

The Revelation

by Dr. Charles "Buddy" Parrish



Revelation 11:1-14

Vss. 1-2

- John is given a measuring rod. The single word for “measuring rod” literally means “reed”. Bamboo stalks would grow along the rivers and could rise to 10’ or more and such were used as measuring rods. A “rod” was a Jewish unit of measure equal to 6 cubits or about 9’.
- The purpose for measuring here is not repair or construction, but reconstruction. The Temple in Jerusalem has been destroyed some 20 years. But God here is concerned about the new Temple.
- Just as God’s people were protected by sealing in Ch. 7, so too will the measuring protect them here.
- The outer court of the Jerusalem Temple was the Court of the Gentiles. It is those who are not God’s people who are being excluded from the measuring here.
- The key here is to understand what by John’s time was meant by “The Temple” – we are the Temple of God. (1 Peter 2:4-5; Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 6:16).

Vss. 3-6

- Again, the purpose of any punishment by God is to turn people to Him. Here He sends 2 witnesses. Malachi 4:5 tells us that God will send Elijah back before the terrible Day of the Lord.
- The two messengers will prophesy for a time roughly equal to the 42 months of exclusion.
- They are clothed in sackcloth as theirs is a somber and terrible message.

- But who are they? Vs. 5 says fire flows out their mouths, destroying all who would harm them as with Elijah in 2 Kings 1:9-10. And vs. 6 says they can close off the rain as Elijah did in 1 Kings 17:1. Further it says that they will have the power to turn waters into blood and unleash plagues on the earth as Moses did in Egypt. Perhaps, the two witnesses are the two who appeared with Jesus on the mountain: Moses and Elijah.

Vss. 7-14

- The two witnesses will faithfully preach for their allotted time and then the beast from the abyss will come to make war on them and kill them. They will be killed in Jerusalem, but here the city is referred to as Sodom and Egypt, cities of immorality and paganism. Jerusalem has slain Christ, now the great city kills His witnesses.
- The people will celebrate the death of the witnesses and treat their bodies as the bodies of unclean criminals, leaving them to lie in the streets. But on the 3rd day they will rise, God having given them the breath of life, and they will stand and be seen, causing great fear among all who rejected their message and celebrated their death. Then a loud voice from heaven for all to hear will call to them to come up and their enemies would watch as they rose into heaven.
- To add their fear, a huge earthquake strikes, killing 10% of the people, some 70,000.
- But, the end result of the sacrifice of the witnesses and their resurrection and ascension is that the people who were once enemies now gave glory to the God of Heaven.
- But this was just the second woe....