

Now a parenthesis, 10:1 -- 11:14.

2 important events are recorded in this interlude between the 6th & 7th trumpet judgments. This section refers mainly to God's 3 prophets needing strength. Today, God's preachers of His Word need similar strength -- physical, mental, emotional. 2 of these prophets preached during the last half of horrific judgments during the Great Tribulation. These are awful days. These days would be cut short or no life would be saved -- Mt. 24:21-22

Chap. 10 -- John is fortified to prophesy by eating a little book.

Chap. 11 -- The prophetic ministry of God's 2 powerful witnesses is finalized.

## **GOD'S PROPHETS ARE EMPOWERED TO PROCLAIM THE FINISH OF GOD'S PROGRAM.**

### **1 GOD'S PROPHET WAS ENERGIZED TO PROCLAIM GOD'S HEART TO FINISH GOD'S PROGRAM, CH. 10.**

A. A mighty angel with a little book shouted 7 peals of thunder, 10:1-4.

- Is this Christ? The cloud might be a symbol of divine presence. Rainbow symbolizes mercy. Probably not the best view here.
- The best view is that this is a created angel. (1) angel's announcement censored by a higher authority (v.4); (2) angel took an oath by someone greater than himself (vv.5-6); (3) "another" = allon "of the same kind" as "strong angel" of 5:2. He cannot be Christ there. Symbols remain the same.

1. This angel was created, and was not Jesus Christ, 10:1-2.

- Posture of the angel, 10:2.
  - 1) In the angel's hand was a little book, open. Not the same scroll as chapter 5.
  - 2) Under the angel's feet was the sea and the land. Symbolic posture of authority over the whole earth.

2. The 7 thunders were sealed up and not written, 10:3-4.

- a. The release of 7 thunders, 10:3. Probably parallel to other 7s of judgments.
- b. The response to the 7 thunders, 10:4.

Why was John commanded to seal up these thunders?

B. The angel swore an oath that the mystery of God would be finished, 10:5-7.

1. The oath from the Eternal One was solemn, 10:5-6a.

2. The oath promised the completion of God's program, 10:6b-7.
  - Oath: "will be delay no longer" in God's vengeance on sin. Cf. 5th seal - souls under the altar - 6:9-11.
  - "the days of the voice of the 7th angel" includes all the rest of the book of Revelation -- bowls, 2nd coming, millennium, new heavens and a new earth = completion of "the mystery of God" (tie 11:15-19 with 15:1).
  - What was preached in the OT was the coming judgments and the millennial kingdom. What the OT did not reveal was the content of the book of Revelation, including the details of the judgments and the appearance of Jesus & the New Jerusalem.

C. The strong angel energized John to continue to prophesy (write), 10:8-11.

1. John was commanded to take a book and eat it, 10:8-9.
  - voice from the Lord - take the book
  - voice from the angel - eat the book

2. John ate the book and was told to keep prophesying, 10:10-11

Meaning of this symbolic act:

Correlate: Jer. 15:16; Ps. 19:10; Ps. 119:103-104; Ezek. 2:8--3:3.

Result: God's Word became a "burning fire" within them that they could not contain.

Symbolize:

(1) It is important to make God's Word a part of the very fiber of our being.

(2) God's Word can energize your heart to proclaim the passion of God's heart, even when it is fierce judgment of sin as being "sweet" (desirable; right).

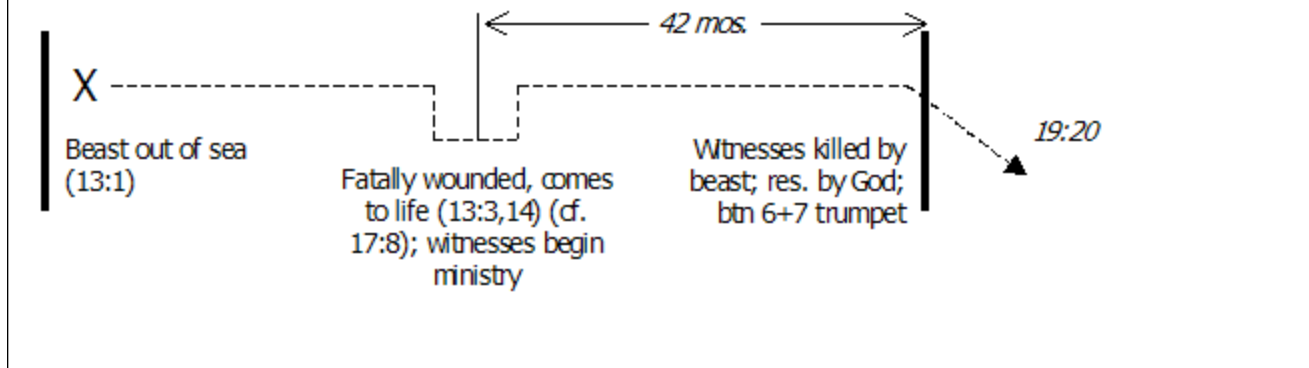
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**2 THE WHOLE WORLD WATCHES GOD'S 2 WITNESSES PROPHECY FROM JERUSALEM, CH. 11.**

Note on the perspective of Chapter 11:

Observation of time references: 11:2 → 42 months  
 11:3 → 1,260 days  
 11:7 → “beast that comes up out of the abyss”

Correlation of time references: (esp. in relation to “the beast”)



- A. God's earthly Jerusalem is trampled for the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation, 11:1-2.
1. Why measure? Indicates God's possession of property
  2. Why the temple? Has been rebuilt. Zech. 2:1-5 -- measures Jerusalem; Ezek. 40 -- millennial temple measured; Rev. 21 -- New Jerusalem measured.

The act of measuring indicates ownership and evaluation of the property.

3. "Times of the Gentiles" (Lk. 21:24) are when the Gentiles trample the temple area ("outside court") & Jerusalem.

Time frame: 42 months. Jewish calendar has a 30-day month. 42 months = 1,260 days (11:3) = 3 1/2 years (Daniel - "time, times, 1/2 a time")

- B. God's 2 witnesses will prophesy powerfully in Jerusalem during the last half of the Tribulation, 11:3-13.
- Why Jerusalem? Earthly Jerusalem is the Epicenter for God's future program for the whole world.

1. These 2 witnesses are specifically appointed by God, 11:3-6.
  - a. They are given power to preach 1,260 days (3 1/2 years), 11:3.
  - b. These 2 powerful prophets are identified, 11:4.

Who are they?

- In Zech. 4:3, 2 olive trees are Joshua (religious leader, cf. preceding vision) & Zerubbabel (civil leader, cf. v.6,9,10). Probably not these by name in Revelation, but similar to them.
- Not Moses & Elijah (Transfiguration)
- Not Enoch & John the Baptist.
- Not resurrected men in glorified bodies (because they are killed, 11:7).

Summary: Probably 2 men in addition to 144,000 because they are killed and raised again.

- c. Their miraculous powers were recognized worldwide, 11:5-6.
  - \*Miraculous power to defend themselves.
  - \*Miraculous power over sky, waters, earth [cf. plagues of Egypt - viruses, etc]
2. Under God's permission, Antichrist kills the 2 witnesses in the city of Jerusalem, 11:7-10.
  - a. The resurrected beast (13:1-2) wars against the 2 witnesses and kills them and leaves their bodies visible in the streets of Jerusalem, 11:7-8.
    - Antichrist has a fatal wound that is healed -- out of the "abyss" is the place of departed spirits, 7. (cf. Rev. 13:3,12; 17:8)
    - Jerusalem is still very corrupt - called "Sodom" (sinful) & "Egypt" (opposes God's people), 8.
  - b. Beast worshippers worldwide will celebrate their death, 11:9-10.
    - Worldwide awareness that these 2 witnessed for Christ.
    - Their bodies laid in full view 3 1/2 days.
3. The whole world will watch their resurrection & translation into heaven, 11:11-14.
  - a. God raised these 2 from the dead, v.11.
  - b. God received these 2 into heaven, v.12.
  - c. God rocked Jerusalem with a tremendous earthquake, v.13.

This earthquake was limited to the Jerusalem area. 7,000 died. Cf. death of Jesus.

People "gave glory to God" in the sense that they recognized God's power, much like king Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel).

This ends the parenthetical section that started at 10:1.

"The second woe is past; behold, the third woe is coming quickly" (Rev. 11:14).

**Trumpet #7 -- THIRD WOE 11:15-19** (This portion resumes the chronology toward the very end of the Tribulation period). This trumpet unleashed the final 7 bowls of judgment.

A. The Lord takes possession of the earthly kingdom, 11:15 [mystery of God is finished]

B. Heaven worshipped because of the Lord's supernatural power, 11:16-18.

1. Heaven's posture before His power, 11:16.

2. Heaven's praise because of His power, 11:17.

3. Justice is given by His power, 11:18. (Compare Matt. 25:31-34)

C. Heaven's temple is opened to another display of power, 11:19.

Christians today can rest assured that His kingdom will come and His will be done on earth, as it is in heaven! Contrary to some Christian teaching, the Church is not supposed to "bring in the kingdom" on earth. Only God can do that.

### **GOD'S PROPHETS ARE EMPOWERED TO PROCLAIM THE FINISH OF GOD'S PROGRAM.**

Christians today who read, teach, and preach the Bible need similar strengthening by "feeding" on God's Word. We do that by reading, studying, meditating on the riches of the Scripture.

Next in the book of Revelation is a LONG parenthesis, 12:1 -- 14:20, about the major actors during the Tribulation. Then, the book resumes the chronology at 15:1-8.