

1 Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the number of worshipers there. 2 But exclude the courtyard outside the temple. Do not measure it, because it has been given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for 42 months.

1) The measuring line was a form of judgement, see Lamentations 2:8 *The Lord determined to lay in ruins the wall of the daughter of Zion; he stretched out the measuring line; he did not restrain his hand from destroying; he caused rampart and wall to lament; they languished together.* In 622 there was the first muslim conquest of Jerusalem, and the city would be trampled for 42 months until 1882 at the First Aliyah. The tribes have been sealed (Chapter 7) and the four winds have scattered the tribes. They will return as the bride in chapters 18-22 after they are again measured and found worthy, shown in Zechariah 1:16 and again in 2:1-5. Glory to God!

2) From Strong's trample: *The verb πατέω portrays the forceful act of trampling with the foot. Scripture uses the image to communicate mastery, conquest, profanation, or judgment. Whether depicting serpents crushed underfoot or grapes pressed in a winepress, the action is decisive and public, leaving visible evidence of what has been subdued.*

3 And I will empower my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

3) Here we have two witnesses with a prophecy of 1260 days, different than the one above concerning the temple. Read biblehub's topical index on sackcloth for the verses to go with this summary: mourning/grief, repentance/humility, a prophetic announcement of judgement and distress. The 42 months from verse three (12 months to a prophetic year, 3.5 years), are 350 years that start with the Synod at Verona in 1184, ending 350 years later with the Act of Supremacy, where the Reformation will remove their sackcloth of suffering and poverty.

4) *Zechariah 4:1 And the angel who talked with me came again and woke me, like a man who is awakened out of his sleep. 2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. 3 And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left." 4 And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" 5 Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." 6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts...(11) "What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?" 12 And a second time I answered and said to him, "What are these two branches of the olive trees, which are beside the two golden pipes from which the golden oil (in Hebrew it is just "gold) is poured out?" 13 He said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." 14 Then he said, "These are the two anointed ones (sons of new oil) who stand by the Lord of the whole earth."*

4) Verse 4 is one of the most mis-quoted verses in Revelation. People assume it's Enoch and Elijah, since they were lifted into heaven. Others say Moses and Elijah. The verse here says the witnesses are lampstands, and Jesus walks among the lampstands in chapter 2, and calls them churches. They are also considered olive trees, which is a continuation of the prophecy above in Zechariah. Zechariah asks about the two olive trees, and did not get an answer. He asks about the two branches, and that was answered as them being the sons of new oil.

4) Many people say that oil is the Holy Spirit, instead of it being the Word of God. Jesus teaches about baptism in water and baptism in the Spirit, and out of our bellies will flow rivers of living water. The Spirit of God is the water, and his Word is the oil. The Israel is the olive tree, using the law and the prophets, the two olive trees. We cannot understand the law without the prophets, and vice versa. The olive is taken from the tree, ground into smaller pieces then pressed until oil flows. The Word is studied in pieces, and we press in and meditated until revelation is given. Zechariah calls this oil GOLD, and Jesus tells us to buy from him gold refined in fire with the Laodicean church in chapter 3. It is imperative that we study these verses because of their relevance to the Laodicean church, and the parables in Matthew 25 concerning the end time church. Research the following examples below. I recommend going to biblehub with the verse listed and go to "parallel" and it will show you other verses with the same theme. Then you can cross reference those to get a deeper meaning about this topic.

4) Oil is used for light - In Luke 12:35-48 is a parable which starts with the lamps of the virgins. The parable of the virgins show they did not have *enough* oil to make it through the night. In Luke 12:47 it gives the answer to what the oil and light are as *that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will...* How else do you know the will of God unless you read what he says.

4) Oil is used for healing/salve - Luke 10:34 shows the good Samaritan pouring wine and oil on the wounds in order for them to be healed. Wine is the fruit of obedience described in John 14-15. Jesus commends the good Samaritan because he actually felt compassion and followed through with tangible effort. See this spoken of in James 2:15-16 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. / If one of you tells him, "Go in peace; stay warm and well fed," but does not provide for his physical needs, what good is that? The oil of healing can also be spoken prayers of faith, because of our belief in the Word. There are many scriptures to stand on in regards to healing.

4) Oil is used for anointing/consecration - Leviticus 8:12, 1 Samuel 1:10. We see that the prophetic Word of God is spoken over people to anoint them as priests and kings. We have the Word of God as the law of Moses, and the Word of God as spoken to the prophets. Both "trees" are necessary for the full witness of truth.

4) Oil is used for to meet financial needs - In 2 Kings 4 is a story about a widow. The creditors were coming and the prophet provided a supernatural blessing to her and she was able to sell the oil and pay the creditors. The Wisdom of God works in the same way as in Proverbs 16:16 and Proverbs 3:14-15. We know that Wisdom was with God in the beginning, Proverbs 8, and that the Word is more precious than fine gold in Psalm 19.

4) Oil is used for food - Oil was mixed with fine flour to make the shewbread that was in the temple. Jesus is the bread of life, which contains wheat, salt, oil and water. He is the fulfillment of old testament prophecy, including the mystery of the law. For example, we don't need to offer up a passover lamb, Jesus is our passover lamb. We look to the meaning behind the law and we will see Jesus. The law is the shadow (Hebrews 10), Jesus is the substance. See Ezekiel 16:29 and Jeremiah 7:18 where they were offered to the "queen of Heaven," the false mother of God.

4) Oil is used for the cleansing of leprosy (sin) - In Leviticus 14 it describes the process of cleansing leprosy by first taking blood from a sacrificed lamb and applying it on the ear, the right thumb and the big toe of his right foot. After that then the oil was to be applied to the same places. When we are delivered from sin it first takes the authority of Jesus to cast out the sin, then the Word of God to keep our house from being empty and the enemy to come back and fill it (Luke 11:25). We are to cast down imaginations with the Word (2 Corinthians 10:5) and to deflect the arrows with a shield of faith (Ephesians 6) which belief in the Word.

4) Oil is the revelation of the word (Matthew 13:12, Mark 4:25, Luke 8:18, Luke 19:26, Matthew 25:29, end time parable). There is an end-time parable in Matthew 25 and Luke 19 about the minas/talent which is gold coins. A talent was actually 60 minas so a very large sum. In Zechariah 4 the oil shown as pouring out gold. Jesus says in the Laodicean church to buy from him gold refined in fire. We are required to rightly divide the word, and be sure to use all of God's word, not just use the new testament. If we are foolish, then we won't have *enough* oil (gold coin), and our light will go out (those who do not have, even what they have will be taken away) just as the bridegroom comes for us.

4) The two witnesses were two churches who knew the word of God, and were a witness to that word. A witness can also be what we would call an evangelist, someone that goes out to proclaim the truth. In the middle ages, there were monestaries that kept the word alive, here we have two groups of people that fit the description as the two witnesses. They were the Cathars/Albigenses in France and the Valdenses/Waldensians in Italy & Germany, the land and the sea. They transcribed the bible, and would even take pages out and sew them into their clothing to secretly pass them on to others. The Roman church was threatened by them and set out decrees to have them tortured and killed. They confiscated their lands, and pretty much wiped out the history of the Cathars. Very little is known about them but God avenged them in the verses in this chapter.

*HISTORICAL CONNECTION: Albigensian Crusade (1209-1229), Cathars Medieval Inquisition, (there are good youtube videos on both the Cathars and Waldensians), Episcopal Inquisition (1184-1230s) Papal Inquisition (1230s)*

One short example from the Cathar's Book of Two Principles: [14] *On Service to God. From this comes the basis for our service to God, in that we may fulfill His works, or rather, that God may consummate through us that which He proposes and wishes to be done. In this wise He achieved salvation of His people through the Lord Jesus, although Christ did nothing good through himself or even by free will. For He said of himself: "I cannot of myself do anything"; and again, "But the Father, who abideth in me, he doth the works." " And so, we serve God when we fulfill His will with His help, not that we are able through free will to do anything good of which He himself is not the cause and principle. Thus, the Blessed James says in his Epistle, "Every best gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights." " And in the Gospel of John, Christ says, "No man can come to me except the Father, who hath sent me, draw him." And of himself, He said: "I cannot of myself do anything. As I hear, so I judge"; and again, "But the Father, who abideth in me, he doth the works." And the Apostle says to the Ephesians: "For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, for it is the gift of God; not of works, that no man may glory." " And the same Apostle says to the Romans, "So then it is not of him that willeth nor of him that runneth but of God that showeth mercy.*

5 And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed.

*Between 1022 and 1163, the Cathars were condemned by eight local church councils, the last of which, held at Tours, declared that all Albigenses should be put into prison and have their property confiscated. The Third Lateran Council of 1179 repeated the condemnation. The Third Lateran Council excommunicated the Cathars and mercenary groups that were plaguing Europe at the time. The Catholic Church viewed the Waldensians as unorthodox, and in 1184 at the Synod of Verona, under the auspices of Pope Lucius III and Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I, they were excommunicated. Pope Innocent III, the most powerful pope in the middle ages, went even further during the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215, officially denouncing the Waldensians as heretics. Added to that, Jews and Muslims were targeted by being forced to wear clothing that differentiated them from Christians. The Cathars were burned at the stake as the Roman church tried to wipe them out physically as well as historically. Much of the narrative about them is suspect, as evidenced when you read their writings. The plague that came across France, Italy and Germany was St. Anthony's Fire, or ergotism, which affected the land and the sea where the angel in verse 1 stood.*

5) See Jeremiah 5:11 *For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have been utterly treacherous to me, declares the Lord. 12 They have spoken falsely of the Lord and have said, 'He will do nothing; no disaster will come upon us, nor shall we see sword or famine. 13 The prophets will become wind; the word is not in them. Thus shall it be done to them!'" 14 Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of hosts: "Because you have spoken this word, behold, I am making my words in your mouth a fire, and this people wood, and the fire shall consume them."* Because the "men of God" were treacherous, lying and arrogant, God sent a consuming fire to their mouths. Ergotism is caused by eating contaminated bread.

6 They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire.

*There was the great famine of 1315-1322, killing 10-25% of the population. The Black Death – Bubonic Plague from 1346 to 1353 was the result of unclean and poisoned wells, hence waters to blood. Death estimates are between 25-50 million people.*

7 And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them,

7) We have here the first definition of the beast described later as the red beast of chapter 17 (it was, is not, and is about to rise out of the pit), which is the red dragon in chapter 12 that tries to conquer the remaining Waldensians. It is the ancient serpent rising out of the pit in chapter 20. The dragon did not have its power until it became sovereign in 1929 as the Vatican, then becoming a beast. With transition from dragon to beast it takes back the power of the 10 horns (of the dreadful beast in Daniel and the sea beast), the mark of the earth beast in chapter 13, and the army of the image of the sea beast in chapter 13. These will be explained again in the following chapters.

*With the military phase of the campaign against the Cathars now primarily at an end, the Inquisition was established under Pope Gregory IX in 1234 to uproot heretical movements, including the remaining Cathars. Operating in the south at Toulouse, Albi, Carcassonne and other towns during the whole of the 13th century, and a great part of the 14th, it succeeded in crushing Catharism as a popular movement and driving its remaining adherents underground.*

Here is some examples of Waldo's defiance of the Roman Church at <https://www.dwellcc.org/essays/waldensian-movement-waldo-reformation.>:

*The Church of God has failed.  
The Holy Scriptures alone are sufficient to guide men to Salvation.  
The blessings and consecrations practiced in the Church do not confer any particular sanctity upon the things or persons blessed or consecrated.  
Catholic priests. . .have no authority; and the Pope of Rome is the chief of all heresiarchs.  
Everyone has the right to preach publicly the word of God  
Every oath is a mortal sin.  
Purgatory is a dream, an invention of the sixth century.  
The indulgences of the Church are an invention of covetous Priests.  
There is no obligation to fast, nor to keep any holy day, Sunday excepted.  
The invocation of Saints cannot be admitted.  
Every honor given in the Church to the holy images of paintings, and to the relics of Saints is to be abolished.  
To this list, he adds doctrines that belong to the period between the Hussite revolt and the Lutheran Revolution:*

*Auricular Confession is useless, and. . .it is enough to confess our sins to God.  
The definition of the church is, "the whole of the elect from the beginning of the world to its end." and that regarding ministries, "the holy Catholic Church is the congregation of all ministers and people obeying the Divine will, and by obedience united. . ."  
It is necessary to receive the Eucharist under two kinds.  
To these I would add,*

*The church and the state should remain as separate authorities.  
The Eucharist is to be viewed as a memorial, not as a sacrifice.*

8 and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified.

*At the Lateran Council in 1179, Popes forbid mass and burials for those that were labeled as "heretics" by the papacy and were martyred at the hands of the Catholic Church. Another decree was issued on 1254 that forbade burial to not only "heretics" but also those who believed them or defended them. They left the bodies out in the open to remind others of the consequences of siding against the Catholic Church.*

*Sodom in the Bible were the godless, men who were ruled by their flesh. Egypt in the Bible were pagans and worshipped many gods that The Most High God found as an abomination. France (Cathar region) would later be a nation of atheists, and Italy (Waldensian region) would be home of the Catholic/Jesuit cult ruled by Egyptian/Babylonian gods and cult practices. The obelisk in St Peter's Square is from Heliopolis Egypt. The Cathars and Waldensians followed Jesus to the death, some being whipped and scourged, and tied to a stake before being burned alive. The crucifixion of Jesus is similar that he also died on a stake, a tree of shame.*

9 For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, 10 and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth.

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11 But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them. 13 And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.

11) The three and a half days is another fulfillment of prophecy in addition to the two above. On May 5, 1514, the popes convened for the 5th Lateran Council, Session 9, to declare that the heretics had been taken care of. The pope waited until the "noxious brambles of heresies had been first uprooted from the Lord's field" and then convened so they could get on with the matters of making more rules for the Roman church. Three years after that council would be 1080 biblical days (360 x 3) and 179 more days after May 5, 1517 puts you to October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses. The next day on their pagan "All Saints Day", they would have seen his scathing rebukes, which were the breath of life from God, causing the believers of the true Word of God to stand up on their feet. Great fear fell on the leaders of the Roman church because this started a Christian revolution against the harlot church. The revolution went from Germany to France to England simultaneously causing believers to be lifted up and promoted, as described in Proverbs 25:7, even as their enemies ruled the land. God was on the move!

12) Come up here! is a phrase God used to describe promotion, see Proverbs 25:6 Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of great men; 7 for it is better that he says to you, "Come up here!" than that you should be demoted in the presence of the prince. Even what you have seen with your own eyes, 8 do not bring hastily to court. Otherwise, what will you do in the end when your neighbor puts you to shame?

13) The prophecy in verse 3 of the 350 years in sackcloth ended with the Act of Supremacy from England in 1534 that declared common men able to read the Bible in their own language. The king of England even required a new Book of Prayer in churches so that the congregation could participate and understand the services. The cloud in this instance is like the cloud of witnesses as described in Hebrews 12:1. The great city is the nations of Europe, which we will look at in chapter 13 and again the great city Babylon in chapter 18. The Act of Supremacy was also the catalyst for England to break away from the rule of the Catholic authority over government by establishing an independent Church of England. The seven thousand people killed were the seven provinces of the Netherlands that signed the Union of Utrecht in 1579, and the Dutch revolt of 1581. Even those that stayed under Catholic dominion were starting to see the truth of God and give him glory!

15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." 16 And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying, "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. 18 The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth." 19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

15) We are introduced to the final trumpet, which is not to be confused with the final trump in Matthew 24. There Jesus was describing the siege of Jerusalem and the final trump of the Jewish Revolt. There are a couple blog posts about separating the two prophecies that are listed in Matthew 24. The trumpet here is not the final trumpet because there are the vial judgements then the lake of fire for the two beasts in chapter 13, then the final unquenchable fire in chapter 20.

16) The 24 elders are first introduced in chapter 4 before the opening of the seals. Here they worship God for fulfilling his promise of the coming kingdom. This connects with the phrase in verse 15 that the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of Jesus, and the 24 represents 12 tribes and 12 disciples, the complete revelation of God. We also need to note the phrase "begun to reign" which looking at the Strong's interpretation, there should not be the word "begun." We have the beginning of the reign of Christ in Chapter 5. Here's the KJV version of this verse: 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.

18) The wrath here is the vial judgements that come starting in the late 1600s, in chapter 15.

18) The dead here are those dead in Christ, as Paul talks about in Romans 6 and 8. They (starting in chapter 12) will be judged by the law of Christ because believers now have the word in their own language spoken at their church services. They can rightly divide the word for themselves speak the words of truth over others making disciples of others without the hierarchy of the Roman Church. Verse 18 foreshadows how the common people have the word, both small and great, and they will be rewarded with all the promises held in the Bible for believers. God's temple will be opened, the word will be sent out instead of kept hidden in the small communities like the Cathars and Waldensians had to do.

19) This verse foreshadows the coming great revivals where many experienced the presence of God that was previously experienced by the high priest in the holy of holies, would now be experienced on a scale of revival the world has not ever seen.

19) After the ark was opened, and the revivals were nearing their end, we would see the fulfillment of the lightning, thunder earthquake and heavy hail. God describes this 30 year event as: the great day of the Lord, the wedding feast, the two great sickles/WWI and WWII, the first lake of fire, and the time where Jesus comes as a thief. Jesus gave this warning, and there were warnings in chapter 3, but the false prophecy of a coming rapture had already taken hold. The earth beast would then be called the false prophet beast in direct correlation to this teaching from the dragon.