

Link to Lonnie Woodruff's *Revelation for Christians Today*, online:  
<http://www.abiblecommentary.com/howtounderstandthebookofrevelation.htm>

## A Study of Revelation 11

### I. Outline.

1. John told to measure the temple (Revelation 11:1-2).
2. The two witnesses (3-14).
3. The sounding of the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet (15-19).

### II. Summary. Adapted from *Revelation for Christians Today*, by Lonnie Woodruff, pp., 179-180.

Verses 1-14 give to us information regarding THE TEMPLE OF GOD. We also have the conclusion of the 6<sup>th</sup> Trumpet. Verses 15-19 gives the sounding of the 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet. In the first section of chapter eleven these symbols are used: TEMPLE, HOLY CITY, TWO WITNESSES, TWO OLIVE TREES, TWO CANDLESTICKS, and TWO PROPHETS. All of these symbols, basically, represent those faithful to God—THE CHURCH.

Chapter 11 gives to us a complete history of the church from its beginning to its ascension to heaven. In verse 3 God gives His people POWER needed to spread the gospel during the Christian Age. In verses 5-6, God provided protection for His people so the gospel might be spread throughout the world. Once the gospel had been spread throughout the world, forces would arise upon this earth which would destroy the church for a period of time. In verse 11, we find God breathing life into His people, the church, and it once again began to function. Verse twelve has God calling the church to heaven to live with Him eternally.

### III. Chronology.

**BIBLE PERIOD:** The Period of the Church.

*If you are not familiar with the 15 Bible Periods, please click here:*

<https://maplehillchurchofchrist.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/15bibleperiods.pdf>

### IV. Words/Phrases to Study

### V. Lessons & Applications.

### VI. Questions.

#### True or False

01. \_\_\_\_ Being JUDGED and being REWARDED are both spoken of in this chapter.
02. \_\_\_\_ John was told not to measure the court outside the temple.
03. \_\_\_\_ Sodom is paired with Gomorrah in this chapter.
04. \_\_\_\_ The two olive trees and the two candlesticks had no power.
05. \_\_\_\_ There is rejoicing at death in this reading.

#### MATCHING

- |            |                               |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| a. heaven  | f. the four and twenty elders |
| b. tenth   | g. seven                      |
| c. a third | h. the temple                 |



## Questions on Chapter 11,

*Revelation for Christians Today*, by Lonnie Woodruff--page 197... [Answers by DRL]

- 1. What does the temple of God represent? (1 Cor 3:16).**  
*Those people who are faithful to God—the church. 179.*
- 2. What was John instructed to do concerning the temple? (11:1).**  
*To rise and measure the temple of God.*
- 3. Are the measurements of the temple given?**  
*No, not in this chapter.*
- 4. What is the symbolic meaning of the altar? (11:1).**  
*It represents a Christian's ability to pray directly to God for the remission of sins. Cf., 8:3, where a golden altar is pictured before God's throne and is used for offering up the prayers of saints.*
- 5. Who are those who worship in the temple? (11:1).**  
*Only those who have a covenant relationship with God can commune with Him through prayer (1 Peter 3:12).*
- 6. What was excluded in the measurement of the temple? (11:2).**  
*The court.*
- 7. Who occupied the court of the temple? (11:2).**  
*Perhaps this is difficult to determine, but brother Woodruff suggests that the court, which is near the temple represents those who are professing to be Christians, but who have never obeyed God's law. They have never actually entered into the true church. A second possibility he suggests is that these people are unfaithful members of the church. Whichever is correct, there is a distinction made between being in the temple, part of God's people, and being outside of it.*
- 8. What do those people do who occupy the court of the temple? .**  
*They trample down or walk on those who are in the true church. Another way of saying that they consider the church to have little or no value. Many today are close to the truth, but have no regard for the true church at all. They TREAD IT UNDER FOOT by using degrading and slanderous remarks and sometimes by persecuting the true church. This type of activity is to continue for 42 months, which is a symbolic representation of the entire Christian Age. Thus, we can expect this behavior to continue until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.*
- 9. Who do the two witnesses represent?**  
*Brother Coffman says that they represent: (1) God's Word; and (2) God's church. Brother Woodruff argues that the two witnesses represent the church, using the word of God. The number two represents augmented strength, redoubled energy, confirmed power. Woodruff writes: "The church on the earth has received power from on high through the Word, and all Christians should be strong witnesses for Christ as we prophesy or teach that Word throughout the world."*
- 10. What two symbols are used in verse 4 also to represent the two witnesses?**  
*Two olive trees and two candlesticks.*
- 11. Give the symbolic meaning of: (a) Two olive trees; (b) Two candlesticks.**

*These two symbols are a continuation of the description of the two witnesses. Using the number 2 shows the great power or strength possessed by these witnesses. When the Gentiles, or the wild olive tree, are obedient to the new law of Christ, they are said to be grafted into the good olive tree. They become a part of God's chosen people, the church. Therefore, it becomes easy to understand that the witnesses for Christ are a part of the good olive tree spoken of in Romans 11:16-18.*

**12. What power do the two witnesses possess? (11:6).**

*They have the power to SHUT HEAVEN, that it rain not; power to turn waters to blood; and to smite the earth with plagues. Keeping in mind that Revelation is a book of symbols, this description must surely refer to the **great power** Christians, have through teaching the gospel, the Word of God.*

**13. When the two witnesses finished their testimony, what happened to them? (11:7).**

*The beast ascended out of the bottomless pit, made war against them, and killed them. Consider this sequence of events in chapter 11...*

1. *v. 3 The witnesses are given power to prophesy.*
2. *v. 5 With God's help, they will be able to overcome their enemies.*
3. *v. 7 When they finish their testimony, the beast will overcome and kill them.*
4. *v. 10 People will rejoice over their death.*
5. *v. 11 The Spirit of life from God will enter into them and they will live again.*
6. *v. 12 They will ascend up to heaven.*

*Brother Woodruff believes these six points above give to us a complete history of the church from the time of Christ till its ascension to heaven at His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming. WHEN THEY HAVE FINISHED THEIR TESTIMONY being Colossians 1:23. After this was completed, then the BEAST overcame the church for a period of time.*

**14. Where did the bodies of the two witnesses lay? (11:8).**

*They lay in the street of the great city, spiritually called: Sodom, and Egypt, and where also our Lord was crucified.*

**15. What is the symbolic meaning of the great city?**

*The GREAT CITY is used in Revelation to symbolize the apostate church. The figures in the last part of verse 8 (Sodom, Egypt, and Jerusalem) are being used as symbols to represent the GREAT CITY, the apostate church.*

**16. Why is the great city described as Sodom, Egypt, and the city where our Lord was crucified? (11:8).**

*Sodom is known for its immorality; the apostate church was spiritually (and sometimes physically) adulterous. Egypt was a great persecutor of God's people in the Old Testament. During the Dark Ages the apostate church was responsible for the spiritual death of many people. Jerusalem was killed physically there, but He was killed spiritually in the GREAT CITY, the apostate church, figuratively, they crucified Him again.*

**17. Why did the people of the great city refuse to allow the bodies of the two witnesses to be put in graves? (11:9).**

*They wanted to keep them IN SIGHT where they could gloat over their death. The apostate church has always claimed to be righteous and worship the true God, yet they worship according to man's ways instead of God's. To have the truth taught by the true church would definitely have an adverse affect upon the apostate church. Therefore, they were extremely happy that the true church was killed. There was great rejoicing because of the death of the true church. The number 3 ½ is*

*descriptive, indicating a time of great despair and confusion. DAYS are probably used here to indicate a shorter time period than 3 ½ years or 1,260 days used earlier to represent the entire gospel age. The Dark Ages was definitely a time of extreme despair and confusion concerning spiritual matters because the church was, for all practical purposes nonexistent.*

**18. What symbolic term is used in verse 10 to describe the two witnesses?**

*Two prophets. This represents those who TEACH the Word of God.*

**19. Discuss how the symbols two witnesses, two olive trees, two candlesticks, and two prophets can all be used to describe Christians.**

*The church is described in verses 1 and 2 as the TEMPLE and the HOLY CITY. Verses 3 and 4 further describe the church as WITNESSES, OLIVE TREES, and CANDLESTICKS. In each case, there are two which indicates they have received power from God. They are standing before God, which again shows that these symbols must represent the church because 7:14-15 states that Christians are before the throne of God serving Him day and night in His temple. 185.*

**20. After the two witnesses lay dead in the street of the great city for a period of time, what happened to them? (11:11).**

*The Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet.*

**21. What will be the final dwelling place of the two witnesses? (11:12).**

*Heaven.*

**22. What will be the end of the great city? (11:13).**

*THE TENTH PART OF THE CITY FELL. The number TEN is used to signify human completeness. Therefore, if the tenth part of the city fell, it would no longer be complete. It would be fragmented. It would be completely destroyed.*

**23. Discuss the overall meaning of this vision.**

*Chapter 11 can be divided into two major sections. The first (1-14), gives a great deal of information concerning the TEMPLE OF GOD. it also concludes the sixth trumpet. The second division (15-19), is the sounding of the seventh trumpet.*

*Several symbols are used in the first section of chapter 11, including:*

- 1. Temple*
- 2. Holy City*
- 3. Two Witnesses*
- 4. Two Olive Trees*
- 5. Two Candlesticks*
- 6. Two Prophets*

*All of which have the same basic meaning. They represent those people who are faithful to the God—the church. Once we understand this, it then becomes possible to see that chapter 11 gives a complete history of the church from its beginning until the time of its ascension to heaven to dwell with God eternally (v. 12). Certainly, not every detail concerning the church is given, but the major points are clearly outlined. They are as follows:*

- 1. v. 3 God gives His people the power needed in order to spread the gospel during this Christian Dispensation.*
- 2. vv. 5-6 God provided protection for His people in order that the gospel might be spread throughout the world.*
- 3. vv. 7-10 Once the gospel was spread throughout the world, forces would arise upon this earth which would destroy the church for a certain period of time.*

4. **v. 11** After this period of time, God again breathed life into His people and the church once again became strong.
5. **v. 12** At God's appointed time, the church will be called to heaven to dwell with Him eternally.
6. **v. 13** Those forces which have persecuted the church will be destroyed, and great fear will fall upon those people at Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.

cf., Chapter 9 questions: 26-32 for the last part of 11.

### Questions Based on LW's End of Chapter 11 Questions

#### **True/False**

01. \_\_\_\_ John was told to arise and measure the temple and its court.
02. \_\_\_\_ 42 months is a symbolic representation of the entire Christian Age.
03. \_\_\_\_ Bodies of the two witnesses lay in a place described or symbolized by four cities.
04. \_\_\_\_ The final dwelling place of the two witnesses is Heaven.
05. \_\_\_\_ The first fourteen verses of this chapter give information about the church.

#### **Fill in the Blanks**

06. God gives His people the \_\_\_\_\_ needed in order to spread the \_\_\_\_\_ during this Christian Dispensation.
07. The two prophets represent those who \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
08. Woodruff suggests that the GREAT CITY is used in Revelation to symbolize the \_\_\_\_\_.
09. Power to \_\_\_\_\_ was given the two witnesses.
10. The altar represents the Christian's ability to \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Place the symbol in the space next to its description:**

11. \_\_\_\_\_ those who are professing to be Christians, but have never obeyed God's law.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 11:16ff helps us understand its meaning.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Figuratively, those represented by this figure crucified the Lord again.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ When this happens, it would be fragmented, destroyed!
15. \_\_\_\_\_ The church once again became strong.

**VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.** The words may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. -DRL



ANGEL	BODIES	CITY	COME	DAYS
DEAD	EARTH	EARTHQUAKE	ENEMIES	FELL
GIVE	GIVEN	GREAT	HALF	HEAVEN
HURT	KILL	LORD	MAKE	MEASURE
NATIONS	POWER	PROPHECY	REIGN	SAYING
STOOD	TEMPLE	THERE	THOUSAND	THREE

