ to presume he could enter the Holy of Holies and declare himself to be God is worthy of the full-throated response from God.

Q. There is yet another Temple that is not only ordained by God but exists today; Can anyone tell us where that Temple is located?

2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as

God hath said, **I will dwell in them, and walk in them**; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Emphasis mine)

Q. Again, what does it take for a Temple to be ordained by God?

God dwelling in that Temple.

The Church that Jesus Christ created and ordained with His Presence is made up of only the believers. It goes by several names: The Body of Christ, The Bride of Christ, The Church. God's presence is in those believers through His Holy Spirit. That residence by God makes each believer an ordained Temple of God.

1 Corinthians 3: <u>16</u>Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

1 Corinthians 6: <u>19</u>What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? <u>20</u>For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

We will get into this more when we get toward the end of Revelation but back to the measuring of this temple of the Tribulation Times.

²But 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. Luke 21:24 And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. (Emphasis mine)

This description could be of a physical nature or a spiritual nature. Let's examine it as a physical structure first.

The outer part is designated for the Gentiles; non-Jewish, nonbelievers. This part is reserved for the non-Jewish unbeliever to be "tread under foot" for 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

In this physical rendition of this verse the nation of Israel under its Ultra-Orthodox religious leaders will rebuild the temple either on what is called the Temple Mount which now houses the Dome of the Rock or a site that is found to be the otherwise real former location of the Temple. Either way under this interpretation the temple will be built; the furnishings minus the Arch of the Covenant will be put in what is called the "Holy Place" and worship will resume after 2000 years with the notable absence of God in the temple.

Now we will consider the Spiritual version of what these verses speak of. On the Spiritual side this is a metaphor that represents the Church big "C". There are people from all nations that belong to this big C Church. Not from all religions as many religions are anti-God but all True Believers in a Christ centered relationship. This Temple is in fact the Body of Christ that we refer to as a collective of Believers, the CHURCH.

1 Corinthians 12: 27Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

From vs 1 and on God is speaking of that collective and our ability to worship Him in Spirit and Truth. John is told to measure so in a sense it is to "judge" where this big C Church is. We saw part of that judgement in Chapters 1 to 3 with the letters to the Seven Churches. These 7 Churches were a metaphor for the entire Body of Christ or Church, likely over the 2000 years of the Church's existence, and it revealed that some were walking in God's Truth and obedient to God's Truth yet others were falling short, some drastically short.

The term used to describe those who fall short is the "outer court" or "court of the gentiles". When we see that term, we can substitute for our understanding the term "the world". So, the question to ask is which do you walk in, the "world" or "Christ"?

To further understand this problem within churches/religions of today each letter we saw, it ends with a comment to each person within that church perhaps.

Revelation 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will

I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

The challenge to the churches is not to the group but to each person in that group. "He that hath an ear" is a single person not the group. Not a single denomination or separate church is given the opportunity to eat of the tree of life; no church can save you, only Christ and His Blood. So, as you see it is not a church that will eat of the tree of life but the individual believer. Likewise for the nominal or unrepentant sinner it is not an organization that will be left out it is the individual sinner.

Ephesians 2: ⁸/₈For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹/₉Not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰/₁₀For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

So, in the context of these first two verses in Revelation 11, those nominal (CINO) Christians in Name Only, or token Christians and non-Christians or unbelievers that fall short would be considered the outer court IE court of the gentiles, in this metaphor and those within the walls of the Temple would be considered the True Christ Believers, who as we said are Born Again by the Blood of Christ.

Q. Are there Christians; those who have asked Jesus into their lives perhaps on mental level-mental assent, not a heart level

and walks as the world and not in obedience to Christ; backslider, failing in obedience? Have they lost their salvation? Did they ever have salvation?

John 10: <u>26</u>But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. <u>27</u>My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: <u>28</u>And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. <u>29</u>My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. <u>30</u>I and my Father are one.

It is quite clear in John 10:26 that if you do not believe you are not saved, *...."ye are not of my sheep"...* Meaning: unsaved destined for hell and the Lake of Fire at the Great White Throne Judgement.

However, in John 10:27 Jesus says that His sheep: meaning believers, *"hear my voice and I know them and they follow me:"* Jesus continues that He gives them eternal life, *"and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand".*

Lest we be confused by the term "man" in John 10:27 here is the definition of that term in the Greek.

Transliteration: tis Phonetic Spelling: (tis) Definition: a certain one, someone, anyone Usage: any one, some one, a certain one or thing. We see that it refers to "anyone, someone a certain one or thing. That covers all of mankind and all of God's created beings IE: Satan. No one or nothing can take a believer away from Jesus. This statement is guaranteed by God the Father in John 10:29-30:

29My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. <u>30</u>I and my Father are one. (emphasis mine)

What are some of the signs that we would know someone is not a believer?

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

I am as guilty as anyone in giving lip service to obedience to God and need to repent and walk in obedience to God. Those that reject Christ and/or walk in disobedience are of the "world".

Revelation 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Revelation 14:8 And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

Babylon here can be a metaphor for the unbelieving people that make up a vast majority of the nations of this world. Babylon can also depict the fallen Jerusalem in all of her sin. It can also refer to the apostate church which is more worldly than believing and is trodden down by the world of unbelievers that hate God.

And lastly it can represent a rebuilt Babylon where the Anti-Christ may well set up his worldwide headquarters.

Revelation 16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

Revelation 18:23 And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.

Those words are pretty specific to point to what was known as Babylon located in Iraq current day.

I think to metaphorize everything here and not consider John actually measuring a structure would be perhaps naïve but at the same time I think we need to seriously consider our own Spiritual and physical walk with Christ on a moment-by-moment basis and repent of those things we know are clearly out of bounds. The potential catastrophic loss of rewards is too great to allow; God is calling us to obedience to His Word.

<u>3</u>And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

The two witnesses are given great power to stop rain and intervene in peoples live in immense ways. They will do this for 3 ½ years all the time wearing sackcloth.

Sackcloth

SACK'CLOTH, n. *sack and cloth.* Cloth of which sacks are made, coarse cloth. This word is chiefly used in Scripture to denote a cloth or garment worn in mourning, distress, or mortification.

There is of course great interest and discussion as to who these two witnesses are. On the physical side of understanding these verses we can see that they are two men held in high esteem by God. Many believe them to be Moses and Elijah, both of whom were on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus. Moses died but his grave seems to be missing;

Deuteronomy 34:⁵ And Moses the servant of the LORD died there in Moab, as the LORD had said. ⁶ He buried him^[a] in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.

We know Elijah was in a sense raptured or caught up to heaven without dying.

2 Kings 2:⁶ Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan."

And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on.

⁷ Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. ⁸ Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

"Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.

¹⁰ "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours otherwise, it will not."

¹¹ As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. ¹² Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

Enoch was the only other human according to the Bible that was

taken up prior to death.

Genesis 5: 21And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: 22And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: 23And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: 24And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

So, who are the two witnesses? We don't know and so to speculate may be an act of futility. It really does not matter who they are, they belong to God and will do His Work. One comment about Moses being one of them, the problem with Moses being one of the two witness is that they are killed. Moses has already been given his resurrected body either when Christ led the captives free at His Resurrection or at Rapture yet to come. In either case both occur before this event and Moses would not be able to die again, that would be a second death and we know what that means.

<u>4</u>These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

Zechariah 4

The Two Olive Trees

<u>11</u>Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? <u>12</u>And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? <u>13</u>And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. <u>14</u>Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

I just can't get past the emphasis as to this being a real physical event that will occur in Jerusalem. To metaphorize the entire events described here in Revelation 11 again would be naïve; God requires us to take in the whole council of God. I believe there is enough evidence to point us to understand that even though we can see the spiritual nature of events we can also understand that they are real events and will involve real chaos, death and destruction.

You will need to decide for yourselves as to what direction you lean. If you have Christ as your Lord and Savior it won't change that, it is only an opportunity to understand that God is Spirit and to fully understand Him we need to think in the Spirit as we view worldly events that He God describes in great detail.

<u>5</u>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.

The spiritual significance is found in:

The Two Witnesses are out of bounds to Satan/the Anti-Christ the Beast at least for a time. They are given special powers of defense against mankind.

> Jeremiah 5: 14Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.

The word of God can heal, or it can burn a person. The burning would occur at the conclusion of the Great White Throne Judgement at the end of the Millennial period. The goats as God describe them on His left will be cast into the Lake of Fire. So, if anyone were to stand against these two witnesses and in this context the two witnesses may represent either the Old and New Testament or the Law and the Prophets. Either way to stand against God is to invite a fire that will burn for eternity.

6 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.

Both Moses and Elijah were given these powers to one extent or another so metaphorically God can withhold blessings and extend curses or vice versa. They are given the ability to prophecy; prophecy can be either future telling or extolling the Word of God as both warnings and blessing.

To try to spiritualize this sentence is challenging as it appears to be quite physical in its process and outcome. Looking at this as a real event the witnesses have the ability to get everyone's attention by simply causing the rain to stop. In Israel as in most of the middle east there is a rainy season and a drier season, if there were no rain at all, catastrophic outcomes would occur. It is apparent that the two witnesses make it abundantly clear that they are given this power and so it is why the people hate them so much. They could give them rain, but they refuse to do so.

7And 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.

On the allegory side of the equation the idea is put forth by some commentators that the Church has become so rejected that its testimony is almost nonexistent IE finished their testimony;

Jesus said something to this effect in Luke and is partly why some commentators put forth this idea of it speaking of the Church at large.

Luke 18:8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Where God said "when they shall have finished their testimony" I believe it is referring to the two witnesses, not the church at large. Even though a Biblical case can be made that after rapture and the end of the church age the witness of the church will wane. That is borne out in Jesus statement in Luke 18:8.

Jesus knowing the beginning from the end is not so much posing a question as He is alerting us that the power of the church, after the rapture, will wain significantly on the earth. That is likely due to the limited number of Believers on the earth after the rapture. That number is 144,000 Believers on the earth at that time all from the tribes of Israel to begin with.

Q. Will people be saved during the Tribulation?

Revelation 7:<u>13</u>And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? <u>14</u>And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

We don't know the number, but it appears as if many will come to a saving knowledge of Christ; many die from the earthquakes and diseases that we are studying about from the three judgments. "Seal, Trumpet and Bowl". Many will die at the hands of the Anti-Christ the Beast of Revelation.

Whether spiritually or physically this beast can be none other than Satan's puppet. On the allegorical side some consider this "beast" that ascends from the pit to be a description of a nation or conglomerate of nations that reject God and have fought against Him and now make war against anyone who calls on His Name. Their desire is to eradicate them from the earth much like Hitler desired to remove all Jews and Christians from the earth. As we saw from Got Questions the conglomeration is a platform of power worldwide that lifts these 10 horns to worldwide power. From within the 10 horns comes a small horn, this again is the Antichrist and through the power of Satan destroys or neuters the other horns, so they are mere puppets. Daniel 7:7 7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. 8 considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things.

This beast may take the form of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and is what many elites seek as a means of eternal life, and it is called "singularity". The joining of human and machine.

Back to the two witnesses after they have been killed by the Anti-Christ.

8 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.

Here God defines what He is talking about in a spiritual sense when He refers to Sodom and Egypt in today's vernacular. He is referring to Jerusalem.

Q. But why Sodom and Egypt?

Likely due to both of them being a focal point of anti-God activity and hatred of His Chosen people the Israeli's. The evil that welled up in both of these locations brought destruction to them both. So, God is warning Jerusalem that spiritual destruction is not far away.

9And 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.

The term "**nations**" is usually reserved for two types of people; in the Old Testament it referred to people who were not decedents of Israel. In the New Testament it is usually a reference to people who are not "believers" in a general sense. It can refer to groups of people of a certain cultural allegiance as well; defined by states, countries or governments. The kindreds and tongues would like wise refer to those outside of either Israel/Hebrew or the Church that Christ built; these were in fact foreigners.

The world believes it would be an insult to Christians to not be buried and especially in this case where these two Prophets had brought such pain to the region and the earth. The world just does not understand God's doctrine of being "absent from the body is to be present with the Lord". There is a lot in that reference verse that we can look at, at another time.

Suffice it to say that there are two types of bodies that we will encounter with Christ. The one we have now is temporal but will not be totally abandoned but it will be wrapped in another covering just as Christ was wrapped in His Spiritual Body, still observable, still recognizable yet with an entirely different set of parameters to operate in other dimensions.

So, these two witnesses are laying there in the physical state with the bodies they were born in and grew in. They have not received their resurrected bodies yet. It this case the body is filled with fluids that begin to expand upon death. That causes the body to bloat. As the world watches this phenomenon comes upon the bodies of these two witnesses.

The idea of burial has a more functional reason than "religious". The body is given to stinketh upon death; those gases and fluids are meant to stay inside and when they escape they are as Charles Barkley calls body odor "odiferous".

<u>10</u>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 idea of sending gifts is a Biblical notion under certain circumstances. As with most things' humans have taken a good thing to an extreme.

Ester 9:19 Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month

Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.

Ester 9:22 As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

In a sense this becomes the earth's Christmas as to giving gifts in joy over death. As Christian we celebrate Christs Birth as a beginning of a new birth a new and everlasting life. These folks are exactly the opposite. The world rejoices at these deaths, the nation's revel in the death of these two tormentors; never mind that they were the final warning from God.

<u>11</u>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.

It does not tell us that at this point these two witnesses received their resurrected bodies. Once the body is dead it can be resurrected without receiving its resurrected body. The validation for this point are those that came back to life; they include Lazarus, Jairus' daughter, the son of the widow of Nain, Tabitha and Eutyches.

They all died again and experienced their resurrected bodies at either the point He led the captives free or at the Rapture. It is a small point but one to consider.

<u>12</u>And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

A point here is that they were seen in the physical. Also, their enemies beheld them, it is commonly believed that through technology that the entire world will see them, so it is likely that many inhabitants of the earth may be considered their enemies.

<u>13</u>And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

At the same hour; is a reference to the previous sentence in which the two witnesses were called to come up to heaven.

So, when this voice called them to come up to heaven within 60 minutes or during that event a great earthquake commenced; destroying a tenth part of the city.

We have discussed the idea that some commentators and pastors and teachers believe that Revelation is purely allegorical in nature and not a real event. When I see such demonstrative statements as these two sentences it is hard for me to comprehend how people can think this to be an allegory.

I am going to quote one such allegorical interpretation of vs 13.

A great earthquake - Violent commotions among the persecutors, and revolutions of states.

Slain of men seven thousand - Many perished in these popular commotions.

The remnant were affrighted - Seeing the hand of God's judgments so remarkably stretched out.

Gave glory - Received the pure doctrines of the Gospel, and glorified God for his judgments and their conversion.

The first two parts of the sentence or verse the commentator sees an allegory yet in the second two there is no allegory simply a statement of the events as described in God's Word. I don't understand how in one sentence you can see both occur.

If we go back one verse that speaks about the two witnesses being called up to heaven this is what the same commentator states;

"They ascended up to heaven - Enjoyed a state of great peace and happiness." Clark's Commentary (no relation) <u>https://biblehub.com/commentaries/clarke/revelation/11.htm</u>

Why isn't that allegorical? The commentator states in effect what happened but does add, I guess what we could call a common

knowledge notion that they entered into "great peace and happiness" even though the Bible does not spell that out.

So, I am dubious as to putting much of Revelation into the allegory or metaphor category but you'll each have to decide for your selves on that issue.

<u>14</u>The second woe is past; *and*, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

There is a phrase that has come to be known; The Three Woes..

This phrase comes from Revelation 8;

Revelation 8:<u>13</u>And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabiters of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

The first woe was the torment for 5 months of those who did not have the mark of God on them. It is found in the first part of chapter 9. This woe does not bring death only torment. But torment so intense that those experiencing it invited death but did not die.

The second woe, which is found in the last part of chapter 9 involves a 200-million-man army that kills a third of all mankind. With that type of devastation and what has already occurred one would think that anyone alive would repent and turn to God but according to the rest of Revelation 9:20-21 that will not happen.

Revelation 9: <u>20</u>And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: <u>21</u>Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

So, we are now to the third Woe.

The Seventh Trumpet

<u>15</u>And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become *the kingdoms* of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

The seventh trumpet, the one that declares completeness is sounded. Completeness as in the last of the 7 trumpets, there is much more Wrath from God to come upon the earth and its inhabitants.

This verse to me is the moment when Christ finally receives in substance what was promised long ago. It is another already not yet moment being fulfilled. The deed to the earth was for all intense and purposes transferred back from Satan to God when Jesus arose from the dead defeating death. All along it has been Satan's desire to bring death to mankind because Satan knows how much God loves you and me and all of mankind. So, even though the crucifixion and resurrection were in substance the event that brought all creation back under God's dominion God allowed the times of the Gentiles to play itself out.

The reason I think was to leave no doubt in any man or woman's mind as to who the True Creator God really is and Who His Son is. This verse 15 declares that to now be accomplished and from this point on Jesus Christ is the ruler of this earth. He will allow Satan another 3 ½ years to suffer in increments the loss of all he had stolen from God. At the end of the 3 ½ years Jesus then returns to the Mount of Olives where He departed from so many years ago; casting Satan into the pit and locking him there for a thousand years. At the same time Jesus establishes His Kingdom on earth headquartered in Jerusalem for that same thousand years.

16And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, **17**Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

The four and twenty elders; the accumulation of the representatives of the prophets of the Old Testament and the Saints of the New Testament realize the momentous occasion

they are witnessing and can do nothing but fall on their faces before God and His Christ and worship.

<u>18</u>And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Even though man has become as evil in thought and deed there have been in creation innocent bystanders that have suffered greatly at the hands of sinful man. Precisely the animals and the earth; it is now the time when recompense will be paid to mankind that has rejected the Savior Christ since His resurrection and those who rejected God from the creation of time on this earth.

The very rants that we hear today and those from centuries past against Christianity will be judged by Jesus. And as the world population sees that time of imminent judgment arrive their anger boils over yet again towards God and His followers.

<u>19</u>And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail. **Q.** So, if the Arch of the Covenant is in the Holy City of God in heaven where did all the other items go and why were they not there as well?

2 Chronicles 36:18 All the vessels of the house of God great and small and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes all these he brought to Babylon. 19 And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

Nebuchadnezzar had apparently taken all of the items of the sanctuary except the Arch. The Arch had been somehow removed at the direction or by angels in accordance with God's command.

Q. How can we conclude that?

Vs 19

<u>19</u>And the temple of God was opened in heaven<mark>, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament</mark>: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

All verses are copied from <u>https://biblehub.com/</u> in King James.