

Revelation 11:1-13

I. Introduction

This passage is connected to Revelation chapter 10. After being commanded to eat the scroll and prophesy again, the church is shown how it bears witness to the gospel and what the result of that witness will be.

II. Main Points

1. John Is Commanded to Measure the Temple (vv. 1-2)
 - Measuring symbolizes God's distinction, ownership, and protection over a place (Zechariah 2, Ezekiel 40).
 - Measuring the temple, the altar, and the worshipers
 - A promise that God will protect and preserve them to the end.
 - Do not measure the outer court of the temple
 - It is the court of the Gentiles, the place of ministry, excluded from protection.
 - Am I one who has been measured by God? Or am I still in the outer court, not yet saved?
2. The Two Witnesses Who Proclaim the Gospel – Two Olive Trees and Two Lampstands (vv. 3-4)
 - The two olive trees provide olive oil to keep the lamps burning, symbolizing the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - They prophesy for 1,260 days while clothed in sackcloth
 - Representing mourning, repentance, and a desire for people to turn back to God.
 - 1,260 days = 42 months = 3½ years = “a time, times, and half a time”
 - These all refer to the same period: the church age and age of tribulation from Christ's first coming to His second coming. Half of seven years symbolizes a limited period of time.
3. The Authority Given to the Witnesses (vv. 5-6)
 - If anyone harms the witnesses, fire comes out and devours them
 - Symbolizing judgment upon those who reject the gospel.
 - They have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time of their prophecy
 - Exposing the sins of the world and rebuking idolatry.
 - Though the gospel may appear weak outwardly, it possesses spiritual authority to judge the world.
4. The Persecution Against the Two Witnesses (vv. 7-9)
 - “When they have finished their testimony”
 - They will not die before completing their mission of proclaiming the gospel.
 - The beast coming up from the Abyss
 - Evil political powers and the antichrist inspired by Satan.
 - Their bodies are left unburied
 - There may be times when the church appears completely defeated, but do not be alarmed.
 - The place where the witnesses die
 - Called Sodom, Egypt, and the place where the Lord was crucified: places of persecution and corruption.
 - The witnesses' bodies remain exposed for three and a half days
 - A limited and short period of time.
5. The World Rejoices Over Their Death (v. 10)
 - The gospel troubles the people of the world, so they celebrate the death of the witnesses.
6. The Resurrection and Ascension of the Two Witnesses (vv. 11-12)
 - This does not refer to a literal resurrection or rapture.
 - As a vision and symbol, it means that even when the church appears destroyed and dead, it will rise again.
 - Just as God's breath gave life to man, and dry bones came to life again, the church will live again.
 - The church that seemed dead under Roman persecution eventually overcame Rome.
 - In places like China and North Korea, the church has seemed dead, yet it has risen again.
7. Those Who Repent and Give Glory to God (v. 13)
 - Judgment and plagues alone did not lead people to repentance, but the gospel witness of the two witnesses brought people to repent.

III. Conclusion

No matter what tribulation, persecution, or hardship may come, let us be a church that faithfully proclaims the gospel.

Bible Memorization

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)

Bible Reading

5/11(Mon)	5/12(Tue)	5/13(Wed)	5/14(Thur)	5/15(Fri)	5/16(Sat)	5/17(Sun)
2 Kings 14-15	2 Kings 16-17	2 Kings 18-19	2 Kings 20-22	2 Kings 23-25	1 Chronicles 1-2	Chronicles 3-5

QT

Quiet Time Passage

5/11(Mon)	5/12(Tue)	5/13(Wed)	5/14(Thur)	5/15(Fri)	5/16(Sat)	5/17(Sun)
1 Cor. 1:18-25	1 Cor. 1:26-31	1 Cor. 2:1-9	1 Cor. 2:10-16	1 Cor. 3:1-15	1 Cor. 3:16-23	1 Cor. 4:1-8

Sharing Questions

1. Share one thing that especially encouraged you or gave you new insight through today’s message.

2. What does it mean that John was told to measure the temple, the altar, and the worshipers, but not the outer court of the temple?

3. Discuss the authority given to the two witnesses and share what this authority means for the church today.

4. The two witnesses fought against the beast from the Abyss, were killed, left in the street for three and a half days, and then revived by the breath of God and taken up to heaven. Share examples of what this symbolizes.