

## THE APOCALYPSE – A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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### ***The Final Witnesses***

***(Rev 11:1-19)***

#### **1. The Measuring of the Temple – 11:1-2**

**Revelation 11:1-2**, *“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. 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.”*

**“A reed like unto a rod” (11:1)** -- After receiving the renewed command to record the rest of the book of Revelation, John is now given a reed which is like a rod. *“Kalamos (measuring rod) refers to a reed-like plant that grew in the Jordan valley to a height of fifteen or twenty feet. It had a stalk that was hollow and lightweight, yet rigid enough to be used as walking staff (cf. Eze. 29:6) or to be shaved down into a pen (3 John 13). The stalks, because they are long and light weight, were ideal for use as measuring rods. In Ezekiel’s vision, an angel used such a rod to measure the millennial temple (Eze. 40:3-43:17) [MacArthur, vol. 1, page 293].”*

Quite obviously John was not asked to take the measurement of the Temple for some architectural purpose. No dimension was given at all. Furthermore the context points to one of impending judgement. “It could have indicated, as on occasion in the Old Testament, that God sometimes marks things out for destruction (e.g., 2 Sam. 8:2; 2 Ki. 21:13; Isa. 28:17; Lam. 2:8; Amos 7:7-9, 17). But John’s measuring is better understood as signifying ownership, defining the parameters of God’s possessions (cf. 21:15; Zech. 2:1-5). This measuring signified something good, since what was not measured was evil (v. 2). It is best to see it as God’s measuring off Israel, symbolized by her temple, for salvation and for His special protection, preservation, and favour. The prophecies yet to be given to John will thus distinguish between God’s favour toward Israel and His wrath on the pagan world [Ibid. 293].”

Do you agree with McArthur's observations?

John was commanded to measure with the reed. He was to measure the temple, the altar and the ones who were inside worshipping. But the court which was outside and for the Gentiles only was not to be measured. What does this mean?

Also the holy city i.e. Jerusalem will be handed over to the Gentiles to be trodden underfoot for 42 months i.e. 3 and ½ years. By this time, about 95 A.D., the temple had already been destroyed by Titus in 70 A.D. John knew that God was definitely not referring to the earthly Exilic Temple that was renovated extensively by Herod. This revelation will give John the blessed hope that one day the temple will be rebuilt before the Great Tribulation begins.

The picture perhaps refers to this interpretation. The measurement includes the overall general dimension of the Temple as a whole, the altar where the offerings were offered upon and the people who worship inside this Temple. The Temple must include the details of the entire temple complex. The Holy of Holies and the Holy Place and the inner court where the altar of sacrifice is located and only the Jews and worshippers of God are allowed to enter with their offerings, will be "measured" by John. This was the location where only Jews were allowed to enter. It is perhaps a fulfillment of Romans 11:1-5, "*I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.*"

**Gentile Courtyard not included (11:2)** -- The outer courtyard where the Gentiles are allowed to enter will not be "measured" by God. The city of Jerusalem will also not be protected but be handed over to the Gentiles.

All Gentile believers who will be saved during the Great Tribulation will not be given this special "measurement". This measurement refers to the protection or seal that God speaks of in Revelation 7.

There will also be many who will take the side of Satan and attack the city of God. This sharp distinction between the Jews and the Gentiles further points to the fact that after the rapture, the distinction between the Jews and the Gentiles are now pronounced again.

But this division was not to be found in the church including the local church before the rapture. **Ephesians 2:14-22**, "*For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the*

*apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."*

The forty two months mentioned here refers to the second half of the Great Tribulation. This is the culmination of the "times of the Gentiles" mentioned in Luke 21:24. **Luke 21:24** says, "*And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.*"

For thousands of years, Gentiles have been in one way or another oppressing and occupying Jerusalem. The Assyrians, Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Greeks, Romans, Turks, British and the Arabs have taken turns occupying the holy city of God for centuries. Today, Israel's existence is very fragile and that is putting it very mildly. The climatic attack on the holy city by Satan and the antichrist will surpass all that have been done in the past. It will be a devastation that will reduce the city to a city of Sodom (filled with sodomy and fornication) and Egypt (city of bondage).

But during this same 42 months, God will shelter His people which will definitely include the 144,000 Israelites of chapter 7. God will prepare a place for His people to flee and hide. **Revelation 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.*" Some have speculated that the place of wilderness hiding is the rock of Petra, the old home of the Edomites. Many Jews will heed God's warning and flee.

**Matthew 24:15-20**, "*When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand). Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day.*"

### **1. The Two Witnesses – 11:3-14**

**Revelation 11:3-4**, "*And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.*"

**The Two witnesses (11:3)** -- Two witnesses will be sent by God to prophesy. Why two witnesses? The Bible requires two witnesses for any matter to be confirmed (Deu. 17:6; 19:15; Matt. 18:16; Jn. 8:17; 2 Cor. 13:1; 1 Tim. 5:19; Heb. 10:28). The Lord Jesus Christ sent out his disciples two by two for mutual encouragement in ministry (cf. Mark 6:7). The

judgement of God will be confirmed by these two witnesses. They will preach the Word of God for the next 3 and ½ years. Power from God will be given to them. Their clothing will be that of sackcloth. Sackcloth has always been used in times of mourning and sadness. This definitely represents great mourning and lamentation and bewailing as they see the sin in the world and the final days of man's existence in such a "debaucherous" state of sin.

"The two witnesses will put on sackcloth as an object lesson to express their great sorrow for the wretched and unbelieving world, racked by God's judgement, overrun by demon hordes, and populated by wicked sinful people who refuse to repent. They will also mourn because of the desecration of the temple, the oppression of Jerusalem, and the ascendancy of Antichrist [Ibid, 299]."

**The Two Olive Trees (11:4)** -- The identity of the two witnesses has intrigued Bible scholars for centuries. John identifies them here as "*the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.*" This description is probably drawn from Zech. 4:1-14.

**Zechariah 4:1-14**, *"And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. 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. Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it. Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth. Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth."*

Olive trees and candlesticks are symbols of the light of revival. Olive oil was commonly used in lamps. This is a very apt name for the two witnesses as this will be their primary purpose for their existence during the next 42 months. They will be the bearers of the light of Jesus Christ during the darkest hour of man's history.

Who are these two witnesses? It is not possible to be dogmatic about their identities but there are sufficient reasons to believe that they might very likely be Moses and Elijah.

a. The miracles they will perform in the future are very similar to what these two prophets did in the Old Testament. **Revelation 11:5-6**, *"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. 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."* Moses turned the Nile water into blood in Exo. 7:17-21 as the first plague was unleashed upon Egypt. Elijah was known as the prophet of fire because of the many fiery judgements he did in trying to stimulate repentance. He called fire for heaven in 2 Kings 1:10-12.

b. The second reason why some believe that it might be Moses and Elijah is both historical and biblical. Jewish tradition believed that Elijah and Moses would be the ones who will return. Moses is referred to as the prophet in whom the Lord will be patterned after in Deu. 18:5, 18. Elijah was the one prophesied as the prophet who will return before the Lord's return. **Malachi 4:5**, "*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.*"

c. The third reason is that both Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ at the Mount of Transfiguration which was a preview of the second Coming of Christ (cf. Matt. 17:3).

d. The fourth reason is that both of them left the earth in very unusual ways. Elijah was taken up by a chariot of fire (cf. 2Ki. 2:11-12). Moses was supernaturally buried by God in a secret location (Deu. 34:5-6; Jude 9). [These reasons are adapted from MacArthur, vol. 1, pages 300-301]

These are but possible reasons. Without any specific names given by God as to the identity of these two witnesses, our views are at best opinions and must not be taken as absolutes.

My own personal view is that based upon Malachi 4:5, one of the two witnesses is Elijah. As to the other being Moses, it is difficult to be dogmatic.

**Revelation 11:5-6**, "*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. 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."*

**Power of the Two Witnesses (11:5)** -- These two witnesses are very powerful. They will kill and destroy anyone who would stand in their way. Their ministry from God's perspective must carry on to the end. They must not be stopped. Why are the reactions of these two witnesses so swift and destructive? Whereas today we are told to be mild and

subdued like a lamb. What it means is that in the midst of the Trumpet Judgements and soon to be followed by the seven vial judgements would be the powerful ministry of these two God appointed witnesses.

People will hate them and fear them because of their God given power. They will control both fire and water. Famine and the destructive force of fire will fall upon sinful man by the hands of God's servants.

**Revelation 11:7-9**, *"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. 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. 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."*

**Two Witnesses Killed (11:7)** -- Upon the completion of their mission they will be killed by the antichrist. The origin of the beast is the bottomless pit. He will be energized by Satan to fight against the two witnesses. The beast will win over the hearts of the evil men by the deaths of the two witnesses. The deaths of the two witnesses will be the catalyst used by Satan to make himself god. This was what he longed for from the time of his great sin in heaven before he was cast out.

**Bodies of the Two Witnesses Paraded (11:8-9)** -- The dead bodies of the two witnesses will be left in the streets of the great city. Tragically the city of God will be turned into a city of death and destruction and sin. It is called spiritually Sodom and Egypt. Egypt was Israel's city of bondage for 430 years. Sodom was the city of sin and fornication. Both of them were destroyed by the judgement of God.

The identity of the city is Jerusalem. This was the place where our Lord was crucified implying that these two witnesses of God were killed for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

People from all over the world will see the bodies of the two witnesses. They will be displayed for 3 and ½ days. The people will not allow their bodies to be buried in a tomb.

**Revelation 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."*

**The World will rejoice and exchange gifts (11:10)** -- The world will gloat over the dead bodies of God's witnesses in triumphant singing and great rejoicing. This will promote the power of the antichrist and his cause. This temporal and momentary victory will again deceive many and their hearts will be hardened to the truth of God even further. This perspective of the last days reveals the hardness of man's heart and explains why the remaining two third of mankind refused to repent even after they experienced five months of intense compulsory pain and saw one third of their fellow men killed by God. Counterfeit miracles done by Satan to confuse and distract succeeds very well.

Why three and ½ days? Perhaps this was to show that they are really dead. Just as Jesus delayed his coming to Mary and Martha's home for 4 days to make sure that Lazarus was really dead before He raised him from the dead. In the case of the two witnesses it was for a public demonstration of their so-called power over God and His servants. Satan wanted to show to the world his power over life and death as if he was God.

But God will always have the final victory. **Revelation 11:11-12**, *"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. 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."*

His servants can rest assured in this wonderful truth that God knows exactly what He is doing. In the darkest moments when evil man thinks that He is defeated, He will demonstrate His mighty power to thwart the puny efforts of man and Satan in trying to prevent or even slow down the works and plan of God. These two witnesses will be resurrected from the dead so that sinful men were given a glimpse of who they are dealing with. They are fighting against God and not mere mortal man. Satan will be seen as a great charlatan and the world will see the resurrection of God's two witnesses

Will man repent after having seen the miraculous? This was the first and only time where the First Resurrection was seen by evil men. Never before in the forty days after Christ's resurrection and before His ascension did He appear to unbelievers. When the resurrection of the saints takes place before the Great Tribulation begins, it will also be hidden from sinful men. But for the first time, unbelievers all over the world will be given first hand experiential knowledge the power of the one living and true God.

This was followed by an earthquake that will kill seven thousand and destroy a tenth part of the city of God. These were perhaps special leaders of the antichrist's kingdom. The "remnant" who were alive and saw this were frightened. Most probably the Jews (144,000) are referred to here. They will be converted as seen by the use of the phrase that they "gave glory to the God of heaven."

**Revelation 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."*

Perhaps this "remnant" refers to the 144,000 Jews.

This was the end of the sixth trumpet which was also the end of the second woe. This lasted 3 and ½ years. The end is indeed very near. The seventh trumpet has yet to be blown. This will be the third and last woe.

NOTE: The appearance of God's Two Witnesses, their unique and powerful ministry and their testimony for Jesus Christ, and their resurrection must be seen as God's final act of grace and mercy upon sinful man. As God has said that He will always have His remnant who will bear His witness in a world of great darkness. Thus He sent His Two Witnesses for such an end time as this.

## **2. *The Seventh Trumpet is the Third Woe – 11:15-19***

The significance of the seventh trumpet is very great. This ushers in the last and final moment of man's history as he knows it. Man's rule and reign on earth will be over forever. These are the final moments of man's existence. The conclusion of the final chapter of mankind is about to occur. The end of man's rule, economic systems, political powers, man's pleasures, cultures, and the whole earth will be totally destroyed forever just as the old world in Noah's days was destroyed.

This will be the final consummation of the plan of God Almighty. What we read in Genesis was the beginning. A beginning filled with hope for mankind. But this hope was dashed when Adam sinned and plunged the whole of humanity into sin, darkness and death. Here in Revelation we read of the climax of the wrath of God. The final three trumpets will be so horrific that they are referred to as three woes.

Now we come to the blowing of the last and final trumpet.

**Revelation 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."*

Notice that what we are reading here is the reaction to the trumpet rather than the events concerning the trumpet. This is interesting because the final words of God for the final part of man's history begins with a scene in heaven. The great voices from heaven must come from the believers and perhaps the angels too. They rejoice greatly with unrestrained joy that the power of Satan will be broken forever and the plague of death and sin will be cast aside for all eternity. The sovereignty of God over the creation of God will once again be restored back to the days before the Fall.

Can we say that the sovereignty of God is now restored back to God?

What does this verse remind us of? It reminds us of the Lord's Prayer.



The kingdoms of this world will literally become the kingdoms of the Lord Jesus Christ. The realization of Him as the King of kings and Lord of lords will soon be fulfilled.

Explain **John 18:36-37**, "*Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*" Here Jesus says that his kingdom is not of this earth but in Revelation the kingdoms of men has become the kingdoms of Christ. Did God change His mind and now wish to make the kingdoms of men His kingdoms? What happened?

In **John 18:36-37** Jesus said that His kingdom will not originate from the earth. His kingdom will have nothing to do with the methods of sinful men where there is deceit and great injustice. Every kingdom of man, without exception, came into power by way of great wickedness and evil but not the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Thus God reveals His kingdom to us in **Daniel 2:44-45**, "*And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.*"

The reign of Christ's kingdom will be forever. Who will reign with Him? **2 Timothy 2:11-13**, "*It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: if we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.*" And **Revelation 20:6**, "*Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*"

Will angels reign with Christ? Angels will not reign at all for there are ministering spirits. God's children will judge angels, fallen angels.

Two OT passages that describe the kingdom of Christ are found in **Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45; 7:13-14**.

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

The twenty-four elders represent the myriads of raptured saints and they were seated as they reigned with Christ. They left their seats and fell on their faces and worshipped God. Falling on their faces is an acknowledgement of great humility. It also represents the lowliness of man that he is dust before God. What an amazing reaction from the glorified saints. Having been made known God's revelation of the last days the saints in heaven react the only right and glorious way . . . bow down in humble worship. True Worship may not be revered today and have been grossly abused and diluted by sinful professing Christians but one day all of God's children will truly worship God in spirit and in truth in all her perfection and glory.

Their worship includes . . .

**Revelation 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.*"

**THANKSGIVING** – One of the best demonstration of man's gratitude is to give thanks to God. Is there anything you can thank God for today, say right now? Have you thanked God for the hopeful eternity that awaits you? What about your salvation, loved ones, your church, etc?

**GOD ALMIGHTY IS HIS NAME** – "The elders' praise focused on three of God's attributes. *Pantokrator* (Almighty) describes God's sovereign, omnipotent, irresistible power. Nine of its ten New Testament uses are in Revelation (cf. 1:8; 4:8; 15:3; 16, 14; 19:6, 15; 21:22). It has the sense of God exercising His all-embracing, all-encompassing will by means of His irresistible power [MacArthur, vol. 315]." The first time God used the term almighty to introduce Himself he demonstrates His awesome power. Where is this found? It is found in Genesis 17:1.

The phrase "*which art, and wast, and art to come*" refers to the immutability of God. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. His omnipresence is highlighted here for emphasis, that God is in control of all of man's history.

The reason, "*because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.*" The sovereignty of God over the affairs of man has always been underrated by man including God's people. This is seen by the murmurings of the people of Israel in the wilderness as well as the murmurings of the people of God today. Do we not murmur at the first sign of trouble? Lost of jobs, economic downturn, wars, power of great nations, health, failures in exam, etc. are all factors that by our reaction and attitudes to them have revealed clearly what kind of concept we have of our God. He has been made into my own image and we dare not even admit it.

The reaction of the unbelieving nations to the Lord will be . . . **Revelation 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 shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.*"

**Anger** – an emotion which is part of how God has made us. Here it demonstrates the hardness of man's heart. This will be a deep seated ongoing hostility against God and His wrath. What a condemnation against sinful man. Instead of pleading for mercy, man becomes enraged. God deliberately used the past tense (proleptic aorist – KJV translates it correctly as "is come") to describe His wrath as if it has already come. The certainty of God's wrath must not be doubted by God's people.

The time of the judgement of the dead has also arrived. He will judge both the quick (living) and the dead. The judgement of God is thorough and complete. No one will be left out. Those who think that by dying they can escape God's judgement deceive themselves. God's judgement will be complete in terms of quantity as well as quality. The heart of man will also be judged. **Psalms 139:21-24**, "*Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*" And **1 Corinthians 11:30-32**, "*For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*"

Even as the wicked were judged the people of God will be rewarded. The servants (douloi – bondservants) who were God's prophets will be rewarded. They will not only include the prophets of the OT and NT who performed prophetic ministries but also all who proclaimed God's truth throughout the centuries. This would include the all the faithful men who stood for God in the Dark Ages against all odds and opposition. They will be revealed and rewarded.

The saints come next for a time of reward. This would include all born again believers. They would also be the same ones who would fear God's Name. NOTE: **Revelation 21:7-8**, "*He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*" What does it mean to fear God's name? All will be included, both the small and the great.

God will destroy all who would destroy the world with their sin. Satan, demons, and all unbelievers will be included here. The last three chapters of Revelation will elaborate on this theme.

**Revelation 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.*"

Is this a real temple or an imagery describing Heaven which is the "home" of God?

If it is a real and literal temple, then the Ark of the Covenant would be in heaven. If it is an imagery then the understanding of the ark of the covenant would refer to the covenant of God that He has with His people. This reminds the people of the fact that it was based upon God's suzerainty covenant that they can have their reward and place in Heaven reigning with Jesus Christ. It is all God's work and none of man. Psalms 11:4 says that there is now a temple in heaven . . . "*The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.*"

The "*lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail*" describe the majestic glory that accompanied the glorious place called heaven (cf. 4:5). In 8:5 and 16:17-18 though they referred to judgement. It is as if God is teaching us that Heaven is a place of sweet abode for believers but it is also a place from which the judgement

of God emanates.

In light of this sobering revelation how ought we to live our lives?

Let us all take heed of God's stern warning in **2 Peter 3:10-12**, "*Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*"