**Revelation 11 Study**

This chapter is heavily debated and there is a lot of differences in how to interpret it. There currently is no Temple today. There will be a new temple, but the court of Gentiles is left out. Much Smaller

**How many temples are listed in the Bible?** Some scholars say 2. Some say 9.

**1st temple and second temple in academic speak.**

1. **Tabernacle** – 1500 bc All the elements but it was mobile
2. **Solomon’s temple** –1080bc-586bc scholars say this was the first. David wasn’t allowed to build it because he killed people. Nathan originally said David could build it, then God told Nathan he was wrong so he had to tell David never mind. David threw a tantrum (2 Samuel 8). Solomon built it. Destroyed by Babylonians in Ezekiel by Nebuchadnezzar. Rubble for 70 years.
3. **2nd Temple** – 516 Zerubbabel, Ezra, Joshua, Nehemiah rebuilt it. **Ezra 3** – Built in a hurry because of attacks. The old people were mad because it wasn’t fancy. Young people were happy to have a temple.
4. **Herod’s Temple** – 19BC-completed 64 ad. Remodel. Herod wanted a good relationship with the Jews so he built/remodeled the old temple. He changed things so much it was hardly the same. It was under construction during Jesus. It was destroyed in 70AD. Most include this in the 2nd temple period.
5. **Jesus’ Body** – John 2 if you destroy this temple, I will raise it up.
6. **Body of Christ –** 1 Corinthians 3, Ephesians 2, Matthew 18:19-20. The Church is the Temple. The Body of Christ is the place where God dwells on Earth.
7. **Your Body** – 1 Corinthians you are the temple of the Holy Spirit.
8. **Tribulation Temple** – Yet to be built. No outer courtyard. Destroyed by the Gentiles. The current place of the temple has a huge open space that wont have room for the outer walls. This will be rebuilt during the 7 years of tribulation. Some think it will be completely destroyed.
9. **Ezekiel Temple** 40-48 – Built during the millennial Kingdom. Jesus himself will rule from this temple for 1,000 years. Real temple in Jerusalem. Some think this is a vision of the ancient temple. The problem is that this doesn’t look like Herod’s temple. There has never been a temple that looks like this temple. Its bigger and better than any other temples. But in some ways its not. Some say its figurative, some say its not its literal. There are a lot of details here so it seems physical and literal.

“temple of God” is a reference to the church.

3 Divisions of the Temple : Outer Court, Holy Place, Holy of Holies.

3.5 years could be symbolically referencing the suffering of Antiochus Epiphanes (June 168-Dec165) written about in 1 Maccabees

**V3** 2 Witnesses who prophecy/testify against the world. Their message against the world will not be received. The world will hate them for it.

Reminds of the plagues of Egypt & Elijah the prophet called fire down from Heaven. But just because they are references to these OT stories, doesn’t mean they cant also be literal… OT stories were literal and symbolic.

**V3** – Give power – God empowers these prophets.

Prophecy in the NT is different than it was in the OT JTB last “future” prophet

**1 Corinthians 12:28** – tells us what prophecy is like today. Comfort, encouragement, exhortation from God.

These guys will prophesy like the OT form – future telling.

**Theories on who they are:**

1. Olive Trees
2. Candlesticks

**Zachariah 4:2**

Zerubbabel & Joshua the priest here are struggling to build the temple and he receives this vision.

Candlestick-picture the menorah – with a lamp/bowl full of incense. They have golden pipes flowing into the bowls but these pipes are stuck into olive trees that are flowing oil into the candlesticks.

**Zechariah 4:5**

Oil speaks of the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit – they needed this encouragement. That the oil would not run out. Keep going, keep building this temple. This is an important message for the Revelation audience, keep going, don’t quit.

But these two are specific -

1260 Days – 3.5 years. According to the Jewish calendar (360 days-42 months)

Clothed in Sackcloth – For repentance & mourning. Brokenness & Repentance. Could also be camel hair like JTB. Camel fur was rough, so you turn it inside out so the fur is on your skin and the skin is on the outside as a sign of your repentance. Act of brokenness.

**V5** They breathe fire to kill people who oppose them.

**1 could be Elijah the prophet**

Of course there is 1 Kings 18 – God vs Baal & Baal didn’t show up so Elijah called down fire to kill the prophets.

**2 Kings 1:9** King went after Elijah because of this. Fire killed all 50

Play on words: man & fire “yiss” for man “iss” for fire. Its like a cute little poem.

**V11** – another 50 dead

**V13** – another 50 finally asked for mercy.

**-Causing droughts. Elijah did this too for 3.5 years.**

**James 5:17**

**JTB was linked to Elijah**

**Malachi 4:5 – last 2 verses in the OT**

Elijah needed to come before the messiah comes.

**John 1:19 – the priests asked JTB who he was.**

Not Elijah just one making the path for Jesus.

**Mark 9:11 – they asked Jesus about the Elijah prophecy.**

“has come, will come”

**Matthew 11:11-15 – talking about JTB**

**Matthew 17:10 – the disciples understood it was JTB**

“Spirit of Elijah”

Elijah was taken to heaven and didn’t die. Chariot of fire. Then the mantle was given to Elisha. It can be given to others. So either this is Elijah himself or this is a type of Elijah with his mantle on him.

**2nd guy Many say Moses**

**Transfiguration.**

Moses died, but in Jude verse 9 there is a weird circumstance around Moses’ death & body.

**Enoch also didn’t die. He walked with God, pleased God and was taken to heaven without dying. Jude also talked about Enoch.**

Moses Represents the Law - Elijah Represents the Prophets - Together they represent the OT.

Some think this is symbolic that it will be the Church in General. Christians in General or 2 denominations or something.

**V7** – When they finish the beast comes out.

**Unholy Trinity – Dragon (satan) Beast (antichrist) False Prophet (often referred to as antichrist)**

**V8** – dead in Jerusalem where Jesus was crucified. But not buried.

Egypt – picture of worldliness lack of faith

Sodom – Picture of Pride

**V8** “everybody will see this”

**V10** people are happy about it and celebrate their death.

This is the only time the word happiness is mentioned in the whole book.

**V11** Raised from the dead. Could be physical or spiritual.

If they are representative of the Church this could mean there is a great Revival and the church grows rapidly.

**V13** “7,000 people” Actually 7,000 people of reputation. The Greek says it is important people. Famous, powerful, reputable people.

The Earthquake is an indication that this section is finished.

**V14** Remember the 3 woes connected to the trumpets? This is the 2nd of the 3 woes/6th of 7 trumpets.

“soon” is a bad translation from the ESV (Tachu) its coming at a fast speed, with velocity.

**V15** 3rd woe is the 7th trumpet. It is an announcement of the Kingdom.

The Kingdom of this world – I think currently Satan is Prince of this World. John 12, John 14:30, John 16:11, Matthew 4 – Satan offers Jesus the Kingdoms of the world.

**V15** Jesus wins. He destroys his enemies.

**16-18** Respond to the announcement. Everyone praises God. Fell on their faces to worship God.

**V17-18** this is a summary what Jesus is coming to do.

**V18** and people aren’t happy about it.

Psalm 2 – This section should remind us of Psalm 2.

**19** This is a new temple we haven’t seen yet. Its in Heaven. The heavenly temple.

The Ark is the PRESENCE of God with his people. The physical presence of God, no veil, God’s presence in full. He is with his people once again.

The purpose of the Ark was for God’s presence to be with His people physically. But, the ark, the created item became the idol and was taken from Israel. They thought IT would help them win in battle, its all about the Ark so they took it into battle, they lost and the philistines took it.

**Jeremiah 3:16 – everyone will forget about the ark.**

Because God’s presence is with us in the Holy Spirit. And one day He will be with us in full.