

## Revelation 11:1-2

### "Weighing The Heart Of The Worshiper"

We're gonna wanna jump right into today's text so suffice it to say for now that we're currently in a parenthetical section of the book of Revelation between trumpet blast #6 & #7.

John has just partaken of an interesting meal as a mighty angel handed him a little scroll that was in his hand & told him to eat it. Well, John ate it! It was sweet as honey in his mouth but it made his stomach bitter. Such is the case w/the word of God, there is bitter sweet realities to God's word. Promises of forgiveness, everlasting life, God's protection, God's provision, Heaven & streets of gold; how sweet it is. Simultaneously there is the bitterness of judgment, eternal separation from God in unquenchable fire for all who've rejected J.C. & refused His grace & mercy; that's hard to stomach. God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that they wicked should turn from their ways & live. **God desires all men everywhere to come to repentance, if that weren't the case Christ wouldn't have come. Jesus could've easily stayed content on the throne of heaven & been completely just in doing so. But because of His love for us He came to us & died in our place that we might have a place in heaven w/Him...**

John was called off the sidelines of observation & into the place of participation. No longer was it time to spectate it was time to participate. He would prophesy again about many people, nations, tongues & kings. **Even so God calls us into the game; too many Christians are content to spectate but God wants you to participate. He has a plan for your life, there's a reason He's grabbed hold of you, the question is have you grabbed hold of that? Are you all in, running this race to win, for the glory of J.C.? Look at Ch 11.**

### Vs 1-2

Well, if you ever wonder why prophecy buffs insist that even though there hasn't been a temple in Jerusalem since 70 A.D. that another one *will be* rebuilt here's why. In order for John to measure a temple that will be in use in the midst of the Great Tribulation, it has to be rebuilt 1<sup>st</sup>. **This text presupposes a temple during this time period & John is told to measure it. However this isn't the only place that alludes to a temple being rebuilt, Daniel also prophesied of a sacrificial system in place when the antichrist rises to power and a holy place that he will desecrate which of course means a temple must be there.**

Leave Rev 11 & turn back in your bible to **Daniel Ch 9** (Vs 24-27) (Explain along the way)

So after the 7 & 62 weeks (or 69, 7 yr periods) Messiah would be cut off, but not for Himself.

(Meaning Jesus was crucified, but for no sin of His own, it was for us). Then the people of the prince who is to come (aka antichrist) shall destroy the city. Who destroyed the city? Rome, (this is one reason we realize the A.C. will arise out of/be affiliated w/Rome).

Now, between the 69<sup>th</sup> 7 yr period & the 70<sup>th</sup> 7 yr period, things were put on hold as it pertains to these 70-7 yr periods in which God would be dealing w/the nation of Israel. Jesus said He had other sheep not of that fold (in reference to Gentiles), that He would build His church. So we entered into the age of the church after the cross of J.C., the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost & the rest is history right? There's still one more 7 yr period determined that will bring an end to all things, bring in everlasting righteousness & all of that.

After the church is raptured God will again begin to deal w/Israel; & this prince who is to come (A.C.) will confirm a covenant w/Israel for 1 week (1, 7 yr period), but in the middle of that week (3 1/2 yrs into it) he will violate the covenant, force the sacrifices to come to an end & on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate. Which is to say he will commit an abomination so blasphemous that the Jews will scatter & his wrath will be poured out upon them in an unparalleled fashion. Paul tells us in 2 Thess Ch 2 that, that abomination will be to go into the holy of holies & there proclaim himself that he is God & demand to be worshiped as God. I say all that to say this, none of that can happen unless a temple is rebuilt.

Jesus Himself referred to it. The disciples asked Him what the sign would be that we are definitely at the end of the age & the sign of His soon return. He began to share some things w/them & He really sealed the deal w/this, *"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), 'then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.'"*<sup>1</sup> So Daniel said it, Jesus affirmed it & this text presupposes it. The temple *will be* rebuilt. Now, the church may or may not be here when that happens, it's not a huge structure that's demanded; it can be rebuilt in little to no time.

As a matter of fact John is told to leave out the court which is outside the temple & not even to measure it because it's been given to the Gentiles. How that translates in modern day vernacular (according to the way I see it unless something changes) is that it's the place where the Dome of the Rock Mosque is seated, it's Muslim territory.

<sup>1</sup> *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Mt 24:15-16). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

He says that they will tread the holy city (Jerusalem) under foot for 42 months (or 3 ½ yrs, taking us back to Daniels lingo, time, times & a ½ a time). Probably the *last* 3 ½ yrs after the a.c. commits the abomination that causes desolation & pours out his fury upon the Jews.

You see the contention over the temple Mt is that the Jews who desire to rebuild a temple contend that the Dome of the Rock is built over the place where the holy of holies should stand. But as you & I both know the Muslims will never allow their Mosque to be destroyed & should something like that happen, far from peace there will be a Jihad of global proportions!

However a physicist by the name of Asher Kaufman has an interesting theory that he developed in the early 1970's that would actually place the holy of holies in the temple some 330 feet north of the Dome of the Rock & even more recent (as recent as 2009) a man by the name of Ernest L. Martin has proposed a theory that might place it to the south (though I didn't do enough research to validate or invalidate his position). **Here's the point; be it to the north or the south, someone (namely the A.C.) will come in and negotiate a peace treaty that demonstrates the acceptable place of the holy of holies proper & that allows for the Dome of the Rock to remain as the outer court which is irrelevant to the Jews. A lot of Presidents have tried hard to negotiate peace but none have succeeded & none will. It's the A.C. who will barter that agreement.**

Ok. John is told to *measure* the temple of God, the altar of incense & even those who worship there. There's more than 1 biblical example of measuring. More than not the idea is that of ownership, protection & provision. You don't typically measure property that's not yours; but if you're purchasing it, it will be surveyed, lines drawn, boundaries demonstrated & all of that.

W/the measuring of this temple God is demonstrating the fact that He's the One in charge; He knows every detail of everything that's going on, none of it escapes His attention. You see the idea of rebuilding a temple (in certain respects) excites us as believers. Because we realize that it's fulfilling prophecy, that it signals the Lord's 2<sup>nd</sup> coming soon after & all of that. But it's not a good thing, because it denies the sufficiency of the sacrifice of J.C. **To want to make a sin offering through the blood of bulls & goats is to say that the blood of J.C. is not sufficient to cleanse us of sin, which is a slap in the face of God! Jesus said, "It is finished" but a temple says, "No it's not."**

Nonetheless God is still sovereign & very much aware of both the temple, the details pertaining *to* it & the “worshippers” found *in* it. Did you notice that? John is actually told to “measure” those who worship there in the temple. What’s that all about?

Well, it could be a couple of different things. It could be talking about #ing the people who are there, those who participate in seeking to worship God in this way. Though we often discourage #ing the amount of people that come to your church it’s not unscriptural to know the # of people. It could be argued that it *is* scriptural to know the # of people represented in your flock. The problem that’s presented & the point in not #ing is that it comes down to the motive of why you would want to # the people in the 1<sup>st</sup> place.

For instance perhaps you remember the situation; it’s found in 2 Samuel 24 when David told Joab to go & count the people throughout the land so that he might know the # of them. Joab was like, “Hey, may God add to your kingdom 100xs more than there are & my you see it w/your eyes, but why do you want to do this?” But David made him do it & once he did it David’s heart condemned him & he realized his sin & his sin brought about the death of 70,000 men. If you’re wonder how that sin cost all those men their lives you can look it up & read through it later; but know this, no one ever sins unto themselves. Our sin will always impact & infect people around us & many times people that may not even be directly connected to us.

But an interesting thing about that whole story is that David prayed that the Lord might w/draw the plague from the people & God had him buy the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite & place an altar there & make a sacrifice for his sin. Well, guess what that site ultimately became? The site for the building of the 1<sup>st</sup> temple.

So the reason we typically discourage #ing the people is because it’s not about our kingdom. Typically the reason someone wants to # their congregation is so that they can get a sense of how great their doing. Then it’s no longer about the Lord & the great work He’s done, but it’s about me & how many people I oversee & wield authority over or whatever. That’s sin. So we try to steer clear of that.

But that doesn’t mean God doesn’t know how many people or that God doesn’t # His people, He does. All throughout this book we’ve noted specific #s applied to people. Jesus said, *“What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying?”*

*And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”<sup>2</sup>*

Now I think we all would agree that if there were 100 of sitting here, or 99 of us sitting here, you couldn't tell the difference by simply looking at the group. You'd need to have an accurate count to know when 1 was missing.

You see it comes down to motive, are the #'s shown so that you get puffed up, or so as to properly tend to God's sheep? There's a big difference. It's a problem we face here all the time, we notice perhaps that people are missing, but because we don't have you check it each week in some fashion we don't always know who it is that may be gone. So it's hard to leave the 99 & seek the 1 when you don't realize which 1 it is that may be missing... It all comes down to motive, Jesus knows the # of those who are His & He knows when one of them goes astray.

So John may be #ing those who worship at the temple. Or he *could be* measuring the people in the sense of God is judging, measuring, weighing out the hearts of those who are worshipping Him. You see there's a manner in which God has prescribed that we're to worship Him. It's not through the sacrifice or the shedding of the blood of bulls & goats. It's not through religious rituals or various rites of legalism or traditionalism.

Perhaps you recall the scenario, we see it in John Ch 4. There Jesus is, He's tired, worn down physically so He sends His disciples into town ahead of Him & He kicks back for what seems to be a lil R&R at a well. It was about straight up noon & a lady comes to draw water from the well. Jesus says to this Samaritan woman, "Hey, give Me a drink." She says, "How is it You being a Jew ask me to give you a drink?" (Because traditionally Jews had no dealings w/Samaritans). Jesus said, "If you knew the gift of God, & who it is who says to you 'Give Me a drink' you would've asked Him, & He would've given you living water."

She said, "How would You propose to do that You don't have anything w/which to draw water?" He said, "Listen, whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst, But the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

She said, "Hey, I'll have some of that, then I won't have to come here & draw from this well anymore!" (She wasn't picking up what He was throwing down).

<sup>2</sup> The New King James Version. 1982 (Mt 18:12-14). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

So Jesus said, “Go, get your husband.” She said, “I don’t have a husband.”

Jesus said, “You’ve said well, ‘I have no husband,’ you’ve had 5 husbands & the man you’re living w/now isn’t your husband; in that you spoke truly.” She says, “Sir, I perceive You’re a prophet...” Jesus said, “Ya think!?” (No, He didn’t say that, I would’ve said that ☺). She said, “Our fathers worship on this Mt, You Jews say we’re to worship in Jerusalem, where are we really to worship?”

Check out what Jesus said. He said, *“Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*<sup>3</sup> Which is to say, genuinely & from the heart, right? It’s not about where I’m at physically, or my location geographically, it’s about the position of my heart personally, inwardly.

God is “measuring”, that is, weighing the hearts of those who worship Him. The heart of the matter is *always* a matter of the heart. He judges our character, He sees the real you, the real me. Remember the hand writing on the wall? You’ve heard the phrase, “The writing is on the wall”? How many of you realized that phrase roots from something that happened in the bible?

It’s found back in Daniel Ch 5. King Belshazzar made this great feast for 1,000 of his lords & when he started getting tipsy he gave the command to bring out the gold & silver vessels that his dad (Nebuchadnezzar) had taken from the temple in Jerusalem when he carried the Jews into captivity back to Babylon.

As they were all partying using the vessels of the temple, the fingers from a man’s hand appeared & began to write on the wall (at which time the king’s countenance changed [a great understatement of the bible] & he...soiled himself). He brought in all the soothsayers, all the wise men of Babylon, the astrologers, & he was trying to find someone who could interpret the “writing on the wall”. Finally someone mentioned an old man by the name of Daniel that his dad was blessed by back in the day & so Belshazzar called for him that he might give an interpretation to him.

<sup>3</sup> The New King James Version. 1982 (In 4:21–24). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



Let me cut to the chase. Daniel said, “The writing was sent from the God who holds your breath in His hand & owns all your ways, yet you have not glorified Him.”

Here’s what’s written, “Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin.” Here’s what it means, “God has #’d your kingdom, & finished it, You have been weighed in the balances, & found wanting, your kingdom has been divided & given to the Medes & Persians.”

Now I say all that to say this; God *weighs us in the balances*, He is searching our heart, He is measuring us to see if we measure up. Are we here seeking to worship in Spirit & truth; we’re singing, we’re getting into the word, but what’s happening in our heart, what’s happening in our mind?

W/our mouth we’re singing, w/our mind we’re thinking about all the stuff we need to do, or I hope service is short today. You see, is church nothing more than this day’s duty, simply routine, going through motions, if it is here’s the bad news, you’ve become religious... Religion is about rituals, routines, but there’s no relationship w/the Lord, no passion, no heart for Him in the midst of it.

You & me, we need to be here not so we can get our obligation over with, but so that we might cultivate & build upon our relationship w/J.C., so that we might fellowship w/the body of Christ. We want to establish an intimacy w/Jesus, we want to cultivate a passion that would spill out into us seeking Him devotionally w/regularity; that we might come before Him prayerfully & exalt Him corporately, collectively, in unity in this place...

God measures the heart of each man & each woman here; my prayer is that He finds hearts willing & wanting; open & actively worshipping Him in spirit & truth.

#### Prayer Points:

God we realize that according to Your word the day is coming when a temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem. However You have ordained that we as the body of Christ would be Your temple, that You would dwell in us & that You would call our heart Your home. That as living stones, we are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to You through Jesus Christ. As we’re weighed in the balance I pray that none here be found wanting, but rather worshipping You in spirit & truth. Teach us to worship You w/all that we are, not establishing a religion but building a relationship w/You.

The way that relationship is established is by faith in J.C. It’s not founded on something you do, but rather upon that which He has done for you through shedding His blood, giving His life, rising again from the dead so that you through faith in Him might be forgiven of your sin & find everlasting life in Him. If you’re ready to turn from your sin today, to place your trust in Jesus, you can be made brand new right here, right now. Don’t trust in religion, enter into a relationship w/J.C.