

SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 11:1-14 we are shown 5 truths concerning God's witnesses as they ministry in the inter-advent age.

- I. My witnesses are spiritually protected even though physically persecuted (vs. 1-2).
- II. My witnesses have my authority and message (vs. 3-6).
- III. My witnesses will appear to be defeated and their enemies will rejoice for a time (vs. 7-10).
- IV. My witnesses will receive their resurrection and eternal reward (vs. 11-12).
- V. My witnesses' message of judgment will begin to be fulfilled, though still only in part (vs. 13-14).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, September 9, 2018

Passage: Revelation 11:1-14

Memory Passage: Revelation 11:11-12

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 11:1-14, Ezek. 40:1-5, 43:1-12, Zech. 2:1-13, & Rev. 21:15-27.** Though the limited scope of this Discussion Guide renders it impossible to give you the full context of the OT passages, they both include the idea of measuring and stand behind Rev. 11:1-2 (and 21:15ff). In Ezekiel 40-48 we are shown a future temple, city, and land which are ready and fit for the eternal habitation of the glory of God. This contrasts the earlier temple as shown to Ezekiel in chapters 8-10 in which the sinful worship and idolatry of God's people were shown to be rampant, which leads to God's glory departing from the temple.

(b) What is the purpose of measuring in Ezekiel and Zechariah? What is the purpose of measuring in Revelation 21:15-27?

(c) What is the purpose of measuring in Revelation 11:1-2, and how do your observations above help you understand (don't forget to study the context, i.e. how chapter 11 connects with chapter 10)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 11:1-14.** What is the significance of measuring "the altar and those who worship there," and to whom does this refer?

(b) To what or whom do the following refer: (1) the court outside the temple, (2) the nations, (3) the holy city, and (4) 42 months?

(c) Now that you have identified the parts of the command (your answers to the last question), explain what the symbolism of v. 2 refers to in actuality.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 11:1-14.** Explain what the time designation "1,260 days" means (consider how this connects with 11:2, 11:11, 12:6ff, 13:5ff, and Daniel 7:25, 9:27 [remember the reference to the Ultimate Jubilee of 70 years in 9:24-27], 12:7, 11)

(b) Verse 3 contains the 6th of 7 appearances of the word "witness" in Revelation (cf. 15:5). To whom does it always refer?

(c) Why are God's witnesses dressed in sackcloth, and how does their mission ("prophecy") connect with the flow of Revelation, especially with the first half of this interlude in chapter 10?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 11:1-14.** As you read the following OT texts, record what you learn with regard to vs. 3-8 and how they help you understand the symbolism of this part of the vision: Exodus 7-10; Deuteronomy 19:15; 1 Kings 17:1; 2 Kings 1:10-12; Jeremiah 5:14; Daniel 7:19-28; Jonah 3:1-4; Zechariah. 3:1-5; 4:1-14; and (though not an OT text) Revelation 13:1-10.

(b) Who do these 2 witnesses represent, who are their enemies (vs. 7-10), and when do they prophesy?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Rev. 11:1-14.** How do these witnesses remind you of Jesus?

(b) To what do the numbers "three and a half days," "a tenth of the city," and "seven thousand people" refer?

(c) Does the glory given by those who were terrified but lived (v. 13) reflect true, voluntary repentance or forced repentance (cf. Philippians 2:9-11)?

(d) So much to cover, so little space! We find in these verses a picture of the saints eternally protected from their faith being shattered (v. 1) even though they will be persecuted, even unto death, on earth while they preach as God's witnesses (vs. 2-10), which is what John was shown by eating the scroll (chapter 10). It will even seem as though the enemy has won and God's witnesses have failed (vs. 7-10), but just as Jesus rose from the dead after 3 days the church will, when God redeems the full number of His people (chapter 7), be resurrected to eternal life (vs. 11-12) in the New Heavens and New Earth (chapters 19-21). Chapter 11 functions in the same manner as chapter 7: a picture of the people of God persecuted but protected on earth and eternally safe in God's presence.

(e) Because of space, I'll leave it to you to come up with your own questions and applications to discuss in Sunday school!

DATE: September 9, 2018

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Powerful, Persecuted, & Protected