

Revelation 11:1–19

Measured Worship, Mighty Witnesses, and the Kingdom Proclaimed

Setting the Scene: God Is Still Moving the Story Forward

Revelation chapter eleven continues the flow of God’s plan moving toward the rightful reign of Jesus Christ. The judgments are not random disasters; they are purposeful acts that confront rebellion, expose counterfeit power, and prepare the world for the King who created in and then purchased it with His blood.

And in this chapter, we see three major movements:

1. The temple is measured.
2. Two witnesses are empowered.
3. The seventh trumpet sounds—declaring the kingdom of Christ.

1. Measuring the Temple: God Claims What Is His

“Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, ‘Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.’”

A measuring rod in Scripture is often a picture of ownership, evaluation, and protection. God is not “estimating.” He is marking what belongs to Him. He is showing John that worship will again be taking place in a temple setting, and that the Lord knows exactly what is happening there.

The Outer Court Left Out

“But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.”

There is a boundary here—measured space and unmeasured space. That distinction matters. God is showing that even in a time of turmoil, He is not confused about what is holy and what is profaned. He also gives a specific time marker: forty-two months, which is three and a half years.

This reminds us of a vital truth: history is not spiraling out of control—God has set limits. Evil is real, but it is restrained. Opposition is intense, but it is timed.

Practical Application

Believer, God still “measures” what is His. Not in the sense of earning salvation, but in the sense that your life belongs to Him.

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you... and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price.”

If Christ bought you with His blood, then your worship, your priorities, your time, your relationships—those are not casual matters. They are sacred space.

2. Two Witnesses: God Sends Light Into a Dark World

“And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”

God raises up two prophetic voices for one thousand two hundred and sixty days—again, three and a half years. Sackcloth speaks of grief, urgency, and repentance. Their message will not be cute, comfortable, or flattering. It will be a call to turn back to God.

Their Identity and Their Calling

“These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.”

This language echoes Zechariah’s vision of the olive trees and lampstand—the picture of God supplying light by His Spirit. The point is not speculation; the point is source. Their power will not be personality-driven or politically protected. Their ministry will be Spirit-enabled.

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord of hosts.

Their Authority and Protection

“And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies.”

“These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls... and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.”

This is sobering. But notice what it reveals: God will not leave Himself without witness. Even when the world hardens its heart, the Lord still calls, still warns, still testifies.

And there is another encouragement here:

“When they finish their testimony...”

Not before. The beast cannot touch them until their assignment is complete.

Practical Application

Child of God, take comfort here. You are not invincible, but you are not abandoned either. Your days are in the Lord’s hands.

“My times are in Your hand.”

You don’t need to live in fear. You don’t need to panic at every headline. You can serve the Lord faithfully, trusting Him with your life and your finish line.

3. The World Celebrates Death... Until God Raises the Dead

“And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another.”

When the witnesses are killed, the world throws a party. That is how hardened a rebellious humanity can become: it celebrates the silencing of truth.

But God is not done.

“Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.”

“And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, ‘Come up here.’ And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.”

Death is not the final authority. The world can mock, threaten, and kill—but resurrection belongs to God.

And right on the heels of their resurrection:

“In the same hour there was a great earthquake... and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.”

Even judgment has an evangelistic edge. God shakes what can be shaken so that people might finally look up.

4. The Seventh Trumpet: The Kingdom Declared

“Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’”

This is the great announcement. The world has claimed autonomy for a long time. Nations have raged. Kings have plotted. Systems have boasted. But heaven declares the outcome: Christ reigns.

Worship in Heaven

“And the twenty-four elders... fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: ‘We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty... because You have taken Your great power and reigned.’”

The elders give thanks because the waiting is over. What believers have prayed for—what the saints have groaned for—what creation has longed for—is now declared as certain.

Two Responses: Worship and Rage

“The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come...”

Some worship. Others rage. The same King who is salvation to the repentant is judgment to the stubborn.

And notice what is included in this moment:

- judgment for the dead
- reward for God’s servants
- justice against those who destroy the earth

God does not ignore evil forever. He does not forget His people. And He does not lose track of a single act of faithfulness.

5. The Temple Opened in Heaven: The Reality Behind the Shadow

“Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple.”

The earthly worship system was always pointing beyond itself. Heaven is not a metaphor. There is real worship, real holiness, real covenant faithfulness. God’s promises are not fragile.

And as the chapter closes, creation trembles again:

“And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.”

God is moving. The King is coming.

Practical Application: Living in Light of the Coming Kingdom

1. Guard your worship.
God measures the temple and those who worship. Don’t treat worship casually. Give the Lord your heart, not leftovers.
2. Stay faithful to your testimony.
The witnesses finish their assignment. You don’t need to be famous—just faithful. God decides the length of your race.
3. Don’t be shaken by the world’s celebrations.
Sometimes the world celebrates what grieves heaven. Don’t let the crowd disciple you.
4. Let the certainty of Christ’s reign steady your soul.
If the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdom of Christ, then your hope is not wishful thinking—it is anchored reality.

A Challenge for Believers

Where are you tempted to compromise because the world is loud and truth feels costly?

The witnesses wore sackcloth. They weren’t applauded. They weren’t celebrated. But they were empowered, protected, and ultimately vindicated. Live like you believe Jesus reigns. Speak like you believe Jesus is coming. Worship like you belong to another kingdom.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

An Invitation to Non-Believers

Revelation is not written to entertain the curious—it is written to awaken the unready. God’s patience is mercy, but it will not last forever.

Jesus Christ shed His blood on the cross to save sinners. And God raised Him from the dead—declaring that He is God, Savior, and Lord. The same Jesus who will reign forever is the Jesus who will forgive you today.

If you will turn from sin and trust Him, He will save you—fully, personally, and eternally.

“That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Call on Him now. Ask Him to forgive you. Surrender your life to Him. The King is coming—make sure He is your Savior before you meet Him as Judge.