

## THIS BEGINS THE INTERLUDE BETWEEN SIXTH & SEVENTH TRUMPET JUDGEMENTS:

### **CHAPTERS 10 & 11:1-14:**

In these two chapters there are three very important 'beings' introduced both (heavenly & human), but not specifically identified. However, remember these two chapters are being inserted to provide us, the reader, with more details about what is going on during this time period. What we have been calling an interlude chapter. I am fairly sure that most of what is recorded in these two chapters is happening on planet earth, except for chapter 11: 15-19 which is in heaven.

### **CHAPTER 10:**

I know I have said that chapter 10 is an interlude chapter but it is only an interlude in terms of being descriptive of events that will be going on between the sixth and seventh trumpet judgment. My primary reasons for believing that chapter 10 is a continuation of John's vision and not a flash back or more detail description of some previous event is based on the following: First → The way John opens chapter 10, NIV, "**Then I saw**" Greek Translator, "**And I saw another...**" indicating there was no break in his vision between chapter 9 and the start of chapter 10, Second → The actual content of chapter 10. However, I would not want to be dogmatic about this issue, just my opinion!

Now we will review the major points of chapter 10.

Verse 1:

**"Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars."**

There are two views about the identity of this “mighty angel”; 1) the angel is Jesus Christ, or 2) just another of Gods very powerful angel from heaven.

- 1) First view, the angel is Christ. I will list some of the reasons that some scholars hold this view.
  - a) They believe that in the Old Testament Jesus Christ often came to men as an angel of the God. They use scriptures like, Gen. 16:7, 22:11; Exod.3:2; Num. 22:22 to support their opinion.  
Note: I think we need to keep in mind that once Jesus came to earth as a man and died on the cross, rose from the dead in three days and ascended into heaven and now sets at the right hand of God the Father to the best of my knowledge Jesus Christ is never again mentioned as an angel but as the Lamb of God. Again please keep in mind the role of each being or spirit within the trinity at each point in time or history. I am sure that at this point in time Jesus Christ position in heaven and the created universe is **‘KING’**. I think Revelations clearly defines Jesus Christ position in Rev. 1:17-20 and Rev. 19: 11-21.
  - b) They believe that much of the descriptions listed in the later portion of verse 1 and verse 2 fit that of Christ.
- 2) **“He was robed in a cloud”** They refer to Matt. 24:30, **“...the Son of man coming on the clouds of the sky,”** which does indicate that Christ will return in a cloud. However, we need to be clear that the words in Matt. 24:30 is talking about Christ second coming at the end of the seven year tribulation period and that is not what this verse is talking about.
- 3) **“...with a rainbow above his head,”** They believe this describes Jesus Christ in two ways, 1) the rainbow was given by God to bring comfort to men in future generations, 2) Rev. 4:3 is talking about Jesus Christ and uses the word rainbow to describe the colors surrounding his throne. However, there does not seem to be any direct correlation between these verses and the one in chapter 10.
- 4) **“...his face was like the sun”** They believe that this is the same description used in Rev. 1:16, **“His face was like the sun shining...”**

- 5) "...and his legs were like fiery pillars." They also refer to Rev. 1:15, "His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace," again seems to be a very similar description of Jesus Christ legs.
- 6) Many scholars down through the years have attached specific meanings to individual words or word phases. I will list some of these that are in this verse:
  - a) "robed in clouds" → God uses "clouds" as a method of transportation
  - b) "rainbows" → God uses "rainbows" to indicate 'crest of divinity' or Gods 'covenant with man'
  - c) "sun" → glory
  - d) "legs were like fiery pillars." → indicating 'stability, firmness power' and 'strength'

Conclusion:

I agree that many of these words used in Rev. 10:1 could and used to describe Christ; however, I have three big problems with accepting this view.

- 1) Verse 1 opens by stating that John saw "another mighty angel" indicating that this angel was just "another" of the many mighty and very powerful angels that reside or live in heaven waiting to do God the Fathers work.
- 2) Based on all of the words in scripture we know there is 'NO OTHER LIKE JESUS CHRIST' so 'HE-JESUS CHRIST' could not be just 'ANOTHER' of anything!
- 3) At this point in time Christ is the undisputed ruler of creation and the universe until the new heaven and the new earth are created by God the Father. See Revelation Chapter 1 & Rev. 19:11-21 & Rev. 20:1-10 also read all of Revelation Chapter 22.

To me there is no question that this is truly "another mighty angel" but NOT JESUS CHRIST because at this point in time he is the King of all of Creation.

Verse 2:

“He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,”

There are a variety of opinions by many well respected Biblical Scholars as to the meaning of this verse. I will list below the three leading opinions as to the identity of the “little scroll”.

- 1) Some scholars believe this is the same little scroll that is identified in Rev. 5:1, which contains the seven seal judgments.
- 2) Some scholars believe that this is the same scroll mentioned in Dan.12:4, “But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end.” which was also sealed by God until the time of the end just as they believe the scroll will be in verse 4.
- 3) Others believe that because John used the word “little” to identify the scroll, it is of little importance compared to the rest of the words written in Revelations. Note: I think this view can be discounted given all words in the Bible are important.

### **ANALYSIS of VERSE 2:**

#### **Point one:**

The scroll in Daniel 12:4, was sealed by God and we assume, based on the surrounding topic, would have described events that would take place during the end times period, which God elected not to share with humanity at the time of its writing. However, we know for sure that the ‘seven seal scroll’ in Rev. 5:1 has already been opened by Jesus Christ himself, see Revelations chapter 5. Also chapter 5 describes where Christ takes the scroll from the hands of God the Father and in Revelations chapter 6 Christ opens six of the seven seal judgments. Now, take note of the fact that the scroll in Rev. 10:2 “lay open in his hands.” This scroll has already been opened, however, if you look closely at verse 4, you will

find that only the words spoken by the seven thunders are being sealed and not the scroll. Therefore, many scholars believe the seven sealed scroll being talked about in chapter 5 & 6 is most likely the scroll being talked about in Daniel and not this scroll in Revelations chapter 10.

Also, keep in mind when reading Revelations chapter 10 it is an interlude chapter which is normally explaining in more detail something that has already happened. Again remember these are just men's opinions you will need to make up your own mind about these words.

#### Point two:

“He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,” I think the meaning to this verse is simple; God is sending one of his “mighty angels” to begin the process of reclaiming his earth. God has told man that we/man are just being allowed to rule over and live on this earth as long as God permits. Ps. 8:6-8, “You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all the flocks and herds, and the beast of the fields, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the sea.” However, God has also made it very clear that this is just a tenant relationship, Lev. 25:23 makes this very clear, “The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants.” Note this verse is specific to the land grant of Israel. However, Ps.24:1, “The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it;” is specific to the entire world. Again man is an ‘alien or tenant’ as it relates to ownership of the earth. Not sure how this would set with the environmentalists and mother earth people given God makes it very clear that he will do with the earth as he pleases, Rev. 21:1, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and earth had passed away,”. Also, I think it will make these people very unhappy to find out that God also owns, “the world and all who live in it.” I think this is strong evidence that God is also the **CREATOR**, Gen. 1:1

#### Point three:

My last point on this verse is that if the “mighty angel” of verse 1 was Christ, then this verse would indicate that this event, “He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land...” was the Second Coming of Christ, followed by the battle of Armageddon and then the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. And none of these events happen in the remainder of this chapter. This event does not occur until Rev. 19:11-21; therefore, this angel is not Jesus Christ. Also, Zechariah describes the ‘second coming event’ in Zech. 14:4, “On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives will split in two from east to west forming a great valley, with half the mountain moving north and half moving south.” I think it is obvious that these are two different events based on the words used in the two scriptures describing these two events. Also, note at the ‘second coming’ of Jesus Christ his feet do not touch the ‘sea’.

Verse 3-4:

“...and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted the voices of the seven thunders spoke. And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down’.”

There are many scholars who believe that the first part of verse three, “...and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion”, is additional evidence that this “Mighty angel” in verse one is Jesus Christ. Again there is no question that there are many places in scripture where Jesus Christ is described as a lion, Rev. 5: 5, “See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” However, this mighty angel is not a “LION” he is only sounding “LIKE the roar of a lion”. I will share with you my thoughts as follows:

- 1) That the “mighty angel” in verse, 1 who was sent from heaven, again is just “another” of Gods ‘mighty angels’. We have already discussed this earlier in this chapter.

- 2) Who then “planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land”, thereby beginning the process of reclaiming the earth for God; given this is not Christ Second Coming, which will complete this process. These same words are also mentioned in verses 5 & 8 of this chapter. Also this same concept of “land and sea” is used in Rev. 5:13 & Rev. 7:1-3 & Rev. 12:12 & Rev. 14:7, so you can see this is not a concept that is only used one time in the Book of Revelation.
- 3) Now the “mighty angel...gives a loud shout like a lion” or “like” someone would if they were announcing to everyone in heaven that God was about to speak. I know that the one doing the ‘shouting’ is not God the Father or Jesus Christ in these verses but I like this passage in Hosea 11:10 as I think it is a good lead in to what the relationship will be between God the Father and his people ‘the Jews’ during this period, “They will follow the Lord; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west.” However, keep in mind that this verse is talking about the relationship that will exist for all of Gods children when we are in heaven.
- 4) God now speaks, “the voice of the seven thunders spoke”, I do not think that there is any question about the fact that God is speaking given the description and especially using the number “seven”. Other examples of this type of description are as follows: Job: 26:14, And these are but the outer fringes of his work; how faint the whisper we hear of him. Who then can understand the thunder of his power?” Job 37: 4 “...he thunders with his majestic voice”; Job 37: 5, “Gods voice thunders in marvelous ways”, Psalms 18:13, “The Lord thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounds.” also, Psalms chapter 29 speaks about ‘the seven voices of the Lord’. We can read chapter 29 in class to gain a better understanding of the ‘seven voices’. Last, 1 Samuel 7:10, “While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the Lord thundered with a loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites.” I really like this verse!

- 5) Next John was about to write what God said, “**And when the seven thunders spoke I was about to write;**” John is about to act or write as he had previously been doing and actually commanded.
- 6) But God said do not write what you have heard, “**but I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.’” Many scholars have provided many opinions about the meaning of these words; however I do not think any of them adequately support their view. Therefore I will share with you my opinion on this particular part of verse 4. Also, I am not 100% sure about even my interpretation, however, my opinion and reasoning is as follows;**
- a) In the Book of Daniel we are told twice that Daniels vision is to be ‘sealed up’ until some future time or the ‘time of the end’ so it would appear that this is not the same message as the one talked about in Daniel, Dan. 9:26, “**The vision of the evening and the morning that has been given you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future.”** And in Dan. 12:9, He replied, **‘Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end.’** However, there are many scholars who believe these two scriptures in Daniel are in some way related to this one in Revelations. To me this does not seem reasonable given we are now in the ‘Seven Year Tribulation Period’ and “**...voice from heaven...**” continues to say “**Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.**”
- b) Deut. 29:29 tells us that God has not revealed to man everything he/God knows, “**The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.**” Therefore, it is possible that our verse is somehow part of the “**secret thing**” that “**belong to the Lord our God**”.
- c) However, Jesus Christ tells us in John 16:12 that there is more he wants to tell us but currently (they—we) could not bear the truth without the guidance of the Spirit. “**I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you in to all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me**

by taking from what is mind and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mind. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mind and make it known to you.” Jesus is also stating that what God the Father knows he/Jesus Christ knows and the Spirit will help us/the saints understand. Also, keep in mind that during the time of Daniel the Holy Spirit was not functioning in the same capacity as it does when the church is on the earth.

- d) We also know that in Revelations 22:10 Jesus/Christ tells us the following, “Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.” Therefore, the real question is why would the words of the seven thunders be sealed up?

My conclusion is I have no idea why the words of the seven thunders were sealed up, unless the words were about something else other than the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which is the topic of Revelations, Rev.1:1 or the words would have been so harsh to the ears of men that God decided not to share them with his creation or they were “secrets of God” or they were meant for some later period like the: millennial reign of Jesus Christ on earth or even the period of Satan’s doom or the period of the creation of the New Jerusalem and New Heaven & Earth. Again, I guess we will just have to wait until we get to heaven and ask!

Verses 5-7:

“Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. And swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it and the sea and all that is in it, and said, **“There will be no more delay!”** But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, **the mystery of God will be accomplished**, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”

There are several points which I think need to be clarified in these two verses, which are as follows;

- 1) Notice that verse 5 opens up with the word **“Then”** meaning the next events which John recorded in his vision are in chronological order and happened after verses 1-4.
- 2) John then states that the **“angel I have seen standing on the sea and the land”** meaning the **“mighty angel”** of verse 1, **“raised his right hand to heaven. And swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it and the sea and all that is in it...”** meaning the ‘creator’ of everything. Also, meaning that this **“mighty angel”** could not have been Christ as he was part of creation and the trinity, Gen. 1:26. I think it is also worth noting that the **“mighty angel”** of verse 1 who God the Father sent to begin the ‘reclaiming’ process of **“sea and land”** has now expanded the reclaiming process to **“all that is in them”**. The people of the earth at this point in time will know for sure that these events are being implemented and controlled by God but refuse to ‘repent’, see Rev. 9:20-21.
- 3) John then records that the **“mighty angel”** states that his oath or what he swore too his ‘creator’ was that **“there would be no more delay”** meaning no more delay between the sixth trumpet judgment and the seventh trumpet judgment, as recorded in Rev. 11:15. Verse 7 makes this very clear.
- 4) Again, I believe that verse 7 makes it very clear that God is going to tie up all of the loose ends to his current creation. However, I am only making an assumption given the Bible does not clearly state what this verse really means. However, I will try to provide you with some biblical concepts and scripture that I hope will stimulate your thinking on this verse. Rev. 10:7, **“But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet”**  
Remember when the seventh angel sounds the seventh trumpet the results of this is the beginning of the seven bowl judgments and when these judgment s are concluded – Christ returns to take control of the earth for 1,000 years.
- 5) **“...the mystery of God will be accomplished”** Again I am making assumptions but I think God will bring to a conclusion all of the loose ends or events which have not been completed as the Bible states in prophecy. I will try to list some of the bigger ones that come to mind.

- a) completion of Daniels 70<sup>th</sup> week
- b) answering the prayers of the martyred saints in Rev. 6:10
- c) conformation that God is the creator not evolution
- d) God will address the issue of why he allowed evil to prosper and address this issue → in terms of bring judgment to unrepentant sinners
- e) God will address the issue of why he has allowed his saints to suffer at the hands of evil
- f) the reward that God promised his church will be realized
- g) evil will be judged
- h) God will give the men living after Jesus Christ return a chance to live without the influence of Satan
- i) Satan's reign will be ended, this will occur in two separate events; once for 1,000 years and the second will be for all of eternity
- j) time will become finite at the return of Jesus Christ as at this point it will be limited to 1,000 years
- k) at this point mortal man will also be limited to 1,000 years

You get the idea. God will conclude his plan for man and the earth just as he gave it to his prophets to record it in the Bible, "just as he announced to his servants the prophets". Again this is just my opinion.

Verses 8-11:

"Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey." I took the little scroll from the angels hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.""

To me there is no question that God is using symbolism in these three verses to convey to us a message. However, I believe that in the physical sense, to John “the little scroll” did taste sweet; and it did actually “turn his stomach sour”, which is the ‘symbolism’ that God was using to convey the meaning of these verses to John and all future readers. I will try to point out some of the facts that can be gleaned from these verses, as well as, explain the symbolism as best I can.

- 1) Verse 8 starts with the word, and “Then” indicating that what is to follow is the next step in the chronological order of events that John is recording during this interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpet. However, keep in mind this does not necessarily mean it is the next thing happening on earth or in heaven it is just the next thing John is recording in his vision.
- 2) Verse 8 then states, “...the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more...” meaning, John is now being spoken to by the “voice” that he had heard in verse 4, “...but I heard a voice from heaven say...” this voice now commands John to, “Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.”. It would appear that John is now back on earth given the “mighty angel” is standing on the sea and land.
- 3) Verse 9 opens with John taking action, “So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll.” I think it is worth noting that John only asks or requests that the “little scroll” be given to him. He did not demand or command that the “little scroll” be given to him even though it was probably God who was telling him to take the “little scroll” out of the hand of the “mighty angel”. Given John continues to fall on his face before the other characters in Revelations I believe he now understands how ‘powerless’ he and the rest of men really are within God’s Tribulation plan.
- 4) In the middle part of verse 9 the “mighty angel” gives John a command, “He said to me, ‘Take it and eat it.’”
- 5) In the last part of verse 9 the “mighty angel” then informs John of what the results will be, “It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.” I will discuss in more detail the meaning of “sweet and sour” at the end of this chapter.

- 6) In verse 10 John confirms what the “mighty angel” had prophesied, “I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour.” Again, this should be no surprise given all of Gods words, whether directly from him or one of his angels is always true and 100% correct just as stated.
- 7) Then verse 11 again starts out with the word “Then” indicating that this was the next chronological event in John’s vision within chapter 10 or the interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpet. In this beginning portion of verse 10 John states, “Then I was told, ‘You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.’”. Note: John has now been commanded by heaven to “again” begin his prophecy. To me this is another indicator that chapter 10 was an interlude chapter providing us the reader with more details about the events between the opening of the ‘Sixth and Seventh Trumpet Judgment’.
- 8) The last part of verse 11 tells us two things:
  - a) First that God is letting John and men know that there is more prophesy to come. We know this because verse 11 states, “You must prophesy ‘again’”. Meaning there is more to come. Actually there are 11 more chapters of prophecy in the Book of Revelation and they all should be considered prophecy!
  - b) The command that John received was very specific about who John will be prophesying to and about, “about many peoples, nations, languages and kings.” Notice that all of John’s next prophecies will be directed toward objects in the plural; peoples, nations, languages and kings. I think that if you look at the list closely you will notice that it includes the entire earth and all who live within it. See Rev. 10:6b, “...who created the heavens and all that is within them, the earth and all that is in it and the sea and all that is in it...”

NOTE: Again in terms of earthly timing I believe that we are at approximately the mid-point of the seven year tribulation period.

## **ANALYSIS of → SWEET vs. SOUR/ BITTER:**

First let me say that this type of request by God is not uncommon to the scripture. As a matter of fact it has been very common for people all down through time to talk about digesting information. Therefore, the symbolic meaning of this is simple; the people doing the digesting are receiving some type of information or knowledge. Again this type of request or terminology is not uncommon in the scripture.

- 1) Jer. 15:16, “When your words came, I ate them; they were joy and my hearts delight.”
- 2) Prov. 16:24, “Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.”
- 3) Ps. 119:103, “How sweet are thy words to my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth.” KJV
- 4) In Matthew 4:4, Jesus said “It is written; ‘Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”
- 5) The most telling example I think comes from the book of Ezekiel. In Ezekiel chapter 3 God is sending this same sweet vs. sour/bitter message. We will read all of chapter 3 in class to get the full impact of what Ezekiel is telling us.

## SUMMARY: of the meaning of → “Sweet vs. Sour/Bitter”

I believe that there are many attributes that God is trying to convey to the reader both past and all down through time. As to the full meaning of this issue; I will try to list some of the more important.

- 1) I believe the ‘sweetness’ is in the fact that John now knows that God is about to reclaim his earth, Rev.10:2 also Rev.19:11-21, and that all saved people or saints will live with God and Christ in paradise throughout eternity in the very near future, about 3 ½ more years to be exact. Rev.20:6 and Rev. chapters 21 & 22

2) However, he was also provided with other pieces of information, which I believe speaks to the 'bitter' portion of this verse.

a) John and all of humanity is now being made aware of the fact that, "There will be no more delay". Rev. 10:6b I think speaks to this issue that there will be no more delay between the completing of the sixth trumpet and the blowing of the seventh trumpet which begins the last seven bowl judgments, and then the 'Second Coming of Jesus Christ'. It also starts the final portion of God judging sinful men and planet earth.

b) Second, John was also provided with another very important piece of information, Rev. 10:7, "But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets." I believe that God has decided that this mystery which he had previously elected to keep to himself, up until now → God will now make known to all of humanity that this 'SEALED UP SECRET' is → humanities days remaining in which they can be saved are now numbered. Up until this peculiar time in the history of the world (the writing of this book) God had not exposed man to the facts of when the world would end. God through the writings of John in the Book of Revelations has now made that fact know for all men to know and act upon as their heart leads. There is also a second part to this mystery and that is God is also making it known to all men and Satan that Satan's days are also numbered. Many men all down through time have asked the question: Why did God allow Satan to cause the fall of man and cause some much pain to all of Gods creation? To get the answer to this question I think we will need to ask God when we get to heaven. However, it is my opinion that God only allowed Satan to "temp" men to fall into sin. Again Satan was only allowed to "temp' men not force men to sin. It was man's choice to make and he made the wrong choice and fell into sin. I think this is called 'freewill'.

There have been many attempts by scholars to associate this issue of a 'sealed up secret' to other referenced in scripture about a 'sealed up secret'. Like the words we just read, Rev. 10:4, "And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I was heard a voice from

- heaven say, 'Seal up what the seven thunders said do not write it down'." This view to me does not make sense; why would God say "seal up" what John was hearing in verse 4 and then give the answer in verse 6, "There will be no more delay" again God never communicated with man in a confusing way! However, I believe that this scripture is somehow associated with scripture in the Book of Daniel. I will provide some examples of scripture that I believe are associated with this issue:
- 1) Dan. 8:26, "The vision of the evening and the morning that has been given to you is true, but seal up the vision, for it concerns the distant future."
  - 2) Dan. 12:4, "But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end." Dan. 12:9, "He replied, 'Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end.'" It appears to me that God through his prophets and scripture is now making all things known to all men. I think Rev. 22:10 makes this point very clear, "Then he told me, 'Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near'." Again, I believe that God through Johns writing, the Book of Revelation, is making every mystery known to man that God intends for man to know prior to his saints seeing him in heaven. Just my opinion!
- c) Last, John and all men are now being made aware of the fact that the next three and one half years will be the worst the world has ever seen since the beginning of the world.
  - d) Conclusion; if you add up from above: a) + b) + c) **it does equal a very 'bitter' situation for the men living during this time period.**

## **CHAPTER 11:**

Chapter 11 continues with the interlude between the sixth and seventh Trumpets and is divided into four major thought processes:

- 1) Establishing the date for ending, **'The Time of the Gentiles'**, Rev. 11:1-2, which is followed by the Second Coming of Christ.

- 2) Establishing the time in which the two witnesses will prophesy and have power over the earth, Rev. 11:3-12.
- 3) The great earthquake and the end of the 'Second Woe', Rev. 11:13-14.
- 4) The sounding of the seventh trumpet which creates two additional events;
  - a) Heaven states that the process of God/Christ re-claiming the earth has begun.
  - b) The Temple of heaven was opened exposing the Ark of the Covenant and natural disasters on earth.

## **CHAPTER 11:**

Verses 1-2:

"I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, 'Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. But exclude the outer court: do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months'."

There are several points which I believe need to be clarified in these two verses. They are as follows:

- 1) John vision is now occurring back on earth, in Jerusalem. Also remember this would be prophetic. We know this because it is speaking about the "Gentiles" at the physical temple of God on earth.
- 2) I think we can say for sure that at this point in time the 'Temple' has been rebuilt in Jerusalem, given John is going to measure it and you cannot measure what is not physically there. I believe that this is the same temple that Satan will sit in at the mid-point in the seven year tribulation period.
  - a) The prophet Daniel makes this very clear in, Dan.9:27, **He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven', but in the middle of that 'seven' he will put an end to that sacrifice and offering. And one who causes desolation will place abomination on a wing of the temple, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.**" Daniels point is further clarified by Christ in Matthew 24:15, **"So when you see standing in the holy place**

‘the abomination that causes desolation’, spoken of by Daniel – let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judah flee to the mountains.”

Note: In Daniel 9:27, Daniel makes the following statement, “And one who causes desolation will place abomination on a wing of the temple...” I believe that there is a strong possibility that this statement is referring to what is being spoken of in Rev. 13: 14-15, “He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the first beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived. He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.” To me this would truly be the ultimate act that Satan could do to offend God. Think about it for a minute, Satan would be setting up an image or statue of himself in God’s rebuilt temple, then bringing saved people into the temple and if they will not reject God and accept Satan the image literally kill them in Gods rebuilt temple. This would seem to me to be the ultimate insult to God. Just and opinion!

A second piece of information relating to this issue is that many scholars believe that the third temple will be destroyed by Christ when he returns, Zech. 14:4, “On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great vally, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.” They also believe that the forth temple, where Christ will rule for 1,000 years, will be built in Shiloh where the tabernacle resided for about 400 years, (1450-1050 BC). The story about how the Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant, for about 7 months, and then returned it because of the judgment God brought on their land is detailed in 1 Samuel 4-6. I will try to summarize the both the history and future of the ‘Temple of God’, as follows:

- b) The first temple was built in 957 BC by King Solomon and destroyed by the Babylonians in 587BC.
- c) The second temple was started in 538BC and completed in 515 BC, (Prophets involved Ezra and Nehemiah). It was expanded by Herod in the first part of the first century AD and destroyed by Rome in 70 AD.

- d) The third temple will be built during the seven year tribulation period and destroyed by Christ at his return at the end of the tribulation period.
  - e) The fourth temple will be built most likely at Shiloh or Jerusalem at the Second Coming of Christ to rule for 1,000 years.
  - f) The building of a third and fourth temple are future events given John wrote Revelations in about 95 AD which is after the second temple was destroyed.
  - g) Paul also makes this same point in 2Thessalonians 2:3-4, **“Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed the man doomed to destruction. He opposes and exalts over everything that is called God or is worshiped, and even sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God.”**
- 3) I believe that the **“reed”** that was given to John and the command **“Go”** was given by the same **“mighty angel”** in Rev. 10:1. The ‘mighty angels’ command was very specific and contained within it ‘three’ sub-commands, which are as follows:
- a) In scripture a **“reed”** is traditionally used as a device to measure something. See Ezek.40:3, KJV, which again speaks about measuring the new temple.
  - b) **“Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there.”** This command appears to be directed at the things of God.
  - c) **“But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles.”** This command appears to be directed at the things possibly not of God. There are a group of scholars today who believe that this verse was inserted by God so that the temple could be rebuilt without having to destroy Islam’s Temple, The Dome of the Rock. They base this on a study that says that the Dome of the Rock Temple is built on the original sit of the outer court of the Jewish Temple; therefore the Holy of Holies portion of the Jewish Temple would be to the east. A study was done by Asher Kaufman, a professor of physics at the Hebrew University who believes the archeological evidence put the

original temple about 26 meters north of the Dome of the Rock Temple. His evidence is that the original Jewish Temple lined up with the east gate. If he is correct then the Jewish Temple could be rebuilt leaving the Dome of the Rock Temple undisturbed because it would be in the place where the Court of the Gentiles should have been. Remember John's statement says, "...**exclude the outer court**". If Kaufman's calculations are correct it would certainly make things much easier for the Jewish Temple to be rebuilt without a major war, however, all of these theories are just assumptions.

There are other scholars who believe that the statement "**But exclude the outer court, do not measure it...**" speaks to a group of people who outwardly profess God but who really are not saved and therefore God has abandoned. This view appears to be very weak to me give the point in time we are speaking about → 'The Seven Year Tribulations'.

- d) "**They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.**" I believe that God through John's vision is telling us or **defining for all mankind and Satan that the ending date for 'the time of the Gentiles' has been set and it is 42 months from Satan's action to set himself up as God in the temple in Jerusalem.** Luke also clarifies this in Luke 21:24, **Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the time of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**
- e) Last we know that the words "**holy city**" is referring to Jerusalem because that is the city of God. Also God states that he is going to allow the gentiles to rule over it for 42 months, which will be the last half of the seven year tribulation period. This is referenced or prophesied in Dan. 9:27, **He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven', but in the middle of that 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering.** Also, this event is referenced in Luke 21:24, **They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**

### Other Opinions:

There are other scholars who interpret these two verses as follows" They equate the word "**rod**" in verse 1 to the rod of a shepherd which is used, 1) for

'punishment' or 'judgment', and they use Psalm 2:9 as a basis for their view, "You will break them with a rod of iron...", 2) as well as, for comfort, Psalm 23:4, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Based on the 'punishment' and 'comfort' view they believe that these two verses are saying that salvation is possible for all men, based on the 'comfort' portion of their view but is limited to 42 months. I believe that this is a good example of people putting scripture together that speaks about a universal biblical truth but does not apply to this specific scripture. Also note that verse 1 say's, I was given a reed LIKE a measuring rod..." meaning the "reed" was not an actual "rod" but only something similar to a "rod".

#### Overview:

I agree with the many scholars who believe that God is telling or communicating to man and Satan that he is getting ready to change the ownership or control of His/Gods Temple, ( excluding the outer court but only for the next "42 months"). Remember John was told only to measure the Holy place and the Holy of Holies and count the worshipers on this side of the temple not the worshipers in the outer court, which will all be unsaved people. This process of measuring has been done before:

- 1) In Ezekiel 40-48, Ezekiel is told to measure the future Millennial Temple.
- 2) In Zechariah 2:1-6 Zechariah is told to measure the city.
- 3) In Jeremiah 31:38-39 Jeremiah is told to measure the New Jerusalem of the Millennium.
- 4) In Revelations 20 and angel is told to measure the New Jerusalem of eternity.

The bottom line is this same process has happened before. This to me is just another precursor statement made my God as to the: **'What will happen in the future and the time frame in which it will happen'**.

## **RE-CAP of the PURPOSE of the BOOK of REVELATIONS:**

Just so we can all stay on the same thought process I would like to re-cap why I believe the Book of Revelations was written.

- 1) So that God can fulfill the **'Seventh Week of Daniels'** seventy week prophecy → In which God will again deal directly with Israel, Dan. 9:20-27.
- 2) The 'God of Creation' giving mankind one last chance to repent and be saved before his Christ returns and judges all men who are living on that day, Rev.19:21. All men need to understand that on that day you will either be in one of two categories, 1) saved and you will live for 1,000 years with Christ and then in to the millennium and then in to heaven with Christ and God the Father, (children born during this 1,000 years period will have the chance to accept Jesus Christ as savior and be saved or reject him and be lost for eternity), 2) or if unsaved at the 'Second Coming of Jesus Christ' you will be condemned to hell for all of eternity. Note: remember that all people living during most of the seven year Tribulation period will know for sure that, 1) **there is a God** and, 2) **that it is him who is judging them and the earth during this period**, "Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hide in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They call to the mountains and the rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?'" Rev.6:15-17. I think it is worth noticing that the men living at this time will realize that these judgments are coming from both God the Father and his Lamb. To me this means that there is no question in anyone's mind that the Jesus was the Christ and the Lamb of God. Again, this means everyone on the face of the earth will know this to be a fact. I think this is a big deal as it relates to the history of man's continuous rebellious actions. **How do you think this compares with man's attitude and actions today, as it relates to their relationship with 'THE GOD OF CREATION'?**

- 3) I think God the Father is communicating to all of creation, to include, 1) heaven, 2) earth, and 3) hell, and all who live in them → that at the end of the seven year Tribulation period He → God the Father is going to physically re-claim and take direct control of 'all' that he has created. To me this means that as of the very moment Christ sets foot on the earth, at his second coming, there will be no question, to all of creation, who is in control and rebellion will no longer be tolerated. I base my opinion on my understanding of the words actually written in the Book of Revelations. I have summarized the Book of Revelations below as proof about this point:
- a) In Rev. 1:1 God starts out by giving the reader these words, **"The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servant what, must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John..."** These words are directed at all of mankind but especially at his 'saints' those that will be saved during this seven year period because when they read the words in the Book of Revelation and all scripture for that matter, they will **'Read and have GREAT HOPE and ASSURANCE during this very evil and harsh time'**. God's words are always **'TRUSTWORTHY & TRUE'**.
  - b) In Revelations chapters 2 & 3 Christ speaks to the seven churches → pointing out areas where they are not meeting his expectations and also praising them for service or work that has been well done.
  - c) Then in Revelations chapters 4-18 God the Father lays out the events that will be taking place during the seven year tribulation period. These chapters are a somewhat detailed description of what will be taking place during this seven year period.
  - d) Revelations chapter 19 tells the story of Christ second coming and how he deals with the unsaved of the world at this point in time.
  - e) Revelations chapter 20 tells the story of Christ 1,000 year reign of Christ on planet earth and how at the end of the 1,000 years Satan is released for one last battle between God and Satan. The outcome of this battle is summarized at the end of chapter 20: God wins and Satan is sentenced to hell for all of eternity.
  - f) The last two chapters in the Book of Revelations, chapters 21-22 tells the story about how God destroys all that he had created in both heaven and

earth. These two chapters also tell how God replaces the old creation with a new purified creation. I think a key point that men have always rejected is that God owns all of creation and he can do as he pleases with it, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Gen.1:1. Man has always rejected the idea that he→ man is not on top of the food chain when it comes to creation. It is my opinion that man has assumed this to be a fact because God originally put him in charge of the earth and all that was in it: Gen. 2:15, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work and take care of it." However, the earth is only on loan to man as the 'DEED IS STILL IN GODS NAME' and at this point in time God will reclaim his position of ownership.

It also appears that when the period covered in the Book of Revelations ends and all God's prophecies have been fulfilled that the new creation of both heaven and earth will be free of all evil and sin. I believe that at this point God is literally cleaning house to include Satan, his fallen angels, as well as, sinful man. He/God is literally putting a void or gap between his new creation and hell. And this void will stay in place for all of eternity. It will truly be a terrible place for the unsaved.

Verse 3:

"And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

Verse 3 starts out this section by informing the reader of six specific facts about Gods two witnesses. They are as follows:

**First fact →** God gives some type of power to these two men which are 'Gods Witnesses'. "And I will give power to my two witnesses", **(the words "my & witnesses" in this phrase appears to be indicating that God has a personal relation with these two men)**. Facts about witnesses→ 1) Jewish Law requires two witnesses to put someone to death for a crime, Deut. 17:6a, "On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death..." See Deut.17:6b and 19:15 about the issue of only one witness. 2) Also,note that Jesus

Christ resurrection two angels were present to testify to this event, John20:12 and Acts 1:10, states, “...two men dressed in white...” testified to the ascension and future return of Jesus Christ.

**Second fact** → The type and limits of their power is defined in Rev.11:5-6. We will discuss this in detail when we discuss verses 5 & 6. However, the 1260 days mentioned is exactly 42 months based on the Jewish calendar, (1260/30 days per month=42 months).

**Third fact** → The verse states there are, “two witnesses”, involved but they are not specifically named, more on this later.

**Fourth fact** → To me their character is ‘defined’ based on their relationship with God, “(my) two witnesses”, more on this in verse 4. However, based on my understanding of scripture I do not think a human could obtain much better phrase from God the Father than this!!!! Just my opinion.

**Fifth fact** → The time given for them to prophesy is defined at, “for1260 days” see ‘fact two’ above.

**Sixth fact**→ their dress is defined as, “clothed in sackcloth” indicating humble and meek and afflicted, etc. → you get the idea.

Verse 3 is like a quick summary of the ‘Relationship’ & ‘Spiritual Characteristics’ & ‘Personal Attributes’ that these two men possess. They are “my/Gods two witnesses”. Now in verses 4-12 God provides us with a much more detailed account of their purpose on planet earth.

## **ANALYSIS OF THE SIX ATTRIBUTES PROVIDED THE READER ABOUT GOD’S TWO WITNESSES IN VERSES 3-12:**

### **FIRST ATTRIBUTE:**

I believe that verse 3 literally and clearly states that the ‘power’ that these two witnesses possess is from God the Father. We know this because verse 3 states,

“And I will give power to my two witnesses”. Again it is my opinion that the “I” in this sentence is referring God the Father. Remember Rev.1:1 clearly states, “The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place.” Also remember starting in Rev. 8:1; it is God the Father who is implementing the ‘Seven trumpet Judgments’ in chapters 8-9. It is also past the time of the church on earth as it has been raptured to heaven and most scholars believe these two witnesses are from the Old Testament and prior to the time of Jesus Christ coming as man to planet earth. However, the “two witnesses” could be ‘witnesses’ of Jesus Christ → not sure it matters given God & Jesus Christ are the same ‘being’ but can also be separate → Not sure we are really meant to or are capable of understanding this concept until the ‘Second Coming of Jesus Christ’.

**I will cover verse 4 in the Fourth Attribute below after we have covered verse 5 & 6.**

### **SECOND ATTRIBUTE:**

Verses 5-6 clearly define the characteristics of the ‘power’ that these two witnesses will possess for 1,260 days.

Verse 5, (1) “If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die.

Verse 6, (2) These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and (3) they have power to turn the water into blood and (4) to strike the earth with every kind of plague, (5) as often as they want.”

I have identified six specific characteristics which I believe define their power at least in broad categories, which are as follows:

- 0) No one will be able to harm or kill these two witnesses for 1260 days
- 1) If anyone does try to harm or kill these two witnesses the results has been predetermined by God, “fire comes from their mouth and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die.”

- 2) They will have power to stop it from raining for 1260 days, “power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying.”  
Again, the time that they will prophesy is set at 1260 days.
- 3) They will have the power to, “turn the waters into blood.”
- 4) They will also have the power to, “strike the earth with every kind of plague”. The scripture is not specific about what these words really mean, however, if we take them literally, which I believe we should, given there is no reason not to. Then the amount of destruction and pain these two men could inflict on planet earth is without physical limit. I believe that it will include all of the plagues God unleashed on Egypt and many more that we have not seen during the time of man. And the range of these plagues could be from a → (1) single person or (2) a city or (3) the area the size of a state or (4) the size of country or (5) the entire planet.
- 5) They will also have the power to strike the earth and man with every kind of plague, “...as often as they want.” As I said in #4 above I believe that based on these words that God will allow these two men to inflict numerous plagues on the earth and man, many of which mankind has never seen before. Remember in Revelations Chapter 9, verses 1-11 the “locust-scorpions” that were unleashed out of the Abyss were allowed to ‘sting’ men as often as that wanted to bit could not kill them. I think the power that these “two witnesses” possess will allow them to inflict “plagues as often as they want” however, it does not state if it will result in death or not.

### **THIRD ATTRIBUTE:**

Some scholars today believe that the ‘two witnesses’ are not real men but, ‘system’, or some type of ‘church’, or even a ‘group of witnesses’. I believe that the ‘two witnesses’ are actual men and I base my opinion on the following scripture:

- 1) Rev. 11:3, states, this is God speaking, “And I will give power to my two witnesses”, this seems very specific as if God is talking directly to actual men, which I think is actually what scripture does! Also it does not say

'these are LIKE my two witnesses', therefore indicating that this is some type of example or parable.

- 2) Rev. 11:3, also states that the two witnesses will be **"clothed in sackcloth."** I think it would be very hard to have a 'system' clothed in sackcloth. And again it does not use the word, 'LIKE'.
- 3) Rev.11:5, says, **"...fire comes from their mouths"**, seems like the scripture is talking about men not 'systems' or 'churches'. How could **"...fire come from their mouth..."** given 'systems and churches' do not have **"mouths"**. The scholars who believe this is a system believe this is some type of modern weaponry.
- 4) Also, Rev. 11:6 specifically uses the words **"these men"**; therefore it is my opinion that the two witnesses are physical men. Again I do not think God would use words that would mislead his saints. Just an opinion!
- 5) There is one last reason that I believe the two witnesses mentioned in Rev. 11:3, are literally two men and that the number was 'two'. Scripture tells us that when a serious offense occurs, like death, or someone is sinning against you and you are going to talk to them about their sin or expose their sin you need to take two men with you when you talk to them. An example of this in the Old Testament would be, Deut. 17:6, **"On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death, but no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness."** In the New Testament Christ makes this statement in Matthew 18:15-16, **"If your brother sins against you go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."** I know we have already discussed this issue earlier but I think it is a key concept to interpreting these words.

### **NOW THE QUESTION OF IDENTITY→**

There is another very big question which many scholars have discussed and many books have been written about the question is→ **'Who are these Men'?** The bottom line is; no one really knows because the Bible does not tell us their

identity. The second point is that it really does not matter given it is their actions that are important in this verse and not their names. I think we can say with some degree of certainty, that these 'two witnesses' are very close and special to God the Father. I base my opinion on the fact that God the Father gives these two men a very big role in the seven year tribulation period and the power that they have been granted by God the Father is second only to that of Christ. In terms of actual 'men' who have walked the earth. And the scripture states that they are, "my two witnesses" meaning Gods tow witnesses.

Remember the Bible does not give us the actual identity of these two men but that has not stopped scholars all through the ages from trying to attach a name to these two men and produce a list of scripture to back up their opinions. I will share with you some of the more common names and the justification for the same.

- 1) **ELIJAH**→ is probable the number one name on this list by many scholars. Their views are backed up by the following scripture and reasons.
  - a) Elijah could call down fire from heaven, 2 Kings 1: 10, "Elijah answered the captain, 'If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!' Then fire fell from heaven and consumed the captain and his fifty men." By the way this happened a second time in 2 Kings Chapter 1, verse 12 and a third time in verse 13-14 but this time the captain and his fifty men were spared by God because they approached Elijah in a very humble and respectful manor.
  - b) Elijah called for a drought in 1 Kings 17:1, "Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, 'As the Lord, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.'" Also, Jesus confirms in Luke 4:25, Elijah's power to stop the rain, "I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and one half years..." James also confirms this fact in James 5:17-18, "Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its crops." I think it is very interesting

that the time period being talked about in both Luke and James is exactly the same amount of time the two witnesses will be on planet earth. Again I do not think this will be a very pleasant time for the people of earth.

- c) Malachi which is the last of the Old Testaments prophets predicted that Elijah would return before the 'Second Coming of Christ'. Mal. 4:5-6, "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."
- d) Elijah was one of the two Old Testament prophets sent from heaven to comfort and talk with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, most likely about his crucifixion. Matthew 17:3, "Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus." The entire story about Jesus transfiguration is in Matt. 17:1-13.
- e) Elijah was one of the two men in the Old Testament that never experienced physical death. The scripture tells us that he was taken up into heaven in a chariot of fire, 2 Kings 2:11, "As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind." (Elisha was the man walking with Elijah). Based on this account, Elijah would be the second man not to see death and the second man to be 'Raptured' or 'Changed' from mortal man to immortal man without experiencing death. I believe that this event took place somewhere around 900 BC.

Note: Enoch was the other man who never experienced death, Gen. 5:24, "Enoch walked with God, then he was no more, because God took him away." Enoch was the great, great grandfather of Noah. The ancestral line was; Enoch → Methuselah → Lamech → Noah. Based on my research Enoch was 87 when he had Methuselah and Methuselah was 187 when he had Lamech and Lamech was 182 when he had Noah and Noah was 600 when the flood came. Meaning there was about,  $87+187+182+600=1056$  years between the time Enoch had Methuselah

and the flood, however after Enoch had Methuselah, “And after he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters.” Gen. 5:22. This means we would have to subtract 300 years from our 1056 years number, (1056-300=756 years). Based on my research the flood happened somewhere around 2400 BC: we back up about 750 years, it would place Enoch’s ‘Rapture’ or ‘changes’ from mortal to immortal without experiencing death at about 3150 BC. I think this would be about 850 years after Adam and creation. Also, remember Adam lived to be 800 years old so he had only been death 50 years when Enoch was ‘taken by God’. Last, Enoch and Adam may have known each other as they were both on the earth for about 315 years. Just some fun information!

### **Summary:**

My point is that these men must have been very special to God as they walk in company that only three men will have walked in until the Rapture of the church comes.

- 1) Enoch, about 3150 BC
- 2) Elijah, 900 BC
- 3) Christ, 33AD
- 4) The Rapture of the Church, time unknown!

After Elijah there does not seem to be any clear second choice, however, some possible choices are, Moses, Enoch, and John the Baptist. I will list below some of the reasons scholars over the years have supported these men as candidates for the number two position.

- 2) Moses→ is viewed by many scholars as their number two choice for the following reasons:
  - a) During the time of Israel’s exodus from Egypt, Moses struck the Egyptians with many of the same plagues that are mentioned in Rev.

11:6. To review all of the plagues that Moses used in Egypt read, Exod. Chapter 7 through Chapter 11.

- b) Deut. 18:15-16, states, **“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, ‘Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.’”** I have two problems with using this verse to justify their opinion: 1) the verse actually says, **“like me”**, meaning someone **‘like Moses’**, not that it will be Moses, 2) I believe that if you read these verses in the context of the surrounding verses/ chapters you will see that Moses is saying, **‘you should always listen to a prophet of God, LIKE ME, because there is one coming, CHRIST, who will bring you a very important message from me/God → he was talking about the message of salvation and the redemption of sins’**. Again just my opinion!
- c) **Moses was one of the two Old Testament prophets sent from heaven to comfort and talk with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, assembly about his crucifixion, Matthew 17:1-13.** To me this should be viewed as a very big indicator.
- d) **Moses death was in the presence of God and God himself buried Moses body, Deut. 34:5-6, “And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.”** The body of Moses is also mentioned in Jude 9 when the archangel Michael and Satan were in a dispute over the body of Moses, **But even the archangel Michael, when disputing with the devil about the body of Moses,”**
- 3) **Enoch**→ was the other man in the Old Testament who did not see death, which we discussed at length within the section about Elijah above. Again scholars base their opinion on the following:
- a) Enoch has already walked with God, Gen. 5:22-23, quoted above.
- b) Enoch did not die, Gen. 5:24, quoted above.

- c) Enoch was a gentile, his time predates Abraham, and therefore, many scholars believe he may not be a reasonable choice. I am not sure about this argument as it may be reasonable that one 'witness' would be Hebrew and one a gentile. Also, anyone who walks with God, to me, has one of the highest standing a man can have? Again just an opinion!
- 4) **John the Baptist** → is believed by many scholars to have many of the positive qualities that would be required for this position. I will list some of the more important below:
- a) John the Baptist was the 'Forerunner' of Christ at his first coming, Matthew 3:11, "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with Holy Spirit and with fire." Mark 1:2-3, "It is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way—a voice of one calling in the desert, Prepare a way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" Therefore, it would seem reasonable to believe that John the Baptist would or could be the forerunner of Christ second coming. Other verses discussing John the Baptist relationship to Jesus is as follows: Mal. 3:1; Isa. 40:3; Luke 1:11-17; John 1:19-23
- b) John the Baptist was the forerunner of Christ as stated in Matthew 3:11 above and Mark 1:2-3 and his message was, Matthew 3:2, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near." This will be exactly the same message that the two witnesses will be preaching during their three and one half years on the earth. We will discuss more about their preaching style under the fourth attribute, listed below.
- c) John the Baptist was the greatest human ever born, Luke 7:28, "I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John." Keep in mind that this was Jesus speaking, which is certainly high praise.
- d) Some scholars believe that because John the Baptist lived in the pre-church time period and denied being a prophet, or Elijah, then he would be the likely choice for the number two witnesses, John 1:21-23, "They asked him, 'Then who are you? Are you Elijah? He said I am not. Are you the Prophet? He answered, No'. Finally they said, 'Who are you? Give us

an answer to take back to those who sent us.” You need to read John 1:19-34, to get the complete conversation between John and the Pharisees. Again it would seem to me that John and Jesus had a strong spiritual and human bond, meaning Jesus was John’s Lord first and friend second. See, Matthew Chapter 3.

### **CONCLUSION:**

No one knows who the two witnesses will really be, but my opinion or guess would be Elijah and John the Baptist.

- a) Elijah because the scripture seems to be clear about what his role will be at the second coming of Christ.
- b) John the Baptist because he had such a strong connection with Jesus both from a spiritual and human stand point. Also, it was said of John the Baptist that he was ‘in the spirit of Elijah’.
- c) Last, just an opinion!

Note: keep in mind that all of the men named above are just guesses based on assumptions. The bottom line is the Bible does not give the names of these two witnesses so that could be anyone. Ad given what they will be doing it really does not matter who they are!!!!

### **FOUFTH ATTRIBUTE:**

Keep in mind that we have just finished our study of verses 3, 5 and 6, which I believe describes the physical or human or earthly characteristics of these “two witnesses”. **Whereas verse 4 appears to me to communicate to the reader a lot about what importance God puts on his relationship with these “two witnesses”**, which is why I moved it below our study of their ‘worldly’ characteristics; Rev. 11:4, “These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.” Even though this is a somewhat short verse I think it communicates four very important things, which are as follows:

- 1) These two men are viewed as, “the two olive trees” of Christ. Romans Chapter 11 & Zechariah Chapter 4 both speaks about this issue and if you read will provide a good understanding/interpretation.
- 2) These two men are also viewed as, “the two lampstands” of Christ. Again, see, Romans Chapter 11 & Zechariah Chapter 4.
- 3) These two men, “stand before the Lord”. Many scholars believe that this verse indicates that the “two witnesses” are physically standing before God the Father and his Christ in heaven, which is certainly true; given all men will stand before the Lord of the earth → one day. However, in my opinion I think this verse is more likely talking about these “two witnesses” from a ‘spiritual characteristics’ standpoint they are not only “standing before the Lord” physically but more importantly → ‘spiritually’ → “standing FOR the Lord” and doing his work on planet earth. This to me is a big deal in terms of the power authority and honor that has been granted these two men.
- 4) These two men are, “standing before the Lord of the earth”. Given this is “the Lord of the earth” meaning, God the Father, Psalm 24:1, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it...” is the Lord of the earth that is why I think they are before God the Father. However, I am sure given the setting Jesus Christ is at the right hand of God the Father. The other reason I believe that this verse references God the Father is because it is He/God the Father that brings these “two witnesses” back to life in verse 11, “But after three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them...” Also, keep in mind that it was God the Father who implemented the last six Trumpet Judgments. However, it would appear that these two men are the forerunners of Jesus Christ second coming. Therefore, I do not think we can be dogmatic about this issue and it would not make any difference to the outcome of this event.

### **SUMMARY:**

This verse appears to me to be very characteristic of the Old Testament type writing or means of communicating. In Zechariah 4 God uses this same type of description or words to convey how Joshua and Zerubbabel would be able to stand against insurmountable issues or difficulties. Based on my understanding of

Zechariah 4 it appears to me that the “two witnesses” of Revelations 11:4 will be the same type of men as described to Zechariah 4. They are both described as, “olive trees and lampstands” , which based on scripture means ‘the light of God’ → brought to and unsaved world through his “WORD” → delivered by his ‘prophets & Jesus Christ’.

I believe that the only accurate way we have to interpret scripture is to use other scripture and even with this method some scripture is very hard to interpret exactly. However, it is my opinion that these four words “olive trees and lampstands”, at least in some part and based on the actions of the “two witnesses” while on earth, mean the following:

- 1) In the Old Testament, “olive trees” → Are associated with the nation off Israel and Israel has been defined by scripture as Gods chosen people to bring Gods message to the rest of the world. Scripture tells us that their level of success varied a lot over time but still they were Gods chosen people and were described as an ‘olive tree’. There are many places in the Bible that we could use to describe or portray this relationship but I like Jer. 11:16-17 because I think it covers the Israel’s relationship with God very well; **“The Lord called you a thriving olive tree with fruit beautiful in form. But with the roar of a mighty storm he will set it on fire, and its branches will be broken. The Lord Almighty, who planted you, has decreed disaster for you, because the house of Israel and the house of Judah have done evil and provoked me to anger by burning incense to Baal.”**
- 2) In the New Testament, “lampstands” → Are clearly associated with the ‘CHURCH’, which is the ‘light of the world’ through the word of God. Again, scripture and history tells us that the church has had various levels of success at their efforts to spread the word of God throughout the world. As a matter of fact Revelation Chapters 2 & 3 records the successes and failures of the church. Also, Revelation chapter 1, verses 20 clearly defines that the word “lampstands” in scripture is used to describe the ‘Church’, **“The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven Lampstands are the seven churches.”**

- 3) My conclusion is that God is using 'scriptural language' to convey to the reader that during this 42 month period these "two witnesses" will be presenting the 'Word of God' from both the point of view of: 1) Israel→ the Old Testament & 2) the 'Church'→ the New Testament. Again, just my opinion.
- 4) Also, I think this would be a positive point for those who think that there be: one witness from the time period of the Old Testament and the other from the tome period of the New Testament. Again, just opinion!

Also, they, "stand before the Lord" → meaning their power comes directly for God the Father or as described in Zechariah 4:6, the power of their spirit comes from God, "So he said to me, 'This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit,' says the Lord Almighty." The last portion of this verse, "of the earth", I think refers back to one of the issues relating to verses 1 & 2. And that is → God is the God of creation and he is getting ready to reclaim his creation. Meaning these two witnesses are being sent directly by God the Father and creator of the universe to give man one last chance to repent and be saved. I believe that is why we see in verses 5-12 that they are immortal and untouchable until they have finished God the Fathers work on earth before God the Father actually reclaim the physical earth through the actions of his Son → Jesus Christ; see rev. 19:11-21. Again just an opinion as it scripture is not 100% specific.

#### **FIFTH ATTRIBUTE:**

Verse 3 is very specific about the time that God will allow his two witnesses to have power and allow them to prophesy. **The time is defined as, '1260 days'.** Based on the Old Testament calendar this would be equal to 42 months because a Jewish month is only 30 days, (1260 days/30 day months = 42 months). To me the time period that these two witnesses is clearly defined as 1260 days or 42 months, however, the real question is → Is this the same 42 months mentioned in the last part of verse 2, which is the last 42 months of the seven year tribulation period or is this the first 42 months of the seven year tribulation period?

I will start our analysis based on what scripture tells us and hopefully from there we can draw some conclusions. I have listed below my thoughts;

### **Point One:**

I believe that there is no question that the last part of verse 2 is talking about the last half of the seven year tribulation period. I base this opinion on, Dan. 9:27, “He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven’, but in the middle of that ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And one who causes desolation will place abominations on a wing of the temple, until the end that has been decreed is poured out on him.” To me Daniel 9:27 clearly states that the antichrist will rule over the city of Jerusalem, “They will trample on the holy city...” to include the temple as described in Dan.9:27 for a time period of 42 months, **which Dan 9:27 tells us that is the last half of the seven year tribulation period.**

### **Point Two:**

Based on this, the second question now becomes; How do the 1260 days mentioned in verse 3 fit into the seven year tribulation period? I believe that they occur during the first half of the seven year tribulation period. My reasons are as follows:

- 1) They, **the two witnesses, testify until the, ‘beast appears’**, Rev. 11:7, “Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.” I believe that based on Daniel 9:27, which I quoted above, we can conclude that a major change takes place in the actions and attitude of the antichrist as it relates to Israel, Jerusalem and the world in general at the midpoint of the seven year tribulation period. I also believe that this change occurs because the man we have read about up until the midpoint of the tribulations was just that, a very evil man controlled by his human sinful desires. However,

Revelations Chapter 13 tells us that the 'beast' or antichrist received a mortal wound at the midpoint of the tribulations and was healed based on the power of the 'dragon' or Satan. And that this power was given to the 'beast' or antichrist for 42 months. Rev. 13:5-8, "The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty two months. He opened his mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. He was given power to make war against the saints and to conquer them. And he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world." I believe if you compare the key components of this scripture, which describes the last half of the tribulations period with Rev.11:7 and Daniel 9:27 you will find that these three scriptures all describe the same time period and events. I believe there are three key components or actions involved, which are as follows:

- a) Amount of time being talked about or measured is 42 months.
- b) At the middle of the tribulation seven year period the antichrist now indwelled by Satan himself, (remember the mortal wound that was healed) is given the power to kill the 'saints' to include the two witnesses. Reread the specific words of, Rev. 13: 7.
- c) During the last half of the seven year tribulation period 'all worldly power' will be granted to the antichrist/Satan. This power or control will not include the spiritual protection granted saved people by the Lamb. See Rev. 13:8-9.

Note: remember that Satan cannot be at all places all the time. He/Satan is not omnipresent, Job 1:6-7, "One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, 'Where have you come from'? Satan answered the Lord, 'From roaming through earth and going back and forth in it'." Therefore, if Satan really wants to control every thought and movement of the antichrist he will have to indwell the body of the antichrist. It is my opinion that from the time that the antichrist returns from his

mortal wound he is indwelt by Satan himself. There will be more discussion about this in Chapters 12 and 13.

- 2) The beast martyrs the two witnesses in Rev.11:7 and we know based on Rev.13:7 the beast did not possess this power until the last half of the tribulations, Rev. 13:5.
- 3) If you compare the description and actions of the two witnesses as described in Rev. 11:1-6 with the descriptions and actions of the 'beast'/ antichrist listed in Rev.13:1-8 it does not seem reasonable to believe that both of these could co-exist on the earth at the same time. Again, based on Rev. 11:7 & Rev.13:7 they did not co-exist at the same time.
- 4) The mathematical approach → if the 1260 days occurred during the last half of the seven year tribulation period and their bodies were allowed to go unburied for 3 ½ days, then these 3 ½ days and their return to life would occur after Christ returned with his church to begin his millennial reign. This does not seem like a reasonable possibility based on Rev. 19:11-21.

#### **SIXTH ATTRIBUTE:**

The last part of verse three states that they, the two witnesses, will be, "...clothed in sackcloth." It is my understanding that the words, "clothed in sackcloth" are primarily used to describe a time of 'affliction'. This 'affliction' can be directed at a single individual, a group of individuals or nation, or even a general time of affliction. I also think that the use of "sackcloth" by people indicates a time of mourning or someone or group of people getting ready for a time of mourning. The other issues that relates to people being "clothed in sackcloth" would be when someone would want to indicate, outwardly to God and the world in general that they were humbling themselves before God. There are numerous scriptures that would verify my opinion and several are listed below:

- 1) Scripture **dealing with a person or people in general humbling themselves in some way** and that would involve 'sackcloth', Jonah 3:5-6, "The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them from the

greatest to the least, put on 'sackcloth'. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with 'sackcloth' and sat down in the dust." I think we would consider this an offense against God. Second, 2 Samuel 3:31, "Then David said to Joab and all the people with him, 'Tear your clothes and put on sackcloth and walk in mourning in front of Abner.'" This would appear to be an offense against God and man.

- 2) Scripture **dealing with some type of 'affliction' either experiencing affliction or announcing affliction.** Gen. 37:34, "Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days." 1 Kings 21:27, When Ahab heard these words, and he tore his clothes, put on 'sackcloth' and fasted. He lay in sackcloth and went around meekly." Neh.9:1, "On the twenty fourth day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing 'sackcloth' and having dust on their heads."
- 3) Scripture **dealing with individuals or groups of individuals mourning or humbling themselves before God.** Lam. 2:10, "The elders of the Daughters of Zion sit on the ground in silence; they have sprinkled dust on their heads and put on 'sackcloth'". Also, Jer.6:26, "O my people, put on 'sackcloth' and roll in ashes; mourn with bitter wailing as for an only son." I think this could be the situation America will find itself in very soon if they still possess enough 'Godly knowledge' to recognize their real position with God!

VERSE 7:

"Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them and overpower and kill them."

I believe that there are two very important pieces of information contained within verse 7, which reveals to us: 1) the timing of events within the first half of the seven year Tribulations, and 2) how God is always controlling world

events as they relate to Gods plan for man and Satan. I will try to add some detail to each of these points below.

- 1) "Now when they have finished their testimony." This opening statement appears to indicate to me that this verse is telling us that we are at day-1260 of the 2520 days of the Tribulations or the mid-point. Keep in mind that their time on earth was defined in verse 3 as 1260 days and that the Satan possessed antichrist will control the last half, as previously discussed. And by the way, "...they have finished their testimony..." meaning their work on this earth is done!
- 2) "...the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them." Some scholars believe this is the same being that was referred to in Rev. 9:11. "They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon and in Greek, Apollyon." It is true that the being of Rev.9:11 had great power because the verse states he was a "king". It also states that he came from the Abyss and his name was "Abaddon or Apollyon" which means 'destroyer'. However, Rev. 9:11 also, tells us that this being is an 'angel' and the being from Rev. 11:7 is defined as a 'beast'. Therefore, **the two 'beings' which are described in Rev. 9:11 and Rev. 11:7 appear to be two separate 'beings'**. The other major view as to what this verse means is that, "the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them and overpower and kill them." is the body of the antichrist which Satan has healed for its mortal wound and now he- Satan has taken possession of until the return of Christ. Both of these views appear to have the correct timing to be correct, and they both have key words that tie in to this verse. I will outline below what I believe will be the sequence of events surrounding this issues and we can discuss in class!

STEP 1: The church is raptured- meaning the church is removed from the earth and taken to heaven.

STEP 2: The seven year Tribulation period begins shortly after the Rapture of the church.

- a) The antichrist comes on the world scene as a renowned peace maker, Rev. 6:2.
- b) The antichrist signs a seven year peace treaty with Israel, Dan.9:27.
- c) God's Two Witnesses begin their 1260 day prophesy period approximately at the same time the treaty with Israel is signed, Rev. 11:3.

STEP 3: We are now at the mid-point of the seven year Tribulation period.

- a) The antichrist will receive what, "seemed to be a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed." Rev. 13:3. The fatal wound that was received by the antichrist was healed by the "dragon" which is another word for Satan, "The dragon gave the beast the power and his throne and great authority." Rev. 13:2. At this point in the tribulation period, I believe that Satan will now indwell the body of the antichrist. Also remember in Rev. 12:9, Satan was kicked out of heaven, "The great dragon was hurled down...to the earth and his angels with him." I believe that this is saying as of this point, which is the mid-point in the tribulations, **Satan's kingdom and throne is now limited to the earth.**
- b) Again at this point or the mid-point of the tribulation period Satan seems to have taken over the body and soul of the antichrist.

Note: I think this is another one of Satan's lies or tricks. He is trying to emulate what Christ did when he was raised from the dead and then ascended to heaven to be reunited with God the Father. Satan is the father of deception and lies.

- c) Based on the last part of Rev. 11:7, "...the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them." God has granted Satan the power to kill the 'two witnesses'. We know that God is controlling this situation and who possess the power of life and death because in Rev. 11:11, God takes this power away from Satan and again breathes life back into the two witnesses, Rev. 11:11, "But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet,...". God's power is further demonstrated in Rev. 11:12 when God raptured them to heaven while their enemies were

standing there watching and not able to do anything to stop them from leaving the earth and entering heaven. "Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up here.' And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on." I am very sure that if Satan, the antichrist or the false prophet at this point had any real power, other than what God allows, these two witnesses would have remained dead. **NOTE: does this sound a lot like Christ resurrection? God always holds all the power.**

STEP 4: The antichrist/Satan will rule the entire earth for the last half or three and one half years of the seven year tribulation period. During this time period Satan will do all he can to keep people from being saved and if they are, to make sure they are killed so that they will not be able to spread the word of salvation. I have listed some of Satan's actions below:

- a) He will proclaim to be God and set himself up in God's temple. Dan. 9:27.
- b) He will make war against the saints and conquer them, Rev. 13:7 and Rev. 13: 15. The previous verses literally mean that the saints will be killed.
- c) The antichrist/Satan will rule the world for the last half of the seven year tribulation period, Rev.13:7.
- d) The antichrist/ Satan will be worshiped during the last half of the seven years tribulation period or you will be put to death, Rev. 13: 11-18.

VERSE 8:

**"Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified."**

Verse 8 provides us with several pieces of information about the 'condition of the world' or Satan's kingdom during the last three and one half years of the seven year tribulation period. I will list below what I think are the most important facts about verse 8.

- 1) The culture that resides within the world during the last three and one half years of the tribulation period is one base on cruelty and savagery. All unsaved people will be totally self-centered and only care about themselves. Christ tells us in Matthew 24:12, “Because of the increase in wickedness, the love of most will grow cold”. Christ again describes in Mark 13:12, this period as follows: “Brother will betray brother to death and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.” The people living during this time period will not even have the smallest amount of decency left; they will not even bury these two men. It is also apparent to me that the people who are saved during this period will not have the courage or ability to step up and bury these two men. Therefore, it is my opinion that the majority of the people living during this period of time will all possess an extreme ‘Hatred of God’, as well as, anything that is of God or from God. This will truly be a very evil time. However, I think we need to keep in mind that many people will be saved during this period I just do not think they will live very long. Again just an opinion based on the scripture! See the scripture in Rev. 6: 9-10 & Rev. 7:9-17.
- 2) Remember that all of the events that take place in Rev. 11:1-14, physically take place in Jerusalem except for the last part of verse 12, which speaks to the issue of the two witnesses being taken, “up to heaven in a cloud”. However, we need to keep in mind that the Jerusalem of the last three and one half years of the tribulations is not the Holy City of God, but the capital of Satan’s worldly kingdom. I believe that is why in this verse God tells us that under Satan’s rule Jerusalem is now like Sodom and Egypt. I also, believe that God picked out these two places, “Sodom and Egypt”, because these are the epitome of the type of lifestyles God detest and hates. To better understand how God views “Sodom” read Ezekiel 23, Genesis 18-19, Jude 7 and 2 Peter 2:6-8, which will provide you with a good description of “Sodom”. Also to gain a better understanding of what God is implying by using the word “Egypt” see Exodus 1:11-14 and also read Ezekiel Chapter 23. The New Testament describes these types of lifestyles in Romans 1:18-2:16.

VERSE 9-10:

Verse 9 → (1) “For three and a half days (2) men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and (3) refused them burial. Verse 10 → (4) The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts (5) because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.”

Verse 9 & 10 add a lot more details about how the world viewed these two witnesses, as well as, the spiritual condition of the world in general. I will list the more important facts within these verses below:

- 1) Verse 9 states that their bodies were left in the streets for 3 ½ days.
- 2) Verse 9 states that, “men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies”. I think the capability of this prophecy was fulfilled or completed when CNN carried the Iraq war live for the entire world. Also, the word, “gaze” to me would indicate that the world was happy about the results because of their hatred of these men and their sheer disgust for their God.
- 3) Verse 9 states, “...and refused them burial.” Again as stated in verse 8 I think this statement is a strong indication of the cruel savagery that will exist during this period of the tribulation period. These people appear to have left the two witnesses bodies in the streets as trophies like when people go hunting and they want to show off their kill. I think this is the same type of response we are seeing in people today (middle-east) except at a much more primitive level. Again, this area of the world appears to already have this type of blood-lust today → The Middle East!
- 4) The first part of verse 10 clearly indicates the joy and relief that the people of the earth were feeling because of the deaths of the two witnesses, “The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts,”. The unsaved people of the earth are once again happy because they think they have won their war against God. Once again man’s arrogance and lack of understanding about man’s relationship to his

creator is clearly demonstrated in this verse. Man is so easily fooled by Satan; it started in the Garden of Eden and it will continue to happen until Satan is cast in to the 'lake of fire' at the end of the millennium. The only think I can say about this is it would appear to me that man is just plain stupid!

- 5) The last part of verse 10 tells us why the unsaved people of the earth are so happy when the two witnesses are killed, because these two prophets had tormented those who lived on the earth."

VERSE 11:

**"But after three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them."**

I believe that God in verse 11 is communicating or re-enforcing a variety of issues and facts that he wants man to keep in mind while reading this book. I will list below what I believe are the most important issues/facts:

- 1) **God is always in control of his macro-plan for the earth, which results in Satan doom and man either spending his eternal life in heaven or hell.** However, remember God has granted Satan and man freewill to make short term decisions, but we need to keep in mind that God always has the power/authority to override and decision made by Satan or man. This is why God's children can always rejoice regardless of how bad a situation seems at the time.
- 2) **Only God can create life,** Gen. 2:7 & Rev. 11:11. Today man is working desperately to create life but has failed and will continue to fail. I believe that the primary reason for this is man cannot create something from nothing only God can perform this miracle, see Gen. Chapter 1 for the

creation story. The Bible tells us that God's power is limitless and has no bounds as matter of fact it tells us in at least six ways that God created life:

- a) God created man's body from dust and breathed life into it, Gen. 2:7.
  - b) God created a woman's body from the rib of a man and brought her to man, Gen.2:21-22. Note that this does not say how life came to the woman only that it did.
  - c) God provided a method for man and women to reproduce the line, Gen.2:24.
  - d) Jesus spoke and Lazarus came to life. Remember Lazarus body was in decay which was then restored and life returned to it, John 11:43-44, "When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'" This entire story is recorded in John 11:1-45.
  - e) Christ was raised from the dead, Matthew 28:6, "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." I believe that this is a good example of God's will. It was his will that raised Christ from the dead. I think God could also have spoken him back to life, remember God spoke the world into existence.
  - f) Now God restores life to the two witnesses. He breathed life into them and regenerated their decayed bodied just as Christ did to Lazarus.
- 3) I believe one of the reasons that God the Father created this situation was to demonstrate his power and glory to the world. God does things so that men (saved and unsaved) will know that he is the God of Creation and he/God deserves all of the 'glory and honor' that man can offer. Again, I think this event should be viewed just like any or every other miracle that Jesus Christ or God the Father performed in the past → they were done to 'let men know who it was that they were dealing with and glorify his—Gods name'.
- 4) It would seem that the first part of verse 11 is an 'object lesson' by God to demonstrate his power to the world and we know it worked based on their reaction, "...and terror struck those who saw them." Remember one of God's primary objectives for the seven year tribulation period is to give

man one last chance to repent and be saved. I would think that if someone witnessed this type of miracle then their hearts would be open to repenting and salvation. Also, remember the entire world will be watching this event happen, real time. However, I believe that during this last three and one half year period of the seven year tribulation period men's hearts will grow stubborn and extremely hard, as their true sin nature is being re-enforced by Satan's presence. Remember many scholars believe that at this point Satan is indwelling the body of the once fatally wounded body of the Antichrist, which had been healed.

- 5) Last, **I am sure this is God once again demonstrating his claim as 'creator' and owner of this earth!** Genesis Chapters 1 & 2 explains for man how this process took place and who possessed the authority and power to perform such an act and I believe this verse once again re-enforces this fact.

VERSE 12:

**"Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up hear.' And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on."**

**Verse 12 is really a continuation of verse 11. As a matter of fact it is the 'grand finally or conclusion of verse 11.** The sequence is as follows: 1) God breathes life back into the two witnesses; 2) the world is struck with terror because of this demonstration of God's power; 3) then, God commands the two risen witnesses to 'Come up to heaven.' This sounds a lot like the death and resurrection process that Christ went through, see Luke 24:50-51. Again, this appears to be God demonstrating his power and authority over his creation. If you compare the attitude of the men of the earth before and after the resurrection and ascension of the two witnesses it has gone from that of 'partying' to that of 'terror'. However, you will notice that there is no mention of repenting and asking God for forgiveness. I believe that this event speaks to the same type of issue Christ was describing in Luke 16:31, **"He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone raises the dead.'"** The reaction of men to this event also speaks to the limited authority that Satan has

been granted by God during the tribulation period and that man during this period will continue to make bad decisions through the use of his freewill.

Many scholars have discussed the issue of 'did the men of the world' hear these words, **"Come up hear"**? The scripture does not state either way; and we would only be guessing about whether the people of the world heard these words. However, what we do know is that these words were spoken directly to the 'two witnesses' and if I were guessing I believe that the people present heard these words by God the Father! Just an opinion! The other issue, I believe worth noting, is that the words, "Come up here" are the same words used in Rev. 4:1 which many scholars believe is the rapture of the church. It is true that in both of these scriptural passages something is taken to heaven.

The last sentence in this verse states, **"And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on."** We have already stated that God uses "clouds" as a means to cover his glory and to transport both 'spiritual and physical beings'. When Jesus Christ left this earth he was taken into the clouds/heaven, Acts 1:9 and when he returns he will come 'on' or 'in' the clouds; see, Matt. 24:30 & 26:64 or Mark 13:26 & 14: 62.

Remember the entire world will see this happen, via satellite television. And these same men and women who were just **"gloating over"** and **"celebrating"** the death of God's 'two witnesses' are now confronted with the hard fact that God is in total control and that is why, I believe, **"terror struck"** these same men and women who were just celebrating. Again, just an opinion but it does appear to fit the situation!

VERSE 13:

Verse 13 → (1) **"At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and (2) a tenth of the city collapsed. (3) Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and (4) the survivors were terrified and (5) gave glory to the God of heaven."**

Many if not most scholars believe that verse 13 describes an event that is similar to ones that have occurred in the past:

- 1) At Christ crucifixion, Matthew 27: 51-53 → tombs were opened.
- 2) At Christ resurrection, Matthew 28:2 → Christ was raised from the dead.
- 3) At the resurrection of the two witnesses, Rev. 11:3 → 7,000 people were killed.
- 4) Also, there are three specific physical attributes that are the same for each event: 1) all three events happen in the City of Jerusalem, 2) all three events are limited to the City of Jerusalem, and 3) all three events involve an earthquake. However, in the first two events the person or people were restored to life and in the last event 7,000 people were killed.

Also, the earthquake described in this verse should be taken literally and not symbolically. There are scholars today that believe that this earthquake is symbolic for 'political and economic' destruction in the world. I have discounted this view as to the intended meaning of these words because all of the words spoken about this event are literal. However, I am sure that during this period there will be great 'political, economic and human destruction' during this time period; however I do not think it is the primary meaning of this verse.

The last part of this verse states, "...and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven." Many scholars have concluded that because of this portion of verse 13 that many of the Jews living in Jerusalem now recognize that this was a miracle from God and repented but that it was short lived. They based their opinion on one specific word, 'terrified'. They believe that the fear that was created because of this event will cause people to be scared into repenting but that it will be short lived. I have a somewhat different view of the last part of this verse which I will describe below. I see this as the beginning of the last half of the seven year tribulation period. During this last three and one half years I believe that the nation of Israel and more specifically the Jewish people begin the process of recognizing and understanding the fact that Jesus was really their true Messiah. Therefore, it is my opinion that this change process begins with this event and concludes at the end of the seven year tribulation period as described in

Zechariah Chapters 12-14. Also, I think we can all agree that the attitude of the people described in this verse is 180 degrees from the attitude of the people in verses 9 & 10.

Last, I think it is interesting that the numbers used in this verse are numbers that God has used in the past:

- 1) The number 10 is used 242 times in the Bible.
- 2) The number 1/10 is used 73 times.
- 3) The Ten Commandments
- 4) Ten plagues in Egypt
- 5) In Genesis 1 we find the phrase “God said” used 10 times.

Also the number 7 is used many times as well and is the number used to describe ‘completion’ or completeness’ or perfection’.

- 1) The number 7 is used 735 times in the Bible.
- 2) The number 1/7 is used 119 times.
- 3) The Seven Days of creation.
- 4) The Seven Years of Tribulations.
- 5) The words ‘sevenfold’ are used 6 times and 1/7 119 times for a grand total of 860 times these numbers are used in the Bible. I think you get the idea!

VERSE 14:

**“The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.”**

Verse 14 simply states that the “second woe” has passed or has been completed and the ‘third woe’ is coming soon. The three woes were first mentioned in Rev. 8:13. The first “woe” ended in Rev. 9:11 and now the second “woe” ends at Rev. 11:14. Verse 14 also tells us that the third woe, “is coming soon”, meaning it may not start immediately after the end of the second woe. Many if not most scholars believe that the third woe starts with the sounding of the seventh trumpet in Rev. 11:15. I agree that the seventh trumpet must be sounded before the third woe can begin. However, to me the event that really triggers the third woe is when

Satan is cast out of heaven, Rev. 12:12, “Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.” This one event, the casting Satan out of heaven and limiting him to earth, begin the second half of the tribulation period which is by far the worst part of the seven year period.

## **SEVENTH TRUMPET:**

I believe to correctly understand where we are in terms of timing we will need to re-cap some the chapters around chapter 12, starting with chapter 9:

- 1) Chapter 9 ends with the blowing of the sixth trumpet.
- 2) Chapter 10 shifts gears and now begins to describe the next events that are going to take place. However, these events appear to be described at a macro-level.
- 3) Chapter 11:1-14 describes in more detail some of the events that took place in the first half of the seven year tribulation period. Therefore, they should be considered ‘interlude’ verses.
- 4) Chapter 11:15-19 now move back to chronological time or the next events that will take place within the seven year tribulation period. This includes, “The seventh angel sounded his trumpet...”
- 5) Chapter 12 introduces and provides more details **about four of the major characters** in the seven year tribulation period, which are as follows:
  - a) Chapter 12:1-2, The “Woman” which is Israel.
  - b) Chapter 12:3-4, The “Red dragon” which is Satan.
  - c) Chapter 12:5-6, “A son...male child” which is Jesus Christ.
  - d) Chapter 12:7-12, in which Michael the Archangel wars with and defeats the Dragon and expels Satan from heaven.
  - e) Chapter 12:13-16, describes the Dragon persecuting the ‘Woman/Israel’.
  - f) Chapter 12:17, talks about the remnant of Israel.

- 6) Chapter 13 introduces two other major characters of the seven year tribulation period, which are as follows:
- a) Chapter 13:1-10, tells us about 'The Wild Beast Out of the Sea', which is the Antichrist and his political system that he will implement and control.
  - b) Chapter 13:11-18, tells us about 'The Wild Beast Out of the Earth', which is the False Prophet and his false world religion.

VERSE 15:

**"The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: 'the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.'"**

Verse 15 starts with the blowing of the seventh trumpet, which is communicating to us a variety of facts. I will list what I believe to be the most important below:

- 1) The second woe is over and the third woe is about to begin, Rev. 11:14, and remember the third woe is the last and most destructive woe.
- 2) Based on the actions and events going on in heaven it would appear to indicate that a big announcement is about to be made about something that is about to happen, Rev. 11:15-19.
- 3) Rev. 10:7 tells us that during this period "The mystery of God will be accomplished." which indicates that the time has been set when God is finally going to judge men and reclaim his creation. This will be a multi-step process:
  - a) Christ will physically kill all of the unsaved people at the end of the seven year tribulation period, Rev.19:21.
  - b) Christ will rule the earth for 1,000 years, "...with an iron scepter" meaning he will not let sin go unpunished.
  - c) Christ will again physically kill all of the unsaved people at the end of the 1,000 year reign of Christ, Rev. 20:9-10.
  - d) Also, just after the 1,000 year reign of Christ or at the end of the 1,000 year reign of Christ depending on how you interpret, Rev. 20:7, **"When the thousand years are over..."** all of the dead will be raised and judged

based on their deeds while they were living. If they are not recorded in the 'Book of Life' then they will be sent to hell for all of eternity, Rev. 20:11-15. This step will complete the judgment process.

- 4) Based on the last part of Rev. 11:15 the ownership of the world has been decided, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever."
- 5) There are only seven judgments remaining before the return of Christ, which are recorded in Revelations Chapter 16.
- 6) Last, based on the chronological order of the events described in the chapters proceeding verse 15 and the events described in the chapters following chapter 15 I think we can say that we are at the middle of the seven year tribulation period.

VERSE 16-18:

Verses 16-18 need to be discussed together given they record one event by one specific group in heaven. As a matter of fact this group starts to speak in the last part of verse 15. I see this as a 'point in time' event meaning it speaks about an event that occurs at a specific point in time (the middle of the seven year tribulation period) and is about another event which will occur at a specific point in time (which begins at the middle of the seven year tribulation period and will end at the end of the 1,000 year reign of Christ).

I will start with verse 15b to better convey the intent of these words; Rev.15b, "...and there were voices in heaven, which said: 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.' (16) And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God saying: 'We give thanks to you Lord God Almighty, who is and was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and rewarding your servants the prophets and

**your saints and those who reverences your name, both small and great—and for destroying those who destroyed the earth.”**

Verse 16 starts out with the word, “And” which means that the issues or events to follow should be connected with the thought or thoughts being conveyed before the word “and” was used. Prior to the word “and” there was a “voice” in heaven that states that God is getting ready to reclaim the earth and after the word “and” we find “the twenty four elders who were seated on their thrones before God...” falling down on their faces and worshiping God and making the following statement:

- 1) **“We give thanks to you Lord God Almighty...”** , I am sure that there are many reasons why they were giving thanks to God but in this specific case I think it is because God is about to reclaim the earth and judge the unsaved, as well as, reward the saved.
- 2) **“...who is and who was...”** To me this indicates two attributes about God, 1) God is eternal; 2) God is the creator of all things. Also note that within this statement the third portion which is normally stated is omitted. This would be the portion or component that talks about ‘eternity’. My conclusion is that this was not restated because it had already mentioned in verse 15b above, **“...and he will reign forever and ever.”**
- 3) **“...because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.”** To me this statement is very clear that God is getting ready to reclaim his ownership of the earth.
- 4) **“The nations are angry;”** To me there is no question that the unsaved world during this period will hate God and all who worship or represent him. This list will for sure include Israel, all Christian and all Jews, see Rev. 9:20-21 & Rev.11:7-10 & Rev.16:9-10; 21 & 20:7-9.
- 5) **“...and your wrath has come.”** This appears to be talking about the entire seven year tribulation period given this period is all about God implementing his plan of wrath on the earth and unsaved man. Remember all saved people were raptured prior to the beginning of the tribulation period. Also this appears to be another validation for the pretribulation rapture concept given they view the ‘Blessed Hope Concept’ as described in

John 14:1-3 and 1 Thess. 4:1-2 as Jesus Christ telling his saints that they will not have to go through 'God's wrath'. Last I think Revelations 6:15-17 is a very good example of how unsaved men will view this time period base on their relationship with God.

- 6) **"The time has come for the judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who revered your name, both small and great—and for destroying those who destroy the earth."** To me there is no question that these words speak about one issue, the final judgment of man, which will take place at what the church calls, 'The Great White Throne Judgment'. The day is coming when all men both saved and unsaved will have to stand before God an answer for their sins. Revelation 20:11-15 is very plain that this event will happen and it will happen just after the close of the 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth. However, these verses and many other verses within the Bible tell us that the outcome of this judgment will be based on one very simple issue, Rev. 20:15, **"If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire."** The issue is simple, if you are saved your name is in the Book of Life and if you are not saved you name is not written in the Book of Life. The last portion of verse 18 seems to make it very clear that God considers unsaved people to be the ones who have destroyed his earth, **"...and for destroying those who destroy the earth."** Also, remember we developed a chart describing or defining this process in our study on the 'Church at Thyatira' → page 91 of our study.

VERSE 19:

**"Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm."**

Verse 19 starts out with the word, "Then" indicating that the next events should be viewed as what will take place after verses 15-18. What John was witnessing in this verse is the original Temple of God in heaven. This is the original temple of God which resides in heaven. The one Moses build after the exodus was a copy of

this original temple, Heb.8:5, “They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven.” & Heb.9:23-24, “It was necessary, then for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a manmade sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence.” The building of the earthly temple by Moses is recorded in Exodus, chapter 24-30.

Verse 19 continues on to say that, “God’s temple in heaven was opened...”. It appears to me that the Book of Revelations is truly a book that has ‘opened’ or ‘revealed’ many things, such as:

- 1) A door was opened in Rev. 4:1 → Rapture
- 2) The Lamb/Christ is said to be worthy to open the seven sealed scroll in Rev. 5: 9
- 3) The Lamb opens six of the seven seals in Rev. 6:1-17
- 4) The Lamb opens the seventh seal in Rev. 8:1
- 5) The Abyss was opened in Rev. 9:2
- 6) The Temple of God is opened in Rev. 11:19
- 7) Heaven is opened to allow for Christ second coming in Rev. 19:11
- 8) The books are opened at the ‘White Throne Judgment’ in Rev. 20:12

The significance of God’s temple being opened to me indicates two things:

- 1) God is getting ready to restore his face-to-face relationship with his saints as defined in Revelations, Chapters 21 &22.
- 2) Based on the words about the ‘ark’ that follow this statement I believe God is about to complete his prophecy of Daniels seventh week.

To me the next portion of this verse, “...and within his temple was seen the Ark of the Covenant.” Speaks directly to the issue that God is about to complete his dealing with Israel as prophesied in the Book of Daniel. The “ark” is certainly a key object of the Hebrew history and is also would be a key component in terms of defining God’s relationship with his people.

Verse 19 ends with the following sentence, “And there came flashes of lighting, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.” I believe that there are two possible ways to interpret this sentence;

- 1) This is just the normal amount of power that is displayed when God is about to act, read rev. 4:1-4 first then, Rev. 4:5, “From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumbles and peals of thunder” & Rev. 8:5, Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the alter, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake.” Again, I believe that this display of power is just normal when God is about to act. Note; I do not think that any human has any idea the amount of power that God possesses. I should clarify that this would be the normal amount of power involved when God is about to act in ‘judgment’. His/Gods actions as it relates to his saints, I believe, will be quite different, John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” Sounds like a lot better deal to me!
- 2) This sentence speaks to the terrible judgment that God is about to bring on man and the earth in general over the next 3 ½ years.

The bible is not clear why this sentence was inserted, however, I believe it is some of both 1 & 2. And to inform man that the last 3 ½ years are about to begin and the end is in sight. Just an opinion!