

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapters 11-12

Revelation 11:1-6 ¹ Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. ² "But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot *for* forty-two months. ³ "And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." ⁴ These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. ⁵ And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. ⁶ These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

Comment: In the book of Ezekiel, the prophet sees a vision of God in which Ezekiel is taken up to a very high mountain and on it was a city. The context is that God allowed His people to be held in captivity by their enemies for their transgressions and unfaithfulness, but now God is bringing His people back from captivity to a new Jerusalem and a new temple.

Ezekiel 40:1 In the twenty-fifth year of our captivity, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth *day* of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city was captured, on the very same day the hand of the LORD was upon me; and He took me there. ² In the visions of God He took me into the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain; on it toward the south *was* something like the structure of a city. ³ He took me there, and behold, *there was* a man whose appearance *was* like the appearance of bronze. He had a line of flax and a measuring rod in his hand, and he stood in the gateway.

Ezekiel 43:2, 5-7 ²Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. ² And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. . . . ⁵ The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple. ⁶ Then I heard *Him* speaking to me from the temple, while a man stood beside me. ⁷ And He said to me, "Son of man, *this is* the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever. No more shall the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their kings, by their harlotry or with the carcasses of their kings on their high places.

The two witnesses are prophets who will have great powers to use at their discretion. They will both prophesy for a limited time. The sackcloth that they wear suggests that they are humble servants of God who mourn for the spiritual state of the world.



Revelation 11:7-10 ⁷When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. ⁸ And their dead bodies *will lie* in

the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. ⁹ Then *those* from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three and a half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. ¹⁰ And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

Comment: The two witnesses will be killed by the beast and their death will not be honored. The world will rejoice in their death because of the destruction that followed their prophesies. The location where their dead bodies lie is somewhere in the Middle East, likely Jerusalem. This highlights that prophesy will take place as we approach the end.

Revelation 11:11-14 ¹¹ Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. ¹² And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. ¹³ In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. ¹⁴ The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

Comment: These two prophets are resurrected from the dead. After their resurrection, a great earthquake occurs and thousands are killed, but many people believe the sign and give God glory. Again, there will be signs and wonders to give people opportunities to believe in God and be redeemed.

Revelation 11:15-19 ¹⁵ Then the seventh angel **sounded:** And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. ¹⁸ **The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints,** And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth." ¹⁹ **Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple.** And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Comment: The seventh trumpet ushers in God's conquest of His enemies. Remember also, **Revelation 10:7**, "but in the days **when the seventh angel is to blow his trumpet, the mystery of God will be fulfilled**, as he announced to his servants the prophets." The sounding of the trumpet is prevalent in the Old Testament as a signal of a battle cry, conquest and victory.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 ⁵¹**Behold, I tell you a mystery:** We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.** ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord.

Matthew 24:29-31 ²⁹Immediately after the tribulations of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ and He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Joshua 6:3-5 ³ You shall march around the city, all the warriors circling the city once. This you shall do for six days. ⁴ with seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, the priests blowing the trumpets. ⁵ When they make a long blast with the ram's horn, as soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and all the people shall charge straight ahead.

Psalms 2:1-12 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? ² The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*, ³ "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." ⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. ⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶ "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." ⁷ "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give *You* The nations *for* Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'" ¹⁰ Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. ¹¹ Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. ¹² Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish *in* the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in Him.

Zephaniah 1:14-16 ¹⁴ The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast, **the sound** of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵ That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶ **a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.**

Psalms 110:1-2 The Lord says to my lord, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool." ² The Lord sends out from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your foes.

Hebrews 10:12-13 ¹² But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," ¹³ and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet."

Revelation 12:1-6 Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth. ³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵ **She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.** ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Comment: Chapter 12 of Revelation is very pivotal. If we take the Book of Revelation as being in chronological order, then chapter 12 seems out of place depending on how you interpret it. Who is the crowned woman and who is the baby? If the baby represents Jesus, how do we understand Jesus being depicted as a baby in chapter 12, when in the previous chapters, Jesus is shown as the Lamb that was sacrificed?

Micah 5:2-3 ² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting." ³ **Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time *that* she who is in labor has given birth;** Then the remnant of His brethren shall return to the children of Israel.

Isaiah 66:7-10 ⁷ "Before she was in labor, she gave birth; Before her pain came, she delivered a male child. ⁸ **Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things?** Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? *Or* shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, she gave birth to her children. ⁹ Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?" says the LORD. "Shall I who cause delivery shut up *the womb*?" says your God. ¹⁰ "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you who love her; Rejoice for joy with her, all you who mourn for her."

Revelation 12:7-17 ⁷ And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. ¹⁰ Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "**Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren,**

who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. ¹² "Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." ¹³ Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, **he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male Child.** ¹⁴ But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent. ¹⁵ So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood. ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up the flood which the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Comment: This chapter suggests that there will be great persecution against the nation of Israel, if we understand the woman to represent the nation of Israel.

Luke 21:24-25 ²⁴ "And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. ²⁵ "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring.

Romans 11:24-28 ²⁴ For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who *are* natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? ²⁵ **For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery,** lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that **blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.** ²⁶ **And so all Israel will be saved,** as it is written: "**The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;** ²⁷ For this *is* My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." ²⁸ Concerning the gospel *they are* enemies for your sake, but concerning the election *they are* beloved for the sake of the fathers.

Luke 10:17-18 ¹⁷ Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." ¹⁸ And He said to them, "**I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.**"

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.