

Revelation 11:1-2 Study #11ID1309

Shall we open our bibles this evening to the Book of Revelation Chapter 11 verse 1. Revelation 11 verse 1. We have been going through this book for quite a few months now; we have been in particular spending much time in Revelation 8 and 9 where the 6 trump judgments, the second group of the 3 groups that will fall upon the earth in that final half of the great tribulation will take place. The 6 trumpet judgments, the first 4 are sometimes called the one-third judgments because with each one that falls, one third of something is lost or depleted or diminished and it hit first the life-sustaining things, vegetation, the sea and the fish in them, the fresh water springs and even the heavens the sun and the moon and the stars giving off just one third less light. And then we came to a pause before the 5th trumpet sounded which released these demons from the aboso, the bottomless pit, and John said they were like locusts, they had the ability to fly and yet to sting, they had the ability like scorpions and for 5 months men were tormented by these demons and we got to see really what Satan's plan is. If he could get what he wants this is what he wants, to hurt and to destroy. And so for 5 months men will wish to die but they won't be able to, and then the 6th trumpet sounds and 4 fallen angels that were chained in the Euphrates River were set free to gather a myriad of demons and they went forth to kill and because of them one third of all those that remained upon the earth died.

At the end of Chapter 9 many were still though hard hearted in fact the last couple of verses of Chapter 9 are just phenomenal. After all of this, such divine judgment, that anyone would still defy the Lord is beyond me, but wicked hearts tend to do that, sin is blinding and if you don't want to hear you can certainly die in your sin. John had great difficulty though watching these things as you might imagine. We read them and we kind of grimace just imagine seeing all of this. And so in Chapter 10, and quite a few times actually through the book, John is encouraged by the Lord and God kind of puts the brakes on and He comes out of his way He goes out of his way to show us the fruit and to encourage us that God is still working great things even during this time. And we've mentioned a couple of times probably more folks will get saved during the great tribulation than have been saved since Jesus rose from the dead. Just from the standpoint of numbers and the folks that are alive today.

Well in John Chapter 10 John is given by the Lord a vision and a message and the message is it'll soon be over, it's not over yet, but John is getting close and then the Lord is going to come to rule and reign upon the earth. And these chapters that we're in beginning last time but also tonight all the way through Chapter 14 are kind of parenthetical in the sense that they stop at a point chronologically and then they look around. The Lord wants to show us what's over on the left and what's over on the right and things that don't make the main story in the sense of the judgments that are falling other things going on that the Lord wants us to know about and so before the 7th trumpet judgment which will unleash those last 7 bowl judgments, the Lord stops the forward momentum, if you will, the chronology, so that we might get things that aren't covered in that chronology. In John Chapter 10 the Lord showed to John a mighty angel with many divine attributes and we went over why we don't think this is Jesus, this

is indeed an angel who has his authority but it isn't the Lord who is still in heaven with the scrolls ready to pour out these final things before He will come and make himself known. But it's one of those visions in the spirit, John, nobody on the earth is seeing this, John is seeing this from heaven, John is seeing this from glory. And so it's a huge angel he puts one foot upon the land, one foot upon the sea, he has a little book in his hand that is apparently just those unfulfilled prophecies, the things that God still needs to do to bring together all that He has promised to do. In fact we were told last week that at the sound of the 7th trumpet the mystery of God revealed through the prophets will be fully accomplished, and so John was encouraged. Verse 7 of Chapter 10 tells us "then it will be done" and it was a real good word to John, we're nearing the end now, it's going to pick up speed, if you will, the glory is almost here and so John is told to take this little book from the angel and to eat of it and he is told it will be sweet to your taste John but it'll make your stomach bitter. And then the Lord said you're still going to have to go and prophesy to the peoples and nations and tongues and kings.

And so like all of us and we talked about it last week, the word of God has to get into your life before it goes out of your life, you have to be touched by it first. But it's kind of a two-edged sword, it's wonderful once you're saved, you just read the bible - such joy, but then you read about those who aren't saved and there's some bitterness isn't there, some difficulty. So John "it's almost here" that's sweet to the taste he is excited about the fact that the hope of his coming is soon. But the inevitable judgment that has to take place between those 2 still breaks John's heart and so John had a little bit more to do, a little bit more time, a little bit more ministry to take care of and in Chapter 11 we're going to continue with those things. Now we'd only like to look at the first couple of verses tonight of Chapter 11 because the next portion with the 2 witnesses will take us more time than we'll have this evening, but in Chapter 11 we're going to look back to the first 3½ years, at least this first part. The time when you remember the antichrist is winning hearts, is deceiving minds, is drawing in lots of followers. Israel is certainly enthralled with him, maybe he's our redeemer our messiah, they quickly turn to him and look to him. There are plenty of verses in the bible that will convince us that he will be instrumental in helping the Jews rebuild their temple in Jerusalem and so this Chapter, almost all of it, focuses on Israel and her spiritual life as during this time she returns to the Old Testament sacrifice, at least in the early part of the great tribulation. But understand this - all of those things are unnecessary because Jesus has come. So those things are really not any more needed for us. He has come and given His life once and for all for sin, but we get some interesting insights here and I think it would be wise for us to think about them in terms how are we going to look at Israel and see where this next temple that the antichrist is going to help build, how is that going to be accomplished, especially with all the tension that is there. And then next week beginning in verse 3 we see these 2 powerful Jewish witnesses who have the ability to shoot fire out of their mouths, these guys are not guys you want to get in an argument with, I don't think. But boy I think they're going to have a lot to do with calling Israel back to Jesus during this time and they will be the cause of why all of Israel I think in many ways will be saved.

So here is verse 1 and 2 “then I was given a reed like a measuring rod and the angel stood and he said ‘rise, measure the temple of god and the altar and those who worship there but leave out the court outside the temple. Do not measure it, it has been given to the gentiles and they will tread the holy city underfoot for 42 months,’” 1260 days, 3½ years, the same little break right in the middle that we’ve been talking about all of this time. There have been several temples in the scriptures and it’s good that you would know them. Of all the nations and cities in the world there is no greater historical spot than Jerusalem. I mean it is the place that God chose to put his name, it is where he sent his people to worship him, it is where he revealed himself to them and God picked the city and God picked the people and to this place, Jerusalem, will come the conclusions really of all God’s promises to rule and to reign in Israel.

In Jerusalem the most desired area when you look at the hills that surround it and Jerusalem is up in the hills, and it still produces the most conflict, there is the temple mount area it is on top of what is called Mount Mariah, it is a place that God gave to Israel or at least spoke to them about beginning way back in Genesis Chapter 22, 1872 or so BC, and you might remember the story there that Abraham and Sarah had a child in their old age and when the child is born really the bible is silent about his growing up and you just imagine these 2 older folks just enjoying their son. But Genesis 22 begins with the Lord speaking to Abraham after some 25 years of silence and the first thing that the Lord said must have just terrified him. “Take now your only son Isaac and offer him to me as a sacrifice in the place that I will show you. And at 125 years old Abraham no longer pauses or he no longer balks, he’s not worried about what the Lord has asked him to do, he’s not wondering if he heard that right. All of the “ands” there, it’s called a Polysyndeton in Hebrew, but it means continuous action. The moment God spoke to Abraham, Abraham went, and he got up early and he saddled his donkey and he took 2 of his young men and he took Isaac, he split the wood for the burnt offering and he went to the place God had told him and for 3 days they marched across the land towards this place in Jerusalem, Mount Moriah. For 3 days Abraham had to look at his boy as if he was dead and Abraham in his experience communicates to us the heart of the father in sending his only son. This is the fellowship of his suffering in the nth degree, and yet Abraham went by faith and on the 3rd day when they saw the place afar off he said to the young men “you stay here with the donkey the lad and I will go and we will return again.” He really, truly believed that even if he was to sacrifice his son God would have to return him to him because he had promised that through this boy would be the descendant, and as of yet, Isaac wasn’t married and so you read in Hebrews 11:17 “when he was tested he offered up Isaac and he who received the promise offered up his only begotten son of whom it was said ‘in Isaac shall your seed be called.’” And he concluded that God was able to raise him up even from the dead which also he received him in a figurative sense in the sense that for these 3 days wandering down towards Jerusalem, Abraham just had to look at his boy as if he had died.

And so they came to this Mount Moriah, Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and he laid it on Isaac’s his sons shoulder and he took fire in his hand and he took a knife and the 2 of them started to go up the hill and the boy wasn’t a dumb kid, 25 years old, he goes “hey we’ve got everything except the offering where might that be?”

Abraham said “my son God will provide himself an offering”. And you know the story how a 25-year old young strong man allowed his 125 year old father to tie him up, lay him upon the offering, raise the knife up over his head to slay his own son. Would the Lord have allowed this? No. But it is as close and it is the only place where we’ll get a taste of how that must have went with the Father in sending his Son. At the last minute it is the Lord who cried out “Abraham Abraham” “here I am” “do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him, I know that you fear God you have not withheld your son, your only son from me.” And then there was a ram caught in the thicket and so Abraham called the place Jehovah Jireh, the Lord will provide, in the mountain of the Lord it shall be seen. And this was a great act of faith on Abraham’s part and so 1872 BC on Mount Mariah there was an offering to be had that would spell the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus would make in the same spot in the same place – 1872 BC.

874 years later, 998 BC David was the king in Israel and sitting one day in 2 Samuel Chapter 7 in his beautiful palace he looked outside and he saw the tabernacle, a tent at best, that the Lord’s presence and the place of worship was just kind of ratty and run down and it was a house that was built to be moved but now it had found a permanent place and David said to Nathan the prophet “I’d really like to build the Lord a nice place, really like to make a place where we could be proud of” and Nathan thought it was a great idea, he immediately approved the request only to go home at night and the Lord said “hey Nathan you talking on your own these days or are you still my prophet?” “No no I’m your prophet” “well I don’t want David to build me that place, he’s a man who’s shed a lot of blood, I’ve got great promises for David, I’m going to build him a house that’s going to last forever – you go back and tell him no – but here’s some good news you tell him what I’ve told you, he’ll be alright”. And it was Nathan who had to go back and say to David here’s the bad news you can’t build but here’s the good news God will build you a house and as you read there in Samuel by the time David finished listening to the prophet he was just left absolutely speechless and one of the most articulate guys in the bible ran out of words because he realized that God was promising him an eternity and an eternal connection with God’s work and in his lineage and through his family and down through his descendant would come the one that was promised the messiah. And he understood that to be so and so David later commissioned Solomon to build there in 1 Chronicles 22 and his commissioning was in 973 BC, so 25 years or so later.

And before that time of the commissioning there in 2 Samuel 24 David whose kingdom had begun to grow decided that he would like to know how many in his army he could depend upon and he said to Joab, his commander “why don’t you go through the land and number my army”. Well God had already said more than once “David I’m your strength not your numbers” and even Joab who wasn’t always a solid spiritual guy thought this was a terrible idea but David insisted upon it and he was the boss but Joab went dragging his feet, it took nine and half months he didn’t even count everyone, he just didn’t like this idea at all, but he came back and he said to David “we’ve got at least like 1.3 million fighting men” and the count was purposely incomplete. Well David heard that there in 2 Samuel 24 and it just broke his heart that he had even asked. In fact I’ll read you a little bit of this verse 10 of Chapter 24 this is 2 Samuel, “David’s heart

condemned him after he had numbered the people and David said to the Lord 'I've sinned greatly in what I've done, I pray Lord take away the iniquity of your servant, I've done very foolishly' and when David arose in the morning the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad who was David's prophet and he said 'now you go tell David thus sayeth the Lord, I offer you 3 things,'" this was punishment, "choose one of them for yourself that I might do it to you and Gad came to David and said 'you can have 7 years of famine in the land, you can flee for 3 months before your enemies while they pursue you, or there can be a 3-day plague in your land from the hand of God, what would you consider, what would you answer that I should take it back to Him?' and David said 'oh, I'm in great distress but I'd rather fall upon the Lord because His mercy is great and I don't want to fall into the hands of men,' and so the Lord sent a plague upon Israel, it began in the morning and it spread from Dan to Beersheba and by the end of the day 70,000 people had died" as the Lord kind of convinced David it's not a good idea to number the people because I can remove the numbers rather quickly.

And the angel of the Lord stretched out his hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, that place where God had put His name and the Lord relented from the destruction and He said "it is enough, restrain your hand and the angel of the Lord was standing by the threshing floor of a fella named Araunah who was Jebusite and David spoke to the Lord when he saw the angel there and he said "I've sinned and done wickedly with these sheep what have they done, punish me and my father's house don't punish the people." And the Lord sent the prophet Gad to David and he said "I want you to go and build an altar on the threshing floor of this fella Araunah and I want you to offer sacrifice there to the Lord and so David went up and he introduced himself and the fella said "what can I do for you Lord my king?" and he said "I want your land, God wants me to build an altar here that will stay the plague that it might be withdrawn from the people and Araunah said well take it man, take it, build – quickly it was coming his way. "Here are the oxen here's my land take whatever you want." And David said "no no no I want to pay you full price, I won't take and offer to the Lord something which costs me nothing" and so he paid 50 I think shekels of silver for the threshing floor and for the oxen and he built there an altar to the Lord and they offered the burnt offering and the peace offering and the Lord heeded the prayers of the land and the plague was withdrawn from Israel.

It was upon this very place, this threshing floor on Mount Mariah in Jerusalem that Abraham visited with his son Isaac nearly a thousand years earlier. And now there stands an altar, first there was a son with a father, now an altar that stays the plague of sin and it would be upon this very place that Solomon would build this place that years earlier Abraham had said God will provide Himself, Solomon builds, and he builds for 7 years with a huge workforce, in fact we read in 2 Chronicles that he selected 70,000 men just to bear burdens, and 80,000 to quarry stone in the mountains, and 3,600 to oversee them. So Solomon's quarries, you can still find in Jerusalem today because of the way it was built all of the stones were tooled at the quarry so that no hammer or chisel would be found on the temple mount as they built this temple – a phenomenal place and you can go to Jerusalem today and you can go down in the rabbinical tunnel and you can see the walls of the old city of Jerusalem and the stones and how

phenomenally large they were all made of one piece of quarried limestone and all and phenomenal.

So here's where the Lord then sends Solomon who begins to build, and they used quarried stone, and like I said 1 Kings I think it's Chapter 16 it says "the temple when it was built was built with finished stone so that no hammer or chisel or iron was heard in the temple while it was being built." A very solemn place, very holy place, this is the place God is going to meet with man, if you will. When it was finished 7 years later Solomon in the dedication was the first one to admit that there was no way God was going to use it as far as live there. In fact he said in 1 Kings Chapter 8 "will God indeed dwell on the earth, the heaven and the earth, and the heavens of heavens can't contain Him, how much this temple that I've built?" But he asks the Lord to make a covenant with His people that if they came there to pray and seek His face that He would wherever they were in the world even in captivity would hear their prayers and deliver their people and all, and so after Solomon died the temple stood and if you read through the Old Testament, this first temple went through lots of up and downs, it just depended oftentimes on who was in charge and who was ruling and who was on the throne. You can follow the history of the first temple through the Books of Kings and the Books of Chronicles so that when you read about Ahaz desecrating the temple and robbing it of its treasures or Hezekiah who came to power and sought to restore it after years of neglect.

It was during the reign of Jehoiakim who was one of the last kings of Judah that marked the beginning of the end for Judah and for this first temple. In fact Nebuchadnezzar had put Jehoiakim in as a vassal he wasn't elected by the people he was put there by overthrowing Babylonian king and his job was very simple you just send me tax money and I'll leave you alone. You don't pay I'll be back, and so he didn't pay, he thought he could rebel, and beginning in 606 and then again in 597 and finally in 586 BC, Nebuchadnezzar came back and with increasing anger and bitterness took the people, took the treasures, and then in 586 leveled the temple and this first temple that had been built was destroyed and Israel went into captivity for 70 years for disobeying the Lord and we are told in 2 Kings, I think Chapter 25, about the destruction of the temple so that this became the destruction of the first temple on the third incursion in 586. So as you look at the biblical report, the first temple only last 375 years. It was out of use it seems more often than it was in use, it was neglected and abused and set aside. The people turned its back on it, eventually the Lord left the temple even though the people were still using it because they were using it for things that didn't honor Him and yet in captivity God promised He would bring them back into the land, and that He would restore them again, so temple 1 is destroyed.

70 years later in 536 BC, God began again this work of restoring the people to the land and the reconstruction of a second temple that would house His presence among the people began. There is an amazing prophecy during this time found in Isaiah Chapter 44 of a fella named Cyrus and it is reported in 2 Chronicles 36 as well. Cyrus was a Medo-Persian king who the Lord named by name 175 years before he was to be born. I don't know if he was reading the bible or anyone pointed out to him his name was in it, I

don't know how that worked, but he did come to power and he was the one that the Lord used to say to the Jews after 70 years of captivity "go home, go home, build your city, build your temple - get on with it" and so in 536 BC, Cyrus allowed the people to go home and according to Ezra some 50,000 people left captivity in Babylon, headed for Jerusalem, 800-mile journey, just with one purpose in mind, let's go rebuild the temple. Let's build the second temple let's build a place of worship. It was important to them because unlike churches today, the temple of God was the only place where God and the people met, it was where the sacrifices took place, where you covered your sin. It was where the feast days went forth. So without that you didn't have that connection between you as a sinful man and God who is holy. So that was like the most important thing more than anything else, build the temple so God's presence might be among us. And I know that you know the story by the time the people got there they started to build the foundation of the temple, but there was some persecution around, people didn't want em there and then some folks said we're going to write the king a letter, we're going to stop the work, but more than that the people were just uncomfortable sleeping in tents and all, they thought "well we'd just wait on the Lord here let's build ourselves some homes" and for the next 16 years through 520 BC they just left the foundation unbuilt and the second temple to be just kind of stood there on its own until the Lord in 520 sent Haggai and Zachariah the prophets and they urged the people to get back to work and Haggai's ministry was pretty powerful, you've read the little book, and he laid out for them all of the things that they had faced because they had neglected the Lord and he got them working again, and 4 years later in 516 BC the second temple was finished.

At the dedication of the temple the old folks who were still vaguely remembered the first temple began to weep and the young folks were so excited "man it's beautiful that's our temple, we built that" but the thing, from what you gather, was leaning sideways a little, it didn't look all that good, it certainly wasn't as glorious or glamorous or gold-filled as Solomon's was, he got to have his dad David who was the king over the whole land just save up for years all that he needed, he had an unlimited budget and then there were these guys. But they built a place and we read there in Ezra and in Haggai as well that you couldn't tell if they were crying or happy, happy or sad and because the old guys they longed for the first place, the new guys they were just so happy with the new place. So the Lord said through the prophet to them "well this second place is going to be more glorious, far more glorious than the first." And we know why because to this temple, the second temple, Jesus would come to present Himself as God. Though this temple had no ark of the covenant, it was the temple to which Jesus would come himself. Now this second temple would stand for many years, even during the inter-testament years between the Old Testament and New Testament from 400 BC until we get to those AD years if you will. This temple stood as rickety as it might have been or as unglamorous as it appeared, in fact we know that in 168 BC that the Seleucid king Antiochus Epiphanes the 4th came and forced the worship of pagan gods in it as the Seleucids kind of overwhelmed Israel. They demanded especially the worship of Jupiter in the temple, they slew a pig upon the altar, they put pagan images into the holy of holies, they stole the temple treasures, but the temple itself still stood and he is such a wicked man, he is a type of the antichrist that Daniel in Chapter 11 of his prophecies

about the antichrist uses this wicked king, Antiochus Epiphanes the 4th, as the example of the type of things that the antichrist will come to do during the tribulation temple when in the midst of it he comes to demand worship and he defiles the place and Jesus calls it the abomination that will bring desolation.

So he becomes the picture of that which we are studying now. In 165 BC, 3 years later, the outbreak of what the Jews would call the Maccabean revolt against the Syrians was led by a fellow named Judas Maccabees who wanted to retrieve the temple from the heathen, he loved the temple, that place of worship and he wanted to restore it to its glory and the miracles that God used to sustain them and if you've ever studied any Jewish feast days, the feast of Hanukkah and the lighting of the candle and the fact that the Lord took a day's worth of oil and allowed it to last over a week is celebrated at Hanukkah and Jesus mentions Hanukkah as a valid holiday so this was a definite move of God's spirit through the Maccabees and all, and they celebrate it even to this day, the miracle of God's sustenance and being able to restore and to cleanse and to bring this second temple back to use. The Hasmonians ruled in Jerusalem until about 63 BC when Rome overthrew them and General Pompeii who was a Roman captured Jerusalem, but according to secular writings he found the temple absolutely empty. In 37 BC when Herod the Great came to power, the temple was still standing and 20 years before Jesus was born he began to remodel this second temple - a project that would go on so long it wouldn't finish until 63 AD, 7 years before it would be totally destroyed.

So that was the second temple, but this temple Herod doubled the size of, he put platforms around it on the northwest corner of the building he put the Antonia Fortress which housed a permanent garrison of soldiers that would guard and watch over this volatile temple area. But it was this temple that Jesus came to in Luke 2 when He was dedicated by Mary and Joseph, it was this temple that Jesus hung out in when His parents went home and they had to come back, at 12 years he was, and find Him after His bar mitzvah and "what are you doing" "hey I got to be about my father's business" "yeah your father's business is to get in the bus, let's go buddy". And He was already awing the teachers of the law. It was here that Jesus came, this temple, and cleansed it twice from the money changers, once at the beginning of his ministry, earthly ministry, once towards the end and it is here the earlier church gathered and ministered, it is here that they met, the early church met, and the Book of Acts when you read them gathering at the temple, this temple, that they were gathered to.

Jesus predicted the destruction of this temple in Luke 21 when He was speaking to the disciples, He said to them "the things which you see the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another," all of them will be thrown down and though this temple had been built way back in 520 BC and now it was AD, so hundreds of years later, the Lord spoke very clearly and then we have that prophecy in Daniel Chapter 9 verse 26 where it says that "the Lord would be cut off but not for himself and then the people of the prince who shall come will destroy the city and destroy the sanctuary. So we know that the Lord had to die before this place was destroyed and the temple would be wiped out. In 70 AD Titus and much of the Roman 10th legion assaulted Jerusalem going after what at the time where just zealot revolutionaries who didn't want to pay taxes or be

under anybody's guard. They were rising up and fighting back and the siege went on for quite some time but on August 10th of the year 70 AD the temple was burned as a soldier against orders shot a flaming arrow through a window and things in the temple began to catch fire and there was a lot of gold in it and they melted into the cracks and it was the Romans demand that they dismantle the temple, stone by stone, just to get all of the gold out of the cracks. And Jesus what He had said there in Luke 21:6 exactly came to pass. Not one stone will be left upon another.

Historically, by the way, it is the exact same day August 10th that Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the temple in 586 BC—historically. Now how do you ____ it I don't know but if you look at both of the dates they happen to be exactly the same. Josephus, the early Jewish historian, records that in the overthrow of Jerusalem by Titus 1.1 million Jews were put to death. So it was a slaughter, in fact you can go to Rome today if you haven't been there and look for the Titus Arch or the Arch of Titus, it's right next to the coliseum that was built when Titus returned home and they have a picture, a relief actually, it's stone of him sitting on a horse with the menorah in his hand coming home and he's welcomed there. That still stands in Rome today. So the second temple is destroyed in 70 AD and the Jews who had lived in Israel are then exiled again, only this time not for 70 years, this time they're exiled for almost 1900 years. And the temple mount where it had stood, where Abraham had offered Isaac, where David had bought the field and offered to the Lord, where Solomon had built and where again the people returned to build in 536 and all, that place, the temple mount, had absolutely or I shouldn't say absolutely, had no significant Jewish presence for those 1900 years. Now that's all past tense.

History tells us and the bible tells us there are still 2 temples in the future. A third temple that will be placed, I'm sure on that same site, and all of the plans are well in the works as we look for a minute at Israel and then a 4th temple, what is known as the millennial temple, that I personally believe, and let me say again, I personally believe, will be built in Shiloh. Shiloh was the place that the tabernacle of God stood for years, far longer than it ever stood in Jerusalem, but it's just the persuasion I have based on some Ezekiel scriptures, but it's my personal opinion and I really can't teach it to you as biblical fact or I'm not convinced of it. But brain candy's ok you can chew on that for a while. It is however this 3rd temple that is under discussion here, the 4th temple you can read about in Ezekiel 40 through 48, it'll be built during the time that Jesus rules and reigns for 1000 years, and at least from what we can gather from Ezekiel there'll be sacrifices there, there'll be feast days kept there. The sacrifices obviously won't be for sin, that's taken care of, I think they will be memorial in the sense that we will all get a chance to watch and see and fully understand that these things pointed to Christ and we will rejoice in the fulfillment of those things. But there is a 4th temple, but this is the 3rd temple and the instructions that John is given here is given in the first half of the, or as seen I should say, in the first half of the great tribulation when this temple will be built with the help of the antichrist, Jerusalem and Israel duped by him until at the half way mark he comes out and he stops the sacrifice and he said "look I am now to be worshipped there will be no other god but me under threat of death" and he will now

have authority and power and they may have been sacrificing for some time but that'll stop right in the middle.

But notice here in verse 1, you didn't think we'd get here but look here we are verse 1, well at least you'll have an overview "I was given a reed like a measuring rod" a measuring stick, a yardstick, a ruler, a reed-like plant that grows along the Jordan is lightweight and it's long and sturdy and John is told by the angel to measure the temple with it. Now all we can assume in verse 1 is that the angel is the same angel from Chapter 10. If not there's no way to make comparison as to who this angel might be. But he is told to measure the temple of God and the altar area and to measure the people gathered there but not to include in the measurement the outer courts where the gentiles would have met. Now the measurement is certainly intended to convey more than inches and feet. In fact the word "measure" in and of itself oftentimes is used by the Lord to measure intent or to measure purpose or a heart or a commitment of men. If you in your notes or in your reading go back and read some time Zachariah Chapter 2. Zachariah was told there to measure the City of Jerusalem and then to measure the type of worship that was seen there at the temple. Well John is told to measure the area of worshippers. In Chapter 40 of Ezekiel we find that same truth as well. In fact let me read it to you, here's 5 verses from the 4th temple "In the 25th year of our captivity at the beginning of the year on the 10th day of the month in the 14th year after the city was captured on the very same day the hand of the Lord was upon me He took me there and the vision of God He took me into the land of Israel set me on a very high mountain and on it towards the south was something like the structure of a city. He took me there and behold there was a man whose appearance was like the appearance of bronze, he had a line of flax and a measuring rod in his hand and stood in the gateway and the man said to me 'son of man look with your eyes and hear with your ears and fix your mind on everything I show you for you were brought here so that I might show them to you declare to the house of Israel everything you see' now there was a wall around the outside of the temple and the man's hand was a measuring rod that was 6 cubits long, each being a cubit and a handbreath and he measured the width of the structure, one rod, and the height, one rod, and he began to measure this 4th temple" well John is now given the responsibility of measuring, if you will, the 3rd one here.

We know this 3rd temple will be built during the first half of the great tribulation, but also understand it's in direct violation and certainly in open rebellion against the work of Jesus because He's come to be the fulfillment. Read the Book of Hebrews - we don't need to go back to that system once He has come. Interestingly enough in Israel since the temple was destroyed in 70 AD there's been no sacrifice for sin ever. There's been no sin offering able to be offered. But having rejected Jesus the nation itself will return to the Old Testament sacrificial system and the antichrist, incognito, will be their ambassador for a time. In fact you can read Daniel Chapter 9 verse 27 and there is a you get the idea quickly that there is a significant role that he plays in building this 3rd temple and guess where it's going to be built, on Mount Mariah, on the temple mount during the relatively peaceful half of the first half of the tribulation where lying and deceit is the order of the day. Matthew Chapter I think 24 tells us about this abomination that makes desolate. Paul said in the Second Thessalonian letter in Chapter 2 "let no one

deceive you by any means, that day will not come unless there's a falling away first and the man of sin is revealed, the man of perdition who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped so that he sits as God in the temple of God showing himself that he is God." Jesus said to the Jews in Matthew 24 if you'll read it it is a prophecy of the last days, but it is also tremendously Jewish in nature. He talks about not traveling on the Sabbath and all, but he says this in verse 15 "when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet standing in the holy place, if you read this understand - let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains." Get out of dodge man, because now it's going to be worse than it has ever been and in the next few weeks we will see especially as we get to Chapter 12 that when that takes place Satan will be locked out of heaven for good and he will go after Israel and so the Lord warns him here in Matthew get out of dodge – run for your life. And like I said we'll see more in Chapter 12 and 13 as well.

So we mentioned to you when we were back in Chapter 6 that one of the only other things that we know will take place during the first half of the great tribulation is the move of some former soviet republics to the north of Israel that are now predominantly Muslim against Israel in the north and from the north and that the Lord says He will hook them and He will drag them down and defeat them, Ezekiel Chapter 38 and 39, which will allow for and produce a climate in which the antichrist out of Europe can arise to be the man of peace, the fellow on the white horse of Revelation 6:2.

Today in Israel there is quite a movement towards building this temple on Mount Mariah. There is a temple society. We used to take our groups to the temple society where they've actually manufactured a \$10 million candelabra. They're getting huge donations and they're making to the best of their ability, all of the things that would be needed to operate a new place of worship. There are some things that they have trouble with, the perfume, some of those kind of things, the red heifer that they're working on, but they're after like getting this thing in order and they're very militant folks and I find them to be pretty good at twisting scriptures to make it read the way they would like. We stopped going there because it was just, it got convoluted in their presentation but you can walk through and see all of the, and they tend to be the ones that folks tend to worry about wanting to take the temple mount by force and boy what trouble that would be. But there is this move to raise funds, raise awareness, make artifacts begin to build all of things that are going to be needed and there are thousands of things that they're making, from the yarn and all to make the priests garments to the brass to move, just everything and they haven't and they're very excited about it. They live and die for it. The challenge of course is the temple mount - it's occupied by a huge structure. The dome of the rock is the 3rd holiest site to the Muslims after Mecca the birthplace of Mohammed and Medina so you try to remove the dome I guarantee you World War III starts immediately. There will be no doubt about that.

Over the years when we've taken our groups up to the temple mount, we still do it, the temple mount has been given by the Jews to the Muslims. They have their soldiers there to maintain peace but those who visit have to be operating under the laws and the rules of Islam, so even the ladies that we take, they'll yell at you for this if your shirt is

open like mine is, well that's indecent and we've had "put this on, t-shirt" or sometimes we'll just try to walk away and he'll forget and go after the next group, they'll only let you up there for an hour and they follow you around and they tell you can't bring a bible you can't talk about the bible, we just have to kind of talk about the Lord quietly. It's a pretty sad place to be but they have control of the site so after 300 years of Christian byzantine rule and 6 years I think after the death of Mohammed in 632 the caliph who Malik who erected this dome erected it in 684 over a rock that he said it was from that rock that Mohammed ascended or rode into heaven, if you will, and with what is written here, verse 2, and then what some of the recent archaeological studies have found it may indeed be verse 2 that gives us the solution, well I think it does, that the Lord has worked into the formula so that we can proceed with this temple that will be offensive to him but it will be built during the time of this first half of the great tribulation. The dome of the rock today sits slightly south of center on the temple mount. According to every writing that we read of in the bible when it comes to how things are to be built, especially Ezekiel, the holy of holies, that place of God's presence where the priests would only go once a year, had to be in exact line east to west through the eastern gate. That entrance that today is sealed. The dome of the rock sits 322 feet off of that line according to Asher Kaufman who is one of the professors of physics at the Hebrew University at Mt. Scopus. Spent a lot of years doing temple mount layout and archaeology and he published his findings back in '83, I don't even know if BAR magazine is still out today, Biblical Archaeological Review, would come out every month and he was like one of their greatest contributors, but it caught really the Christian world because of the verse that we have here in verse 2. It will, according to him, he believes that there's a little cupola, it's called the Dome of the Spirits or the Dome of the Tablets that's quite far removed from the dome of the rock and he believes that this will be the place that the new temple will be built and it is in direct line with the eastern gate. If that is so, and they've done some archaeological studies in the bedrock, and he found some under subterranean cisterns unearthed and he believes that, and a lot of bibles scholars even in Israel agree with him, that the new temple will be built there - that the holy of holies will be placed where that cupola is and if so then you can build the entire temple, put a wall up and never touch to dome of the rock. It would just be over 300 some feet from where the dome stands. It would shed great light on the possible solution to the problem because then there's plenty of room to build and like John says you can leave the outer court to the gentiles. They can trample it underfoot for 3½ years, they can do their thing over there but eventually this is how maybe it is going to be built. We used to take folks into the dome of the rock, they don't allow it anymore. It is a blasphemous place inside the dome in Arabic are the words "God does not beget nor is God begotten" which is a obviously direct blasphemy of John 3:16.

It will be at the end of the great tribulation that Jesus will return with his saints and remove the last great gentile ruler, the antichrist. Then the times of the gentiles will have fully ended. Well I brought a couple I have 3 pictures, Rod can you put up I'll show you what we're looking at. I don't know you can probably turn the light off and maybe it'd be easier. So this is the eastern gate, that's the dome of the rock; it doesn't quite look in line does it. So it's like 300 feet over and this is a sealed portion, this is where the Lord will enter into the city though. Ok show me the second one - there you

can see it better, see the eastern gate way over here to the right, see where the dome of the rock is, and right behind if you follow that line there is a little white cupola, can you see it, maybe not it's hidden. I'll show you the hotel we stay in its right... yes that's the place. Actually you see that crane to the right? OK now go to the right see that tower, right behind the tower is a white building, that's the hotel we stayed in. OK so do the 3rd slide Rod. I'll show you what the cupola looks like, this is what it looks like. And this archway by the way, now the eastern gate is to your right, but it lines up directly through and both archways are absolutely in line and if you build it here with, I'm sorry I don't have a picture with the distance between them, you can easily put the temple in and give the outer court to the gentiles for 42 months, so actually one Arab guy, there's usually a lot more Arabs there. Thanks Rod you can turn that light back on.

So pretty exciting days in which we live, right? And already the work is underway with the temple society to gather funds to make preparations. David prepared for the temple; Solomon built it by the grace of God. This temple is the one from which the antichrist is going to launch his "I am God" campaign, but we know this will be the 3rd temple built in the tribulation and if they are already doing that and the church is raptured first, how close are we to the coming of the Lord. Next week we will try to look at these 2 witnesses and I'd like you to think about this week about who they are. I'm going to challenge you to figure out who they are. Let me just say this to you, they're both Jewish - it will limit your hunt and one of them is not Netanyahu and neither is the other one. Shall we pray.