

Revelation – 101

9/28/25 – PM (Week 8)

Chapters 11-12 The Two Witnesses / The 7th Trumpet / War in Heaven

Review chapters 9-10

- Chapter 9 covered the 5th and 6th trumpets. John saw the angel of the bottomless pit open the pit with a key that was given to him. We believe the bottomless pit is the core of the earth. A sphere has no actual bottom, and we know that there are beings “under the earth” from previous chapters and scriptures.
- From the pit come a plague of locusts with the power of scorpions. They torment the men of earth for 5 months. These are either a unique and hideous creature created for this specific purpose, or they are the devils of hell who have taken on this form and characteristics. Some believe John was seeing a type of weaponry from the Antichrist’s military technology.
- The sixth trumpet sounds, heralding the arrival of a 200,000,000 man army to destroy 1/3rd of the existing population through warfare. It is possible that due to the description of these horses and men, that John may have seen modern weapons of warfare (tanks, missiles, etc.) which he did not have the language to describe.
- The purpose of the locusts and the warfare judgments is to bring men to repentance and to trust God. However, millions continue on in unrepentance and with hardened hearts, cursing God.
- Chapter 10 is parenthetical. John sees a mighty angel (not Jesus, but an angel) with one foot on the sea and one on the shore (meaning that his announcement is for the entire planet Earth). This angel declares that “there should be time no longer (10:6), indicating that the final judgments have come. The wrath of God will be poured out.
- John is instructed to take a “little book” from the hand of the angel and to eat it. This occurs several times in the Old Testament, where the prophets

of God literally consumed God's word as a testimony that what God said to the prophet would not be changed. It was done. Judgment was coming.

Chapter 11 – The “time of the Gentiles” and The Two Witnesses

- Chapter 11 continues a long parenthetical section. (Four chapters - from 10:1 – 14:20, with the exception of ch. 11:14-19, which is the 7th trumpet).
- Remember that parenthetical sections do not advance the narrative, but give us commentary, or other important information that contributes to the total prophecy.

A. The Reconstructed Temple on Earth (11:1-2)

- a. There currently is no Jewish Temple standing in Jerusalem today, though detailed plans and preparation have been underway for many years.
 - i. The first (Solomon's) was destroyed by the Babylonians in 587 B.C.
 - ii. The second temple was destroyed by Titus of Rome in 70 A.D.
 - iii. There is a Muslim Mosque on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem currently, which is a point of severe contention with Israel and the Arabs today.
- b. It is very possible that the rebuilding of the temple is part of the Antichrist's peace plan with Israel. Since he breaks the covenant “in the middle” of the week by sitting in the temple “as God”, the temple is likely built or completed in the first half of the tribulation.
- c. This is definitely a temple on earth, because verse 2 says the temple court is “given unto the Gentiles”, and the holy city (Jerusalem) shall they tread under foot forty and two months (3 ½ years). 84 months equals 7 years.

B. The Two Witnesses (11:3-12)

- a. Their ministry (vs. 3)
 - i. Witnesses / Prophets of God for 1,260 days (3 ½ years by the Jewish calendar of 30 days per month). *There is much debate

on whether these two witnesses are part of the first half or the second half of the tribulation.

ii. They have power to destroy their enemies with the fire of God.

b. Their Identity (vs. 4-6)

i. There are varying opinions as to who these men are. The most likely candidates are Moses and Elijah, based on their abilities in verse 6.

1. Elijah prayed that it not rain for 3 ½ years (James 5:17-18). He also had power to call down fire from God.

2. Moses turned water into blood and smote the earth with plagues in the book of Exodus.

3. These two men appeared with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-3)

ii. Some believe the second witness is Enoch, from the book of Genesis, instead of Moses. The rationale is that the Bible says that Moses died, while Elijah and Enoch were carried into Heaven (and did not die on earth). Also, Jude 14 says that Enoch prophesied about the Lord's judgment in the last days.

1. Reasons against Enoch being one of the two witnesses

a. Enoch was not a Jew. He lived about 1700 years before Abraham (the father of Israel). The two witnesses are present during "Jacob's trouble". It seems inconsistent that someone not of the house of Israel would play such an important role during the tribulation.

b. While the Bible says that Enoch "prophesied", there is no record of his ability to do what the witnesses do in Revelation 11.

2. Reasons against Moses being one of the two witnesses

a. The primary reason given is that the Bible says he died (Deuteronomy 34:4-8). BUT:

i. The Lord buried him (34:6)

- ii. No man knows where (34:6)
- iii. He died though “his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated” (physically strong)
- iv. He appeared with Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration.
- v. VERY UNUSUAL – Satan and Michael the archangel contended (“to struggle or argue”) about the body of Moses. (Jude 1:9)
 - 1. Why would Satan care about the body of Moses? Maybe because he doesn’t know where it is!

c. Their death (vs. 7-12)

- i. At the end of their 3 ½ year ministry, the Antichrist (beast) will kill them and leave their bodies in the street of Jerusalem. (vs. 7-8). The people of the earth shall see it (Livestream coverage) and will celebrate for 3 ½ days with parties and gifts (vs. 9-10).
- ii. After laying in the street for 3 ½ days, “the Spirit of life from God” enters them and they rise up. A great voice says “come up hither” (vs. 11-12) - *Where have we heard that before?*
- iii. As they ascend, there is a great earthquake, 7,000 people die in the city, and 1/10th of the city is destroyed (vs. 13).

C. The end of the second parenthetical passage (vs. 14-19)

a. The Third Woe and the Seventh Trumpet (vs. 14-15)

- i. John sees a scene and hears voices in heaven as they worship God. They announce that “the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ.”
- ii. They explain that the wrath of God is come, the dead will be judged, the saints will receive rewards, and that God will destroy them that destroy the earth. (vs. 18)
- iii. John sees the temple of God opened in Heaven, and catches a glimpse of the ark of the covenant.

Chapter 12 – War in Heaven

- Chapters 12 and 13 are also parenthetical chapters, describing in more detail things that have or are happening. Revelation is an apocalyptic book, meaning “a revealing”. God allows John to give insight into some of the background of Satan and his battle with Israel. Remember – it is through Israel that the Savior, Jesus Christ comes into the world.
- In chapters 12-13, John sees seven distinct personages revealed.
 - A. (1) The Woman – Israel (vs. 1-2)
 - a. This interpretation comes from Genesis 37:9, concerning Joseph’s dream. Joseph sees the sun (Jacob his father), and the moon (Rachel his mother) and eleven stars (representing his brothers). He himself would be the 12th star, completing the tribes of Israel. This is the nation of Israel, not Jesus’ mother, Mary. The woman is expecting a child. The people of Israel had a baby! Jesus told the woman at the well that “salvation is of the Jews”.
 - B. (2) The Dragon – Satan (vs. 3-4)
 - a. Satan is further identified as the dragon in vs. 9, and 6 other times in this chapter alone. *13 times in the Book of Revelation (yes, 13). See also Revelation 20:1-3. *He is called “that old serpent” – How did he appear in the Garden of Eden? (Genesis 3:1).
 - b. He has many heads and crowns (explained later as “the beast”, the antichrist).
 - c. He drew a third of the “stars” of heaven (fallen angels) in rebellion against God. John says in 12:9 that they were cast out of heaven to the earth. (This actually happened before Revelation – John is just describing it here. Jude 6, 2 Peter 2:4)
 - d. He tries to “devour” the child as soon as it was born. *Satan used Herod to try and kill Jesus shortly after he was born. (Matthew 2:8 and Matthew 2:16).
 - C. (3) The Child – Jesus Christ (vs. 5-6)
 - a. A man child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron (Psalms 2:8-9). A child is born, a son is given – Isaiah 9:6.

- b. There is at least a 2000 year gap between verses 5 and 6. Verse 6 details Israel's flight to a protective place in the wilderness after the Antichrist's desecration of the temple – half way through the tribulation. She is there for 1,260 days = the second 3 ½ years of the tribulation.

D. (4) The archangel – Michael (Jude 9)

- a. *Only two angel's names are revealed in all of the Bible. Gabriel and Michael. Michael is also called "Israel's Prince" (Daniel 10:13, 21, 12:1). Some commentators speculate that there are many "chief" angels, who are designated to the affairs of different nations or people groups on earth. Whether that is true or not, it is very clear that Michael has power in heaven. The word "arch" means "chief", and Michael "and his angels" (showing authority) fights against the dragon "and his angels". (Rev. 12:7)
- b. The dragon and his angels are cast out of heaven (12:7-9)
- c. At the conclusion of that battle, John hears a voice proclaiming the kingdom of God and the power of Christ. Satan is called here "the accuser of the brethren". Remember, before this, Satan had access to heaven (Job 1 - likely because of his position as a cherub). He accused the brethren before God day and night, but now at this point in time, he is permanently barred from heaven.

E. The Overcomers – (vs. 11)

- a. Remember the overcomers in Revelation 2-3? The saved of every age overcame Satan by "the blood of the Lamb" (capital L = personified); and by the word of their testimony (followers of Christ); and loved not their lives unto the death (many martyrs for Christ, including tribulation saints).
- b. The earth and sea are warned that the devil is come down, filled with wrath because he knows his time is short (vs. 12).

F. Satan's attack on Israel during the last half of the tribulation (vs. 13-16)

- a. He persecutes the woman (Israel) who brought forth the man child (Jesus) – vs. 13.

b. Israel gets divine assistance – vs. 14-16

- i. She “flies” into the wilderness (Many believe this location to be Petra, a fortress area in the mountains of southern Jordan).
 - 1. Examples of God’s protection of Israel – Exodus 19:4 – “eagle’s wings”. Deuteronomy 32:9-12 – “beareth them on her wings”.
- ii. She (Israel) is provided for and protected there for 3 ½ years – “a time (1), and times (2), and half a time (1/2) = 3 ½ years.
- iii. Satan tries to flood out or destroy their protected area, but the earth supernaturally opens and thwarts his attempt. *It is interesting how the earth is controlled by its creator! – SHAZAM!

G. (5) – The Remnant

- a. The dragon (antichrist – “the beast”) abandons the chase and returns to make war with the “remnant of her seed” (vs. 17). Many believe these are the 144,000 who have been sealed during the tribulation.

*God’s promise to Israel – Isaiah 54:5-8

October 12th – Chapters 13-14 – The Antichrist / The False Prophet / The Doom of the Beast worshipers / A Vision of Armageddon