Revelation 11

The Interlude and the 7th Trumpet Angel

1. **Measuring of the Temple and 42 months/1,260 days: verses 1-3**
   1. The Temple
      1. This is the dwelling place of God.
      2. Why measure?
         1. This has to do with God protecting His people in order to carry out their mission.
            1. The mission is to tell the world of Jesus Christ.
   2. The holy city.
      1. This is God’s dwelling with His people now (the church) and His dwelling in the age to come (the new heaven and new earth).
      2. It will be trampled for 42 months.
         1. Here on earth the holy city is persecuted.
            1. Our worship life will certainly be tested but not destroyed. The “altar” is measured and protected by God.
         2. In Revelation 42 months is also written as 1,260 days and 3 ½ years.
            1. Perhaps this is a reference to the suffering that came during the famine in Elijah’s day. There was also a reign of terror in Judea during Antiochus Epiphanes reign (168 BC) that lasted about 3 ½ years. Another similar period of length is also the Jewish war of 67-70 AD which ended with the destruction of the second temple.
2. **The Two Witnesses: verses 4-14**
   1. Two lampstands and two olive trees
      1. A similar vision is found in Zechariah 4:2-14
         1. Israel, the people of God, are His lampstand.
         2. The anointed priesthood and the royal house of David represent the olive trees.
      2. The vision in Rev. 11
         1. The temple and God’s holy city, which represents all of God’s saints are the lampstands.
         2. The two witnesses (the church) anointed to proclaim God’s Word throughout the new covenant ere are the two olive trees.
            1. 1 Peter 2:5-11 tells us that in Christ we are a royal priesthood.
   2. Two witnesses
      1. Moses and Elijah come to mind.
         1. Both were on the Mount of Transfiguration with Jesus and the three disciples, Peter, James and John.
         2. They are good representatives of the church and her mission of witnessing of Christ.
            1. \*These two witnesses represent the entire Church and the mission God has given her while here on earth.
      2. Truth is confirmed through two witnesses
         1. Deuteronomy 19:15
      3. Their death
         1. The church will suffer as a result of completing her mission.
            1. When that mission is completed the fury of the enemy will be unleashed upon her.
            2. The one causing the suffering is the angel of the abyss (9:11) who is called Abaddon/Apollyon, the destroyer.

This is Satan.

* + - * 1. Those who persecute the church are as evil as Sodom and Egypt.

To reject the church’s witness is to become as depraved and idolatrous as Sodom.

This results in spiritual slavery like the slavery the Hebrews endured in Egypt.

* + 1. Their resurrection
       1. At any point in human history the church suffers and appears defeated, but always comes back to life.
          1. Consider how the church has endured totalitarian regimes.
  1. The great earthquake
     1. Earthquakes are mentioned 7 times in Revelation
        1. Sometimes they accompany the majesty of God like in 8:5 and 11:19.
        2. Sometimes they are mentioned in connection to the end like in 6:12 and 16:18
        3. Here in 11:13 the earthquake points to fearful judgment of God that is for the unbelieving world for the way it treated God’s people.
           1. In Rev. 6:9-11 we saw the saints praying for such a judgment.
  2. The third woe
     1. The first woe was the demonic forces attacking the human race (9:1-12)
     2. The second woe was the last battle (9:13-21)
     3. The third woe is the end of the present world (11:15-19).

1. **The Seventh Trumpet Angel: verses 15-19**
   1. Joy and shouts of praise.
      1. The First Trumpet began with silence (8:1).
   2. The open reign of Jesus Christ.
      1. This is the full victory
      2. It also means judgment upon unbelievers. This is the third woe.
   3. The ark
      1. In the Old Testament the ark was the sign of God’s covenantal presence.
         1. Jeremiah in 3:16 says the ark will no longer be remembered or missed.
            1. Here in Rev. 11:19 the glorious promise of God’s saving m mercy has come to its conclusion.