

Chapter 8

TWO WITNESSES, RAPTURE, AND ANTICHRIST**REVELATION 11*****Measuring The Temple***

Before we get to the Seventh Trumpet we have this part about the measuring of the temple.

Revelation

11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

11:2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty [and] two months.

Here is a measuring rod that is going to be used to measure the temple, the Holy Place, and those who worship in that Holy Place. The Greek word *canon* means reed, which is the measuring rod, and the *canon* is the Bible, God's Word. This means that we are going to be measured by God's Word. We are not going to be measured by our own traditions or any other good estimation by man. We are going to be measured by God's Word. That is what we want to look at, and that is what we want to measure up to.

He is, then, going to measure the inner court of the temple and those inside who are worshiping. If you are going to measure up or even be standing there to be measured, you will have to be a true worshipper of Jesus Christ. Being a true worshipper of Jesus Christ means you have to worship in the real temple where the Word of God is the rule.

At this time I am not going to get into the temple of God, whether it is your body or that kind of stuff. What I want to do is focus

on two things: (1) the real worshipper who is going to be measured by the 'Word of God,' and (2) the false worshipper

We, then, who are the true worshippers of God, are going to be measured. Some of us are going to come up short in areas because we are going to be measured in everything that we are, everything that we have, everything that we do, and every relationship that we have. In every way, we are going to be measured against the Word of God. I am encouraging you to measure up, but you have to know the Word of God in order to measure up.

He says do not even measure those people who are not worshiping in the inner court. In fact, He says, cast them out. In the outer court are the worshippers who have a semblance of true Christianity, and He says, "Do not even waste your time measuring them. Cast them out and measure them not, and they will be tread under foot by the Gentiles" (Revelation 11:2)

Salt Without Flavor

Let me tell you that Matthew 5:13 says that if salt has lost its savor, what good is it? It is good for nothing but to be cast out and tread under foot. Here is a statement that says that those in the outer court are not to be measured, do not waste your time on them, cast them out, and they will be tread under foot. This means now that the people who have a semblance of Christianity are really hypocrites. They want to have their cake and eat it, too. What they want is to have the blessings of God while doing their own thing. They want to have the blessings of God by

having an appearance of Christianity, but in their hearts they want to have their own way, do their own thing. This is not self-denial, folks. When you are doing your own thing, it is not self-denial.

The first requirement of being a disciple is self-denial. What the false worshippers want to do is be disciples without denying themselves. This does not work. He says, “Cast them out; do not measure them, and they will be tread under foot.” It is the same passage in Matthew that talks about a salt that has lost its savor.

If you lose your savor Of course, you have your savor built into you as far as your ontology goes, but you can lose your savor when it comes to behavior. When your behavior does not measure up, it is going to be cast out. If your relationships do not measure up, they are going to be cast out. Worshipping in the outer court is not true Christianity, and it is going to be cast out because you have lost your savor in that area. But you, yourself, your being is going to be saved because once you are born again that is an ontological conversion, but you come in naked. You do not have a crown, you do not have any clothes, and you are disgraceful. There is a lot that is at risk here.

Homer: At this point we are going to be measured right then. Talk to us about doing that measuring. Can you do that?

V: Let us look at Matthew 15.

Matthew

15:7 [Ye] hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with [their] lips; but their heart is far from me.

15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men.

This is the complaint that is issued against Judah while they were in the midst of revival. Isaiah wrote this about the Lord’s people. We are a bunch of hypocrites when we draw close to the Lord with our mouths, but our hearts are far from Him. What you do comes out of your heart.

We are going to be measured as rewards go in the same way as servants were judged in Matthew 25, the parable of the talents. Here is the judgment of the saints, the servants of God are going to be judged, and this is a judgment that is not going to hold anything back. You are going to be judged on what you do with your works, what kind of profitability you live—was it a profitability for yourself or was it a profitability for God. If it was for you, you have your reward, and it is over with. If it was for God, it is eternal, and you participate in the reward for eternity. That is the way it works, and the judgment process is over here in Matthew 25, the parable of the talents.

Measuring Up

In Revelation 11 He is definitely dealing with a situation in which there are two kinds of “Christians.” One kind is measured, every facet of his life, ontology, everything about him is going to be measured against the Word of God, and he will be rewarded where he measures up and suffer loss where he does not measure up. Those who do not get measured are those who are hypocritical. Even though they have given lip service, they are not real Christians in their behavior, and their hearts are far from Him. That is the group that is going to be cast out because it is basically salt that has no flavor.

Homer: In one passage Jesus says, “Not everyone that says, Lord, Lord, will enter My kingdom.”¹ Is this part of the second group?

V: Yes, that would be part of them as well. All of the people in that category would be “Lord, Lord, lip-service Christians.” They would include both lost and saved. The saved in this case, however, are not doers of the Word.

Wanda: In Matthew 5:13,² are these people saved?

V: The salt without flavor? Yes and No. The religious pretenders are not saved. If it is people that measure up ontologically, but their behavior does not, they are saved, but they will suffer loss because they are hypocrites (Matthew 15).

Jerry: I just wanted to ask you about that group of saved hypocrites. If we are measured on certain areas of our life, are they the ones that Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians 3:15, “He himself will be saved but as one escaping through the flames.”³ Is that when our works are burned up? Whatever is left is in this category?

V: Yes. Whatever is left is in this category of flavorless salt. The rest of this category of flavorless salt is lost people pretending.

Mary: I was told, and maybe I misunderstood, but the Judgment Seat of Christ is only for Christians.

V: That is right.

¹ Matthew 7:21.

² “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”

³ 1 Corinthians 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Mary: So obviously if you are at the Judgment Seat of Christ, then you are saved.

V: Yes.

Forty-Two Months

Pete: I have a question about the significance of the forty-two months. Is that literal?

V: I think it is, and I think it is going to be forty-two months of the harlot being trampled under foot by the entire world. We are not there yet. This is a look forward. When we get there you will hear what I am saying.

Paul: The two witnesses are there for 1,260 days. Are you going to get to that? That equals forty-two months.

Pete: I thought the forty-two months had to do with the reign of Antichrist.

V: Three and a half years.

Pete: That is forty-two months.

V: Here is what I would like for you to do: hang onto the forty-two months, 1,260 days, but put it over to the side and see if you cannot draw some conciliation between that and the flow of the story. If we get hung up on this, we will never get the story.

Jill: What does trodden under foot mean? Does that mean persecution?

V: No, it is despising. The church is going to be despised in the last days. I am not talking about you guys who are real disciples because you are going to be killed or raptured.

TWO WITNESSES ARE CHURCHES

Revelation

11:3 And I will give [power] unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred [and] threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

11:4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

11:5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

Here are the two witnesses, and the two witnesses are churches. It says that they are candlesticks. God said in Revelation 1:21 that candlesticks are churches. Therefore the two witnesses are churches. A lot of people think there are going to be two people and suggest Isaiah, Elijah, Moses or whatever. We get three million theories here about this thing, but God has already told us that the candlesticks are churches. This Scripture about two candlesticks is about two churches. Guess how many churches did not get reprimanded? Two: Smyrna and Philadelphia because they measure up.

Some of you are Smyrna and some are Philadelphia. Now some of you may be Thyatira, Pergamum, Laodicea . . .

Here are the two witnesses, and they are going to be prophesying for a period of time that is equal to forty-two months. We are holding those numbers now to the side, and we will see if we cannot come up with a harmonization. I will tell you right now though that there are times when I can reconcile, and there are times when I cannot. If any of you come up with some good answers, I would be interested in seeing them especially in your papers.

Fire from the Mouths

Now we are coming to the business of the fire coming out of their mouths and devouring their enemies. And if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. When you look in Jeremiah you have all these profes-

sional prophets, the school of the prophets that are on the king's payroll. Those are the official prophets. They have been ordained and have official status. They are the profit prophets, and they are the official ones that are recognized. Jeremiah is not an official prophet. He was only ordained by God. That does not count. He just comes out of nowhere. God put His hand on him, and said, "I want you," and He did that before Jeremiah was even born. Jeremiah did not apply for a job, do a resume, and do all that kind of stuff. He was called in the womb. That is pretty official, is it not?

Joe: Before he was conceived.

V: So here is Jeremiah who has no papers, has no credit, and is not on the king's payroll. He is just one of these "walk around the streets" kind of guys. But in Jeremiah 5:13 it says,

Jeremiah

5:13 And the prophets shall become wind, and the word [is] not in them: thus shall it be done unto them.

5:14 Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.

This is what He is talking about in Revelation 11:5. He is not talking about flamethrowers. It is not this kind of dragon stuff. It has all been said before. God has already said this, you see. He told Jeremiah that the paid prophet guys are going to be nothing but wind, but I am going to make my Words in your mouth fire, and the people are going to be wood. You will devour them. It says in

Revelation

11:5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies; . . .

Same words! We cannot take this literally because it is supposed to be signs, you know, signification.

We have been through all of that. There are people who will say, “Oh, you have to take that literal.” In this case, you have flamethrowers coming out of their mouths, you have two people instead of two churches, and the stars are falling all over the place. God, though, is saying clearly to us, “I have given you a hermeneutic, use half of your brain. You ought to be able to figure out some of this.”

This, you see, is very clear here. When He talks about killing them, He is not talking about burning them to a crisp, and they fall down into ashes kind of thing. It is the same kind of killing that Jeremiah did. When you proclaim the Word of God, it is like a two-edged sword, and it will penetrate even bone, to the marrow, and it will kill the sinner out there. I mean, God’s words will go straight into the hearts, and the sinners will be sitting there quivering, turning ashen white, breaking out in a cold sweat because the Word of God has power to do that. That is what He is talking about.

Power Over Water

Revelation

11:6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

Now it is time for you to start doing some of this kind of stuff right here because you have the ability to bring rain from heaven. When we say rain from heaven we are not talking about watering somebody’s grass. We are talking about the refreshing rain of the Holy Spirit coming down in the Words of

God as you proclaim them. If you shut your mouth, the rain cuts off. Who is going to bring rain, the refreshing, cooling rain if it is not the prophets. The rain will not come if you do not open your mouths. It is time for us to start doing this. If you turn to tradition and start teaching the traditions of man, close your Bible, or else start your hermeneutics where you can couch this in your agenda and use God’s Word to bring your agenda, so you can bring profit to yourself, then you will stop the rain. If you should decide that we do not need God’s agenda, just His Word to bring your agenda, then you turn the water into blood. Many men, then, will die.

Joe: The clergy is included there?

V: The clergy is included. You bet. We need to open up our mouths and bring the refreshing rains. We have too much blood.

The plagues are popping up all over the place. We see all manner of things happening in our environment: storms, floods, droughts, locusts. We have locusts all over the place, but I have not heard anybody say, “Have you ever seen so many crickets in your life?” They just say, “We are just covered up to here with crickets. Seems to be a normal day today.”

Beth: I drove into a Winn Dixie parking lot a year ago, and it was unbelievable how many crickets were there.

V: I can believe it!

Beth: As I drove through the parking lot, I could hear them crunching.

V: Right. You cannot even walk without slipping and sliding on some of them. It is time for you to start pointing out the plagues, and you can smite the earth with plagues, but if you shut up, all of these lost people are going to say, “Oh, we have a lot of crickets

today.” A tornado came through a town in east Texas on Mothers’ Day; nobody seemed to say anything about that. Where is the prophet who is saying, “God is speaking to mothers”?

Carl: We are afraid to speak out.

V: That is right, we are afraid to speak out. The moon and the sun are darkening. You are the moon. You have lost 1/3 of your light already.

Death for the Two Witnesses

Revelation

11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

11:8 And their dead bodies [shall lie] in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

11:9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

11:10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

11:11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

11:13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

11:14 The second woe is past; [and], behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become [the kingdoms] of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

11:16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

11:17 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.

11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

I think these two woes come close together. As soon as Woe #2 is past, Woe #3 is right there. The resurrection of the two dead churches occurs near the end of Woe #2. This group is going to be resurrected from the dead, and they are going to be taken up to heaven, and we who are alive at the time will catch up with them (Woe #3). It will be a blink away from the first group going up; the second group comes right behind them. That is where I see the rapture, Trumpet #7.

Let us now look at the dead bodies and all of that. I do not know exactly how to come down on this one. Do you want to call the bodies the buildings with the steeples on them, or do you want to call them Smyrna and Philadelphia Christian dead bodies, corpses just lying out on the sidewalks? What do you prefer to do there? It is your choice. You get to choose how you interpret what the bodies

are. God has already decided what the meaning is, and it is our job to find out what He means.

Tim: You just said that you thought this was the resurrection of the dead, so it cannot be the literal churches lying dead on the streets. You cannot resurrect buildings.

V: Okay, it could be that the bodies that are not buried are the steepled bodies and the other bodies are buried. If the dead bodies are buildings, then the members who are still alive have gone underground, and have basically shut down as a form of death. Their resurrection would then be a re-enlivening or quickening of the corporate churches. Or it could be literal corpses lying out on the streets. It could be either way, but many saints are going to be dead because Satan is going to come out and wage war against them and kill them. He is already out waging war. Here then is the resurrection.

Joe: Is that what you are calling the rapture at that point?

V: It is at Trumpet #7. I am about to get there.

Henry: Is this beast the one referred to in Trumpet #5?

V: No, that is a star.

Tom: In other words you are saying that regarding the souls that are under the altar, these are the ones they are waiting for to be martyred. So the completion of this is the completion of the martyrs of the church. The church no longer exists.

V: Except that we have in verse 13 a remnant. All right, you Smyrna and Philadelphia guys, you are the ones that get killed. You Pergamos, Thyatira, etc., you get to be affrighted and are the remnant (verse 13). You are the remnant that are affrighted and give

glory to God of heaven. This is a kind of shaking down here, and so it is that remnant bunch that is going to be raptured, but it is that glorious Smyrna and Philadelphia bunch that gets clobbered or killed. That brings us back to where we began this class, where we said who gets what.

TRUMPET #7, THE RAPTURE

Revelation

11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; . . .

Bang, I mean it is right there. As soon as Woe #2 (part of Trumpet #6) is passed, Trumpet #7 sounds.

Revelation

11:15 . . . and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become [the kingdoms] of our Lord, . . .

The declaration of victory is declared right here.

Revelation

11:15 . . . and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

11:16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

11:17 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.

11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants . . .

That word, servants, is slaves

Revelation

11:18 . . . the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there

were lightnings, and voices, and thunders, and an earthquake, and great hail.

1 Corinthians

15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal [must] put on immortality.

15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

15:55 O death, where [is] thy sting? O grave, where [is] thy victory?

15:56 The sting of death [is] sin; and the strength of sin [is] the law.

15:57 But thanks [be] to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Whoeee! Man! Where is the trumpet? It is Trumpet #7, and it is the last trump, which is the rapture.

Joe: I do not know how many times I have read that passage and even read the book of Revelation, but I have been stumbling around here like a blind dog in a meat factory. I am serious!

V: It is exciting! Man, oh man, this is good!

Matthew

24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

1 Thessalonians

4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

First! Yeah, and then we which are alive, that is us, the lukewarm ones, you know.

1 Thessalonians

4:17 Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Now sadly what we want to do is go out with a bang without any costs. We want to be in that group of those two witnesses, those two candlesticks, but we don't want to die with them. That is what we are trying to do here in our comfort zones. We want to have an imaginary list out here, upon which we can sign our choices when we die or when we are raptured. You sign which one you want to be—Smyrna or Philadelphia—but everybody needs to sign up now in this present life in which the sacrifice of life in the *kenosis* makes you a member of Smyrna or Philadelphia.

Here is what we have here: we have all the strong Christians being killed and then resurrected from the dead, plus those who remain alive being raptured up, being caught up with those being resurrected. This then is emptying the earth of Christian flavor. When that happens there is going to be all kinds of evil that is going to break out. This evil is going to be the wrath of God that is going to come upon the earth then. Trumpet #7 is Woe #3. Why is it a woe? Because of the Christian flavor being removed from the earth. This earth without the salt and flavor of the Christian Church is headed for self-destruction. What a world that is!

Sybil: When this happens that means that the very literal presence of God, even the presence of the Holy Spirit is not going to be existent on the face of the earth any more.

V: No that is not what it means. The Holy Spirit will still be here because we are

going to have people saved after this time, but the restraining flavor and the salting down of society by you Christians who are especially of the Smyrna and Philadelphia flavor are going to be removed.

This removal of Christian influence will have the same effect as the Christians being run out of France. When the Christians were run out of France, then came the French Revolution. Many people had their heads cut off on the guillotine. All of that happened because of the lack of Christian influence for good. Even good people had their heads chopped off. It was indiscriminate anarchy, chaos, all of that evil. People were shuddering in their boots—who was next? How do you know whether you are in the good-guy crowd? There was all of that that broke out. Evil swept the whole nation because of the purging of the Huguenots, the French Calvinists, by the French authorities. When they ran the Huguenots out, then there was nothing left but chaos and the French Revolution. That was a woe to France when the real church was removed. The woe to the world in the book of Revelation will come after the real churches, the ones who were measured, are removed.

Oscar: We had a pastor, who was a professor in Mexico, but he was a Christian man, and he said that the Knights of _____ would come to the church where they were worshipping in Mexico, and they would break their doors down because they had the power of the government. They were _____, but they did not like Christians. He said they would put great pressure on the people and say, “Do you renounce your faith?” or “Do you want to be a _____?” He said they put great pressure on them to convert to another religion.

V: When you take Church History you are going to see that the evangelism explosion methodology in the Middle Ages of the ancient Christian church was by the power of the sword.

REVELATION 12

This chapter is a sweeping synopsis of history. Revelation 11 began with setting the stage for the two candlesticks, and the war that is going to come against them followed by the trumpeted rapture. There you are inside of history, but when you get to Revelation 12 you step outside of history and look at a synopsis or a summary of history. It is kind of like a parenthetical statement put in to help you get the overall picture of where we have been and where we are going, and then we will pick up again in history with Revelation 13.

The woman and the child

Revelation

12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

12:2 And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

12:4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

12:5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and [to] his throne.

12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred [and] threescore days.

Let me stop there for a minute. This sweeping of history begins with the woman. The woman is Israel. Israel is being pictured here as the birthing mother of Christ. Christ came right straight out of Israel. He is the child.

Dragon

The dragon, of course, is Satan. Satan has seven heads, which means, in my interpretation of head as nation, that those seven heads are seven nations. Heads are nations, and horns are kings or powers. There are seven heads on this dragon. Since seven is the all inclusive number, all nations are under the dragon including America. You remember how ten is a universal number that extends only through temporal time, but seven means that all “earthly nations” through eternity are going to come under the sway of the dragon.

Ten Horns

Here are the ten horns. The ten horns are the ten powers or ten kings, all kings wielding the power. These ten are temporal powers, and they do not go through eternity. A temporal power stops at the end of time. And the crowns, you see are the glorious statements of power, and they go on the nations at this point right here. We are going to see that vestment move from the nations to the kings when Antichrist ascends.

Angelic War

Revelation

12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, . .

We have seen that casting out before, right?

12:9 . . . that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

You remember the fig tree and the figs coming down. Here it is. This is a sweeping view here. We are going to get a whole sweep of history here in one chapter. We have seen some of this already over in one of the seals, but here again is a sweeping view of history.

Revelation

12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

The scene is of a war in heaven. Michael and the good angels are fighting against Satan and the other angels, and Satan and his angels lose and are cast into the earth. They no longer have access in heaven. They have been cast into earth. This then catches back to where we were when we dealt with the figs dropping out of the trees, one third of the stars falling down onto earth. Here they are at this point here. When they come down here, who is down here? We are down here. There is going to be a war down here then. There was a war in heaven. Satan and his angels fought against Michael and his angels. Michael won, kicked them out. They came down here, angry. They are going to fight some more. Who is going to fight against them? It will not be Michael and his angels. Guess who is going to fight? We are. The church. Guess who is going to win? The church for a while, for the church is going to overcome Satan using two

weapons, the blood of the Lamb, and the word of their testimony.

Joe: Praise God.

Spiritual Weapons

V: Yes. That is all you have. You do not fight with guns or knives. You do not have any kind of carnal weapons. You cannot escape by calling for the mountains to fall down upon you, *i.e.* escaping through institutionalism. You are going to win with these two spiritual weapons: the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony. That is it. That is all you have. The method of your warfare, however, is quite strange because it is going to be with reckless abandonment. Look at the end of verse 11: “and they loved not their lives unto the death.” That means that you are not going to try to hang onto your life. You are going to yield your life. Your fight is a sacrificial fight. This is the life of the *kenosis*, the going down. The *kenosis* is a life of sacrifice, a life of self-denial.

Joe: Is this where Satan gets his free reign?

V: Yes, he is going to come down here, and he is going to have free reign except where the church is whipping up on him. The church is going to be beating the stew out of this guy for a while.

Paul: Zechariah 4:6 is the Scripture that comes to my mind where you are talking about the word of the testimony and the blood of the Lamb.

Zechariah
4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This [is] the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

V: So we are going to be using spiritual weapons. If you are going to have a chance against Satan, it has to be using spiritual weapons. You do not have a chance, you are dead, if you go against him with carnal weapons. You can have all the weapons and money and power and position and all the temporal stuff that you want, but you will not have a chance against Satan. But you can tear him out of the frame if you are using spiritual weapons.

Joe: The fire of the mouth.

Homer: Paul says that our battle is not against flesh and blood, but it is against the spiritual powers and principalities in the heavenly realm.⁴ That heavenly armor⁵ that we put on . . .

V: Yes, this is it. This is the war we are in.

Beth: Are you talking about this fight that is breaking out is during the tribulation time?

V: No, ma'am. It is right now. This is the sweep of history. We are going to get over there. We are in tribulation already though most of us do not know it. The Laodicean bunch do not know it because they think everything is made for enjoyment. But Smyrna knows it. Philadelphia knows it. Pergamos and the rest of them are still wondering about it, and they are still looking around thinking, “I do not know, it might be coming any minute.”

Satan's Time is Short

Revelation
12:12 Therefore rejoice, [ye] heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the

⁴ Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places].

⁵ Ephesians 6:13-17.

inhabiters of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

From the time he gets thrown out of heaven, Satan realizes that his time is short. He has been down here for a while, and he has been fighting against us for a while. The longer he fights, and the more you deal him a blow, the angrier he gets. He has already lost one war, and he is losing another war. God's Word says he is going to lose the final war. We are in here just scrapping away trying to bring glory to the Lord using spiritual weapons and fighting the same way Jesus did. Do you remember that victory for a Christian soldier is through death? You die to win. For a Christian soldier you die to win. For a person that is carnal, a person of Satan's stripe kills to win. You need to hang on to that because the *kenosis* is the way you die. We talked about patience, and settling it in your heart and going the whole distance. Going all the way to the cross and all of that you see is applicable here.

The Woman

Revelation

12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman . . .

The woman is Israel.

12:13 . . . which brought forth the man [child].

12:14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Now there are a lot of people that attach this time, times, and half a time as three and a half years. This is not that kind of time. This is kairotic time, *kairos*. Kairotic time is vertical time. See chapter 1 of this book. These are

special times in which the Lord God Himself comes in to intervene into the history of mankind, into our affairs. This is what kairotic time is. This time is not *chronos*, not horizontal time. It is vertical time. There is this intervention into the affairs of man by God Himself, and that is *kairos*. Time, times, and half a time are special interventions of God in the sustaining of Israel.

The Flood of Satanic Religion

Revelation

12:15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

12:16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

What is this water business? That is religion. You know how we have been dealing with water now. The sea is the church. Fresh water, the springs, the fountains of waters, and the creeks are the clergy. Now here comes a flood of water out of Satan's mouth: Islam.

Steve: I thought it was Catholicism.

V: No. Islam is poured out, and guess who stops it?

Steve: The earth.

V: The earth, the secular world. The secular world swallows up this thing, and puts a barrier between Islam and Israel. The rulers of the earth here have rescued Israel. The earth swallows up the flood. Here is the dragon, and he wants to flood the woman and destroy her with false religion. When that did not work, what did he do?

Revelation

12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the

commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

We are her seed. He comes at you. He is dealing with the sweep of history here. It has to do with the woman who is the central point. The child, Jesus, comes out of the woman, and the remnant of her seed is you. The dragon is one of the main players. All of this warfare that was in heaven came to earth against the woman. Now it is on earth against the church that is fighting with spiritual weapons. There is the woman with the flood of religion against her, and then the attack on the remnant.

REVELATION 13

Antichrist: The Beast from the Sea

Revelation

13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, . . .

V: What is the sea?

Joe: The church.

V: Here comes the beast out of the church. Antichrist is coming out of the church. He is rising up out of the sea.

Ten Horns on Seven Heads

Revelation

13:1 . . . having seven heads and ten horns, . . .

Heads, now, are nations

13:1 . . . and ten horns, . . .

So he has universal power, the ten horns, but it is limited to time. He has universal nationality, but that goes through eternity. The seven heads goes through eternity. Seven means that the heads go through eternity, but the ten means the horns are temporal.

Crowns Upon the Horns

Revelation

13:1 . . . and upon his horns ten crowns, . . .

Over in 12:3 the crowns were upon the heads, but now the crowns are on the horns. Let me tell you something: You remember that we talked about as you grow into the likeness of Christ how He will give you more and more responsibility, and soon He will trust you to use your own judgment, and He does not tell you every little thing to do. He expects you to be a warrior and have the mind of Christ and to live the *kenosis*. That should work its way out into the smaller actions that you are to have. As He trusts you to do that, and you perform those things and meet His expectations, that is trusting you with a little. In eternity He is going to trust you with a ton. That same maturation process occurs with Satan's people.

Satan Uses Nations

Satan gives glory and power to the nations. He is working through the nations. He is assigning all of his demons to these nations, and those demons are working within the population of the nations. They are working, working, working and trying to gather people, and put somebody of like mind in charge. If they can get somebody in charge of a nation like an Ayatollah Khomeini or Saddam Hussein or somebody like that. It will guarantee that the nation and its citizens follow Satan, then he can redistribute those demons into a democratic society of another nation so that he can bring to bear individual persecution on those democratic, freedom-loving citizens that are giving him trouble.

Satan Gets the Nation Through the King

He is working hard to acquire horns, leaders of nations, because it is through the nations that he is now working. He is working hard to bring that power into a horn. Once he gets a nation under the power of a horn, then he can redistribute his demons to the spots giving him the most trouble because they are not yet politically correct.

One demon can be assigned to the ruler of a nation. Satan can then take the rest of the demons and bring them over to America. He spots a Christian and assigns 17 demons to him. No matter what that Christian does, they are just going to beat on him wherever he goes, whatever he does. The demons will continually beat on him. No matter what that Christian does, they are just going to beat on him in all things at all times.

That passage describes the scenario here. Satan achieves success by bringing his person up out of a morass of candidates, brings that one person up, that horn. Satan becomes proud of that horn just like Jesus is so proud of you. Satan puts a crown of authority on that leader, which gives him earthly authority to have the mind of Satan and to do the will of Satan, which is the opposite of the *kenosis*.⁶ His actions are to climb up and indulge himself and help the people to climb up and indulge themselves and have no integrity, to lie, to make up all the things you want to make up, do whatever you want to do, and call it good. That is what is happening here—Revelation 12:3–13:1. You can see the transition of how the crown moves from the head, which is a nation, to the horn, which is a national leader.

⁶ See Chapter 2 to see an illustration of the Opposite of the *kenosis*.

Revelation

13:1 . . . and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

Now when you have that satanic horn, you can write blasphemy on the nation. When that man ascends up to the crown, you can write blasphemy on the nation. Blasphemy!

Description of Antichrist

Revelation

13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as [the feet] of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Now this beast is going to be, I believe, a person who is going to be the head horn of all the horns who are heading up all the nations. We are going to have, then, this world ruler who is going to be in charge of all the nations in the world, and he is going to be the head horn of all the horns in the world. In Daniel you can see the fight that is going to break out between the ten horns,⁷ and there are going to be three of them uprooted by a little horn, and all that kind of thing. There will be some fighting between the horns to find out who will be the head horn. The head horn is going to be this beast that comes up out of the sea. He is going to be a little horn, which means he is going to be insignificant and have the appearance of being benign and meek and mild and a very wonderful, sweet-spirited person, not a war-type person. This wonderful, nice, lovely person will take over, and he is going to be the head horn after he uproots those three horns. He is going to pull them out by the roots.

Like a Leopard

This beast is going to be like a leopard, but he is going to have the feet of a bear and the

⁷ Daniel 7.

mouth of a lion. I watched a documentary on leopards. I thought leopards were a lightning fast kind of animal that attacked fiercely. They are not like that at all. Leopards are stalking. I was watching this leopard, and he was very patient. There were impala's that had two long horns that were just as sharp as razors. When stalking the impala, the leopard got a tree between himself and the impala, and he would move, move, move. When the impala moved out from behind the tree, the leopard had to wait for the wind to blow the grass and moved when the grass moved. If he moved when the grass was still, the impala would see the isolated movement and be alerted to him. It took an hour for the leopard to get close enough to spring upon the impala. The leopard did not spring because the impala was facing the leopard. The leopard would have impaled himself on those long, razor-sharp horns if he had pounced on the impala. He kept waiting for the impala to turn, but the impala would not stay turned away long enough to assure victory for the leopard.

That documentary changed my entire understanding of leopards. I thought leopards were like cheetahs or lions or cougars, just tear out after something and get them. God described the Antichrist like a leopard. He is going to stalk, he is going to be very cautious, and you are not going to discern his moving toward you because he is going to move when you cannot see. It is like the grass. When the wind is blowing, and the grass moves, he will move. Antichrist will move in conjunction with other things happening so that you cannot discern him stalking you. He is coming after you, folks.

Feet of a Bear and Mouth of a Lion

Antichrist has the feet of a bear, which means he can crush you with a single blow. He has the mouth of a lion and that has a

horrifying roar to it, but worse than that is the bite. The lion can bite through anything. This, then, is how God describes the Antichrist, the little horn, as being like. This little horn is going to be this kind of stalking, awesomely powerful, and totally destructive kind of person. He is going to be given all of his power, his seat, and great authority by Satan himself. Satan is just going to pour it on him. He will give him his seat, give him his power, and give him all authority over the whole world. One man. Satan will just dump it on him.

Joe: With the description of the leopard as being a stalker, the Antichrist may be out there right now stalking.

V: He sure could, looking to see which horns he is going to defeat.

Now I am going to shock you: the Antichrist is not going to know he is the Antichrist. He is going to come out of the sea.

Jerry: He is deceived.

V: He is deceived. The Antichrist is more deceived than you are. He is coming out thinking that he is following God. He is right, you are wrong. We are a bunch of hate mongers. Smoke that one for a while, folks. That will tear you out of the frame right there.

Jack: So you are saying this man is coming out of some kind of a church, and people are going to think that he is a saint.

V: Good old saint. He will be just like Judas.

Oscar: There is that Scripture that says there will come a time when man will think he is serving God.⁸

⁸ John 16:2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

V: When he kills you, a true Christian, he will think that he is serving God.

Wounded Head

Revelation

13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

All right, the head is a nation that is wounded to death, and we are going to find out later that it is a blow by a sword. That means that in some kind of war, the nation is thought to be completely wiped out, but it is going to come back to life. Now what nation is it? Is it Germany? Germany has played such a tremendous role in all of church history. Or it could be the Roman Empire which, of course, has died, and that is what most of your theologians say. They think that it is going to be the Roman Empire that is going to be healed.

Who would have ever thought the Iron Curtain would come down, and the wall of Berlin would come down. You wonder, "How did that happen?" So which country is it? Is it one of them, or is there another one yet to be wounded by the sword and restored to life.

Tim: How about Russia?

V: How about Russia. It could be Russia. Look at how Russia was killed by the cold war. It could be. I have often thought that it was, but ever since I started rethinking about Germany, I do not know. Germany was prominent in the Reformation, and if it had not been for Germany, Christianity would have been stamped out. Germany led in the establishment of the Reformation. It could lead in the deformation.

Tim: Germany has that strong, nomadic fighting will.

Joe: All through history almost all of your so-called Holy Roman Emperors are German.

V: You are right. Charlemagne was one of the greatest.

Betty: Could the descriptions up there of the leopard, bear, and lion be the description of the country?

V: Could the descriptions in Daniel be those of countries? That could be. I do not know.

Betty: Germany is considered the leopard. Russia is considered the bear, and Great Britain is the lion.

V: Wow! That is pretty good. Put that in your paper, Betty.⁹

Satan Gives His Power to Antichrist

Revelation

13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who [is] like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

13:5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty [and] two months.

We have the forty-two months occurring here. We had forty-two months occurring earlier, we have the 1,260 days occurring here and there, as well. We need to bring those things into play somewhere.

Jerry: The temple is supposed to be restored for forty-two months also is it not?

V: We have to deal with the temple also because we have not dealt with the temple yet. But I feel comfortable with all the forty-

⁹ Everyone in this class had to write a paper giving their interpretation of the seven seals, trumpets, and bowls. They also had to interpret other symbols as well.

two month pieces except in the sweep of history in Revelation 12. In the sweep of history the 1,260 days of Israel I do not know how to do that. I see Israel being in the dispersion at that time, and that was certainly more than 1,260 days. That could be 1,260 years. I do not know how to reconcile all of this stuff, but I do not have to since all of you are going to help me do this, right? If I can introduce the question in your minds, you will not get any sleep at night until you get it figured out.

Wanda: We can just call you at 4 a.m.

V: No, no. That is not good! (Laughter everywhere.)

Antichrist Wars with the Saints

Revelation

13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

13:7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, . . .

Well, we have some saints down here at this point. We have already had the killing of the saints, and the rapture of what was left; now we have some more saints. We are getting some saints born during this period of time in which Antichrist is reigning.

Revelation

13:7 . . . and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

That means if you are down here and Antichrist is ruling, the whole world is going to worship him except for those who have their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. They do not worship him. No, they are not going to worship him. Kill us, torture us, do

whatever you want to, we are not signing up. We are not going to take the mark.

Henry: These are the saints?

V: These are the saints.

Can You Hear This Message?

Revelation

13:9 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

Now we have been hearing that refrain all through Revelation, especially over there in the churches. We have to have some ears here. I think you need to start laying some land mines to get people saved after you are out of here. You see there are going to be people saved. These saints have got to come from somewhere. They are not leftovers after all this rapture business of Trumpet #7 and all the death business of Trumpet #6 which is a world war that results in one-third of mankind being killed. These saints have to come from somewhere. They are going to get saved here when there are no Christians left. That means nothing but Bibles and tracts and the testimony that you have given out are going to be residing in the hearts of unsaved people. They are going to be pondering those words: "What did he mean? How could he go to the death just believing in somebody he could not even see! How can that be?"

That same question came up during the time of Rome when the saints went to their death in the arena with the lions, to being burned at the stake, being tortured and mutilated. The people watched that and said, "How can that be?" The seed of revival is the blood of the saints. When they see your blood, and your testimony is residing down in their hearts, they are going to do the same thing that Menno Simons did.

Menno Simons was a Roman Catholic Priest. He had it made. He had his retirement made. He was a young man and had been made priest. He saw 350 Anabaptists who confessed their faith in Jesus Christ, and they were stormed, surrounded, killed. Every man was slaughtered. None of them recanted their faith in Jesus Christ. Menno Simons looked at that and said, “What are they doing? Do they not know that they can put their faith in the church, and they can be saved?” He pondered that, and it would not let him go because they died for their testimony. Here he is with his faith in church. Their faith was in Christ. What is the difference? He thought that if you put it in the church, it was in Christ. What did they die for? Eventually he surrendered to Christ and became an Anabaptist himself. He spent the rest of his life on the run, and he never spent more than two nights in the same bed. When he was old and crippled he wrote a letter, and he said, “Is

there any saint out there that can relieve my suffering? I am cold, I am hungry, and I have no home.” He died of deprivation as an old man. He spent his whole life running for his life. That is the way it is going to be with these saints. They are going to be running for their lives from Antichrist.

We have had these stories of tribulation all through history, and there are people today who say, “Oh, tribulation is for the future only. We are not going to have any tribulation. We are going to escape the tribulation.” Well, why did not all these people in history escape the tribulation? Why are these saints here being killed? Why were these two churches destroyed and all the members killed? How did they get out of tribulation? By dying. That is how you get out of the tribulation.

If you have an ear, hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Chapter Questions

1. Discuss measuring the temple.
2. Identify the two witnesses.
3. What is the fire from the mouths of the two witnesses?
4. When is the rapture?
5. Identify the woman.
6. Identify the child.
7. Identify the dragon.
8. What is the flood of water?
9. Identify the Beast from the sea.
10. What are heads and horns?
11. What is the measuring rod of the temple?
12. Those people who have a semblance of Christianity are in truth_____.
13. In Revelation 11, the two witnesses are churches because they are called_____.
14. The flames that come out of the mouth of the two witnesses refers to _____ just as the “two-edged sword” refers to the words that come from the Lord.
15. Explain the meaning of Revelation 11:6: “These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will” as it applies to the Christian.