

"SOUNDING THE LAST TRUMPET"

Rev. 11

INTRODUCTION:

We have here an over-view which we will deal with today. Which is one of the most difficult, and yet one of the most important chapters in Revelation thus far. The problem of interpretation and the solution hinge on the substance of the rest of the book. John has just eaten the little book and he has developed it and we discovered that it turned bitter.

We might say with Rom. 11:33, 36 - oh the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God. How unsearchable are his judgements and his ways past finding out. For of him and through him, and to him, are all things. To whom be glory forever, Amen.

Many of the details that outline the future are still hidden to us. We must wait for their fulfillment. And know exactly. We are so small - we are so helpless. God must be our strength and refuge or else we are fearfully lost. How easy to forget and to overlook. As Henry VanDyke in his poem -

Thy sea is great, our boats are small
Oh maker of the mighty deep
Whereon our vessels fair
Above our life's adventure keep
Thy faithful watch and care.
In Thee we trust what error befall
Thy sea is great, our boats are small.

We have here the continuation of an interlude between the sixth and the seventh trumpets. And we might as we think about this, first fix in our minds, as Dean Alford said, the 11th chapter is one of the most difficult books of Revelation. One man may say here that the temple here is figuratively. For the church of Christ. Another may say that the temple is given in order to call attention to the size of the church. Another believes that the altar is the church. Another thinks that the outer court is part of the church. Or, that the holy city is a type of the church. And that the two witnesses were elected by the church. We find a great number of interpretation. Some of them are practical in some ways. But every symbol and every pattern - to make every division here - to have some identical thing, whether it means it or not. Is to force some things. What we need to do is to let the whole spirit take a hold of our minds and in the light of what God has already written down here, guide us in discovering, concerning this wonderful revelation.

Because here is a definite message about the violation of God's dwelling place, and nothing can destroy his witnesses. Until their testimony is complete - because truth really is eternal. So the temple, the altar, the worshippers - all of these things are going to be involved in this chapter.

Hence, I would like to take this chapter and build it around three points.

✓ First of all, measuring the temple. V. 1-2.

✓ Second, mysterious witnesses. V. 3-14.

✓ Third, miraculous kingdom. V. 15-19.

I. MEASURING THE TEMPLE - V. 1-2.

✓ We find here that what is being done - he says, I want you to take and measure the temple. Now remember, the temple at Jerusalem was not standard. The temple had

not been restored. This is before the end of the world and the second coming of Christ. And so this language here must be purely symbolical of the church - Paul called it God's temple. I Cor. 3:16. It is a holy temple. Eph. 2:21. The temple of the living God. 2 Cor. 6:16. The household of God. I Tim. 3:15. This is a dwelling place of God.

Now the language here says that it is to be measured for special care and preservation. The true spiritual Israel would be protected. There is going to be trouble ahead. But everything necessary to worship will be mentioned - and this continually goes on. When everything else falls into the hands of the enemy - these are to be spared. They will be in the realm of safety.

During this interlude between the sixth and the seventh trumpets - this great vision which is going on, this mighty angel had come down, from Heaven. And put one foot on the sea and his left foot on the land. Raised his hand and swore by God that there should be a delay no longer of time. That time should be no more. But the hour has come when God is going to take over and by his power, he is going to reign. And the angel, the representative of Christ, had in his left hand a little book. And this was the title deed to this universe. Now the mystery is, why does God delay. Why does sin reign. Why does the grave never get full. Why is it that God delays. But God is going to delay no longer. And this angel gave two commands -- first, John was to eat it. And that was typical. It was sweet as honey in his mouth. But in his stomach, it was as bitter as gull. The bitterness lies in what the tragic days are described heretofore.

We are getting ready to lay the foundation for this. What temple is there. Is this the temple of God. There are five temples in the Bible - one is Solomon's temple. That was destroyed in 587BC. A second temple Zerubbabel. Who built it after the captivity which was later consecrated to Jupiter by Ephiphanes in 168BC. A third temple

was built by Herod. Rebuilt. But this was destroyed by Titus in AD70. The fourth temple is the one we are discussing - and of course, this is something that I cannot understand all about it. But John is here commanded to rise up and to measure this temple. Now for 2000 years, there were practically no Jews in Palestine and yet God's prophets had said that the Jews would go back and rebuild Jerusalem. And some Jews would re-build the temple. Which is now the temple - the dome of the rock where Mohammad is worshipping. This is a sacred spot where Solomon built his temple. Abraham offered his son. And the Jews will rebuild the glorious temple of the Gods, on Moriah.

It is very hard for us to understand the devotion of the Orthodox Jew to Moses and his laws, thousands of years ago. Their devotion to the Torah, the word of God, is beyond our imagination. With their long beards, head-dress, and robes - they revered the word of God. They kissed the pages. They honored the scrolls. These people have never been able to be engulfed by the Gentile nations in which they live. This is proof that God is, and what the prophet said is true. The Jew is in the world today. God says that the Jew will go back and rebuild that temple. The Jewish nation will make friends with political rulers of the world. And there was given me a reed like unto a rod. And measure the temple. Many times you will find that a measure is a command. To first put claim on something. This belongs to God. Measure this. It is mine. Measure it for judgement or for destruction. You remember, Lam. 2. God says measure Jerusalem for destruction. The prophet Amos sought a plum line to measure Judah and Israel for destruction. And there was given a reed or a rod. And the measurement concerns the people of God. Who are being measured for judgement and for correction. Did you know that - that you life is being measured. These Jews turned their faces toward this and John had a vision. Of some happy days because God said he was going to destroy Israel - as a man would wipe a dish and turn it upside down. Isaiah witnessed the fall of Samaria. And he saw the more than ten tribes waste away.

The story of how General Allenby walked with his troops. There were Arabs, Jews, and Christians alike. The hour had struck for God to open the way to by-gone ages. As they took over. The city of Jerusalem and the Turkish flag was pulled down in 1917 after Jerusalem had been ruled by others, and misruled, for 1260 years. Now you know that is part of truth - that the second coming of Christ, and the events that we are talking about here - and the restoration of that great land. It is out before us.

So he took this measuring rod - like a staff. It was a reed or a cane - probably about nine feet in length. They say that a cubit was the space from the tip of the elbow to the tip of the middle finger - which made about 17 or 18 inches. So the rod is equal to about nine feet. And the picture here - it is common in visions.

It may, John may have had something of what Ezek. 40:3 had experienced himself about measuring the city.

V. 2 - But he was given some instructions as he went about this - the great bulk of the Gentile world was being persecuted by Rome and would suffer. And so here they were - the purpose was to measure off the court of the Gentiles was going to be left out. You remember, there was a court of the women. And a court of Israelites beyond which men could not come. There was a court of the priests - and the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70. How then could this temple be measured. They tell us that when that temple was seiged, the party of Jews who would never admit defeat, that they would die to the man in this walled city. They went into this court. And said be of good cheer - never fear. The Gentile invaders may reach the court of the Gentiles, they may come to the temple or defile it, but they will never get into the inner temple. God will never allow that. And their hopes and their dreams were disappointing.

But now there was no building at all and their hopes had been blasted. For him, the temple is the Christian church - the people of God. And the terror was to be 42 months--the time of preaching of the witnessing. 1260 days.

During these 42 months - there was a terrible persecution of the Jews by the king of Assyria. And Thitus, the fourth. Epiphanes, which lasted approximately 3 1/2 years. The image of the Greek God Zeus was situated on the altar of the temple. And it was forsaken.

He brought in Greek culture, the Greek language, and there was most violent resistance to this. And we find that he invaded Jerusalem - almost 80,000 Jews were killed or were sold into slavery.

To possess a copy of the law was a capital crime. Houses were searched for copies of the law. To circumcize a child was punishable by death. And on the altar of Zeus, swine's flesh was offered up. And the chambers of the temple became places for favorite prostitutes, which were installed. Now the roll of martyrs, and the Jews who chose to die, was finally halted in Judas Maccabaeus - and his men came in and waged warfare. And won an amazing victory and forced Thitus out, and the temple was restored and cleansed. And that is why the desecrated lasted from June 168BC to Dec. 165BC. To this day, the Jews celebrated the festival of Hanukah. It commemorates the restoration and the cleansing of the temple. And that is to day this dreadful time lasted almost exactly the time mentioned here.

Before I pass on, the three = the number 40 and 2 months, is something that notes a definite period of time or duration of the trampling under foot, of the

Gentiles, the unfaithfulness. But the true church is kept safe.

II. MYSTERIOUS WITNESSES - V. 3-14.

V. 3 - The amazing two witnesses - there is nothing like them in recorded history. Never were there two witnesses like these two. They have a capacity and a power beyond anything in this world. They, alone, had an unusual gift of power to confront their enemies and to do so and triumph in victory. Now, these two witnesses, are described to John by the mighty angel - who came down from Heaven. And who had lifted up his hand in the name of the Lord Jesus, and claimed all of the creation for God. Now there are future revelations which people interpret it literally. They say, there are to be men who are to be witnesses to the end of the world. With super-natural power, divine protection, and they will then be killed by the anti-Christ. But after 3 1/2 days, will be brought back to life.

Some identify these as Moses. The fore-runners of the dreadful days. Some think there is fulfill in John-The-Baptist. Who announced the coming of Christ. Now we cannot take such explanations seriously. (Dr. Summers says) The question is, what possible comfort would that have been to the persecuted Christians in John's day. Knowing that several thousand years from then, such events as those above described would take place. None, whatsoever. They would be meaningless and comfortless.

Dr. Carroll takes position that this vision applies to the apostasy of the church. During the period of the third century. During the Reformation. And he talks the 1260 days - the 3 1/2 years equal - and reaches his conclusion. That these

two witnesses according to the true church were during that dark period. But what comfort to the Christians of John's day, could that have been. They needed something to help them right then. Others talked about an apostate Roman Catholic Church. Or a Greek Catholic Church in the East. They were beaten and broken down. But that would not of help to them.

Now John was writing in times of supreme and urgent need. And he needed a message to meet that need - and this is one that symbolizes. The number two carries the idea of strength. (Two men) were much stronger than (one man). And in this instance, two witnesses, appear to symbolize the testimony of the witness of great power. The world in which you live is dominated by evil men. You will be protected and the Gospel will be preached. And the Christian witness will be the main thing. The task of the church is universal here.

And Jewish law required that two witnesses be present at a trial. Numbers 35:30. Now, this pattern could have been a Biblical picture of (Moses and Elijah). They had hardships, suffering, persecution. The Jews expected Moses, Deut. 18:15, Elijah, Mal. 4:5, to re-appear before the end of time. And the Jews interpret this - and so there were the most violent things that were taking place. As it was a time of terror and they were blasted during this time. And of course, there was a time that was fulfilled in the history of Israel. When Epphanes, king of Assyria, came in with the Greek language and complicated things in Palestine by killing almost 80,000 Jews and selling others as slaves. If one possessed the copy of the law, it was a capital crime. And to circumcize a child, it was punishable by death. And the great altar of Zeus was erected and swine's flesh was offered. The very temple chambers were used for sacred prostitutes. Until this was halted by Judas Maccabaus. The temple was restored and cleansed. And that is why, December 165BC til this day, there is a festival, Hanukah - which commemorates the restoration and the cleansing of the temple.

And they say that dreadful time lasted exactly 3 1/2 years in time.

In V. 5 - We experience that Jeremiah's experience was similar to this verse. The fire of judgement. Chapter 5:14. In 2 Kings 1:10. We find a reference to this. There was power to execute judgement.

In V. 6 - We find the histories of Elijah and Moses supply the background. I Kings 17:1 - Elijah was like the witnesses. He can close the sky and prevent rain.

Moses, Ex. 7:20 - can turn water into blood. And bring down a plague. And John and his vision, as these truths that people witnessed. And he says that God's people will be under safety - but those that oppose the Gospel witness will thereby be destroyed. 2 Cor. 2:12-16.

Notice during this period - when the Gospel was to be preached with remarkable success. The evidence of divine approval - miracles are performed by the Apostles. Two witnesses with divine power - nothing seemed to destroy them. They were performing miracles and they were doing God's service.

In V. 7 - 10 - Is a time when a power arose and it attempted to crush the witness of the Gospel. It was temporarily successful. At the time of the writing of this book, the Gospel was going through a crucial stage in Rome. And it would be able to crush Christianity and then rejoice. Over the destruction.

The beast, symbolically of Rome, and the emperor made war against the witnesses. Put a stop to this remarkable work - would not bury their bodies, and the world was against these witnesses.

It does not require much of a stretch of your imagination to see the attitude of the Roman Empire in this period. Christianity was being crushed. They were putting it out so that it could never, never rise again.

There were sufferings - V. 6. They had power he says, these witnesses, to even shut up Heaven. And they have power over the waters to turn them into blood. I think we can truthfully say, here we have an illustration of the Old Testament. Then he says, the beast ascends out of the bottomless pit. Here is the stock figure - the evil spiritual force, as in I and II John - who is the opponent of Christ. And he is called the anti-Christ. Well, the spirit of the beast is antagonistic to Christ and to the church. And this is in the present tense - he comes up and gives you the impression that he is now rising from the abyss. And he is going to oppose the message of the Gospel. Now the beast gains a short-lived triumph. And he made war against Christ here in V. 7. And he comes to kill them. You will notice in this verse.

Now, we do not know who these witnesses are - but we can try to identify them. Many times they are called Enoch and Elijah. So interpreters try to find men in the Bible who look like these that never died. Enoch and Elijah - they were translated to Heaven without death. Since the two witnesses here are slain by the beast, they are

✓ sent back to the earth, were slain and therefore they fulfilled the Scriptures.

Hebrews 9:27 that all men shall die. But here is the medical power that is taking place. The beast that rises out of the bottomless pit, overcomes them. And he slays them.

It tells us that the Holy Spirit and God's Holy Word, is going to have the blessing of the Lord upon it as we deliver it.

Everyone of God's witnesses, every believer is immortal until his work is done. No servant of God ever encountered such fear for opposition and odds, and yet they finished their testimony. The wild beasts that comes, the awful head of the Roman Empire who dies, Satan's counterpart. He overcomes these witnesses and he saves them.

V. 8 - We turn now to see the awful, inhumane thing, the Hellish thing, the insane thing that they actually delight their dead bodies shall lie in the streets of the great city. Which is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt. Where also our Lord was crucified. Now, when he talks about the great city, we know what city he is speaking of.

They make merry. And they scorn and they have content. This ungodly world and the city is spiritual here that he speaks of. First, it is like Sodom. That is a city of wickedness. Deut. 32:32. Second, Egypt, is a city of oppression. Ex. 1:15.

And third, the place where Jesus was crucified, Matt. 27, the same spirit of slavery, wickedness, and oppression, and murder characterize the world power that is now persecuting the church.

And these lie unburied these corpse of the prophets. And they look upon their bodies three days and a half. They are not put in a tomb.

V. 9 - He tells us that the people of every kindred nation, see the dead bodies. Three days and a half. And they were not suffer - they were dead. To be put in a tomb.

We would say, oh how evil is this world. The beasts slew these two witnesses, these two mysterious witnesses, and suffered their bodies not to be buried. The whole earth looks upon them for three and a half days. In that tropical climate - they would decay quickly. When one dies, the law says, he must be buried immediately. But here the prophets of God lay in the streets, corrupt. Deut says even a criminal must be buried the day he is executed. The Lord Jesus died to the cross, his friends went to Pilate that very night and took the body down, that very hour and buried it out of sight less it defile the land.

V. 10 - In V. 10 - it says, they rejoiced over them and made merry. And shall send gifts one to another. This was an evil time - the murderers sent gifts to one another because of the prophets who had been warning them of judgement, are now dead.

When John Huss, the great preacher, was burned by the Roman Church at the stake, that very night the council met in jubilee celebration. Over the defeat of one of God's great witnesses - he had been burned at the stake. Christ's rejectors made merry and they rejoiced and gave gifts to one another. God's two prophets lay dead out in the street.

I might say, sometimes I think that Christmas gifts have very little to do with the wonderful Christ. Quite often, people who give gifts, continue to reject the Christ that came into the world. But they make merry - and how apparent that this triumph of this evil world - of sending gifts. The reaction of the ungodly, they were filled with

joy. The Bible says.

V. 11 - A resurrection. Now, here is the most extra-ordinary thing. They should be raised from the dead. Our Lord was raised from the dead, the saints of the Old Testament who had been buried around Jerusalem, were raised from the dead after Christ's resurrection. One of these days, all of us will be raised from the dead. That is a strange account here in the word of God. And after three days and a half, the spirit of God, and life from God entered into them. And they stood upon their feet. And a great fear fell upon them that saw them.

This is a most stirring experience - it might have been similar to the experience of Ezekiel in the valley that day, when he witnessed the dry bones. Taking on new life. And coming up at that hour. And Christ's resurrection was a comfort to those who saw it. And now we find that here is a resurrection - that is taking place, right before their very eyes. Do you know when we are caught up in Glory, there will be two working at the mill, one will be taken, the other left. Two will be sleeping in a bed, one will be taken - the other left. Two working in a field, side by side - one will be taken and the other left. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the last trumpet, it is done suddenly. Secretly, quickly, faster even than you can think. The issues of life and death are in God's hands. They are not in the hands of the beasts.

V. 12 - There is an ascension. And the verse says come up hither, and they ascended in the cloud. And the enemies beheld them. The 11th verse says, they saw them when they were raised from the dead. And when they ascended up to Heaven, their enemies beheld them. Now the church is going to rise again. There will be breath

and life from God. And these oppressors may see this taking place. But the faith of these two witnesses - just as Christ put to shame his enemies by rising again, and afterwards ascending to Heaven. The enemy thought that he was dead but he revived. And in full view of his enemies - they saw Christ rescued - and they saw these two witnesses rescued by God's power. Now this describes the fate of the church. As well as the mind and life of Jesus Christ.

V. 13 - That same hour was a great earthquake. There was a great shock that went through when this all took place and happened.

In V. 13 - It tells us that four things have followed in succession.

First, a great earthquake - it shakes them like a leaf.

Second, one tenth of the great re-built Jerusalem falls. We will see something about this in the seventh bowl. And men were calling to get the rocks and the cliffs to fall upon them.

7,000 were killed. You remember, that Elijah thought he was alone, but there was a remenant of 7,000. Here, however, the matter is reversed. 7,000 were killed. When the golden calf, for breaking the law, 3,000 were killed.

Now this, at this point, they say this is the names of men - 7,000 - many who were prominent men who would not allow the burial of the slain witnesses to take place. And now, they themselves, are buried alive in their own houses and are in Hell forever.

A fourth thing takes place - general fright, and fear. Here is the giving of glory to God. But fear acting at this point.

This terrible earthquake of judgement - men of name and of distinction were slain. 7,000 of the mightiest - they were killed. And they gave glory to the God in Heaven and there was fear.

A man feels when God comes with his judgement. Quite often, we hear people when they have some pronouncement by the Doctor say, you might not live. You might have a little while. Or, you might have two weeks, etc. But you can speak with people and they know this. And you can pray with them, and they say - you know, I am going to give my life to God if I ever get out of this place. I have wasted my life - I am going to be different. When I get up out of here.

And in the providence of God, and in the goodness of God, I have seen some of these very people get up, be strong again - and you expect them to appear in the church and to give their lives to God. And their minds are as far away from it as it was before. And they have new excuses. Just to be afraid of what God will do is not enough. Terrified before his judgement, will not bring you salvation. The thing is that you must change your soul and there must come a love for God in your heart. That is what is going to save you - you are going to have to love God, and you are going to have to show it, and you are going to have to prove it to him. And you are going to have to yield and surrender your life to him.

III. MIRACULOUS KINGDOM - V. 15-19.

Now this we come to in V. 14 - the second woe past. And behold, the third woe comes right quickly.

V. 15 - The seventh angel sounded, and there were great voices in Heaven. So very quickly removed now from the two witnesses, and the olive trees, on to the sounding of the seventh trumpet. And this sound, and we find that God looks down from Heaven here - and here is a remarkable concept. When we think of this world, we think of many, many kingdoms, on the map. But God looks down and he says here that the kingdoms of this world have become the (kingdoms of our Lord.) And he is Christ and he shall reign forever and ever.

When that trumpet sounded, instead of judgement, here is a Heavenly voice praising God and saying - the kingdom of the world. By that of our Lord, is going to be united into one. All, everything in the world, becomes the Lord's possession. And God must be seen as one finger.

Now Satan's sovereignty is seen over and over again. Satan took Jesus to the top of the mountain and he offered him the kingdoms of the world. All that you see, I will give you, if you bow down and worship me. All the glory, all the kingdoms of the world, Satan offered. To Jesus, he said it is mine, it is mine to give.

Now God looks down upon this earth and he sees the (cemeteries) this whole world which has been used just to bury people. Created in his image, made in his likeness. The earth is full of death, the dead, iniquity, darkness and violence. And now he says, the kingdom, the prince of the power of the air, the powers of darkness. God

says they are not going to rule forever and Satan will not rule forever. But he is going to come. And the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord. He shall reign forever and ever. Without end. What an announcement. What an amazing announcement he makes.

Early yesterday - B. Oscar Smith Students killed - Man controlled by Satan - Mrs. Bodin Cemetery - David Malhi has played his last song -

V. 16 - The 24 elders praise God because of his reward to his witnesses. And judgement upon the ungodly. The Bible says, that they represent God's resurrected, transfigured saints in Heaven, and they just fell down on their faces to worship God. I think it is the only place where we find, they fell on their faces. At the announcement of this amazingly Heavenly promises, they fall upon their faces.

V. 17 - Then is heard thanksgiving - we give thanks, oh, Lord, God Almighty.

Which are to come because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

V. 18 - Five Results of God's Taking His Power -

First - Nations were Angry. Earth is Angry at Heavens' interruption,

Hatred of fallen man against Divine control - Cain rebelled - Saul hunted David like a bird - Jezebel hunted Elijah - Why did they slay the prophets, Haman will kill all the Jews. They spit in Jesus' face.

Today men will tolerate a preacher if he sets them alone, does not touch their wills.

Second - And God's Wrath is come - The god of this Age is Satan, he

has blinded the minds of men that believe not, men live in fools' Paradise - Bible says God will punish sin. Wrath is come!

Third - The Time of the dead to be judged - When a man dies that is not the end, Even the wicked shall be raised at the great White Throne Judgment - God will judge them according to their

119 stupid people not to discerned - Pattern of Heaven -
Temples & that was spread in Heaven -
Red Ash & that discovered his purpose - Folly -
most of that - lightnings - Thunderings - God's Providence

Truth - And to destroy them that destroy the earth
I would Angel when not say the things that destroy
them: that is going to set things right. They - and in justice
He wished purged from earth, judgment in all the earth.

At length in small & great numbers.
stood where man
to the Heaven as high than the earth, so in
with that.
presumption of man's familiarity
do not like to hear a song - a prayer with
And to them that you say my Name - that is why it
Satan, the people, the saints
than the angel angel angel, and much the
death, and the time to give the world.
evangelizing self.

in the dark - Not one the darkness will stay!
Every word he has said is his life -

get the sense!

a thought in heaven

a golden link filled with his presence -

we will keep the good forever - never leave you -
if we cannot own him - He promises to forgive!

Why would a man debate within his heart

Why would a man refuse himself to Jesus?

Why would a man enter into discussion
or to which or not the world lead him

family at all?