A TALE OF TWO KINGDOMS

WEEK 12

REVELATION 11

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PRAYER PROMPTS:

- Pray that we would rest in knowing we belong to God, even when we feel exposed.
- Pray for Spirit-filled boldness to share the gospel with our neighbors.
- Pray for believers around the world who are suffering for their witness.
- Pray for CVC to give sacrificially, pray and fast boldly, and send those God calls.
- Pray for those who have not yet trusted Christ to come to Him while the way is open.

Know Whose You Are - Revelation 11:1-2

John is told to measure the temple, the altar, and the worshipers. In the prophets, measuring marked what belonged to God and promised to keep it. In the New Testament, God's temple is His people (1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 2:21–22).

- **Measured (v. 1):** God takes stock of His church and says, "These are mine."
- **Trampled (v. 2):** The outer court is still part of the temple: God's people, exposed to a hostile world for a time.
- **Limited (v. 2):** Forty-two months, 1,260 days, and "a time, times, and half a time" all equal three and a half years. Half of seven: real suffering that will not run its full course (Daniel 7:25–27).

Say What He Says - Revelation 11:3-6

Two witnesses in sackcloth (v. 3)

- Jesus calls them “my two witnesses.” They symbolize God’s people, empowered to speak the gospel at great cost.
- God’s law required two witnesses to establish the truth (Deuteronomy 19:15).
- Sackcloth shows they carry good news with tears, because judgment is coming for those who refuse it.

Key truth: A witness tells the truth about Jesus without shame, whatever it costs.

Olive trees and lampstands (v. 4)

- In Zechariah 4, oil flowed from two olive trees straight into the lamps, so the light never went out.
- The message: “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit” (Zechariah 4:6).
- Jesus has already told us the lampstands are His churches (Revelation 1:20).

Key truth: The church shines because the Spirit keeps pouring in the oil.

Fire, drought, and plagues (vv. 5–6)

- Elijah shut the sky, and Moses turned the water to blood. The witnesses carry the same authority.
- The fire is the word of God (Jeremiah 5:14), a word that warns of judgment and breaks chains.
- Adoniram Judson’s Burmese Bible survived war and prison, and it is still the most widely used Bible in Myanmar today.

Question to Consider:

WHO IN MY LIFE NEEDS TO HEAR THE GOSPEL FROM ME, AND AM I PRAYING FOR THEM BY NAME?

Expect What He Endured - Revelation 11:7-10

Finished, not stopped (v. 7): The beast cannot touch God's witnesses until their testimony is complete. When he "conquers" them, Revelation uses the same word as the Lamb's victory (5:5). Faithful to death is not defeat.

The great city (v. 8): Sodom's sin, Egypt's oppression, and the city where their Lord was crucified: every place in every age that organizes life against God.

Dishonored and celebrated (vv. 9–10): The world refuses burial and throws a party, because the truth torments those who reject it. Jesus warned, "If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:20).

Our response — GO: Across the street or across the ocean, take the gospel to those who have not heard, knowing it may cost you.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER:

AM I WILLING TO GO WHEREVER GOD SENDS ME,
EVEN IF IT COSTS ME?

Wait for What He Will Do - Revelation 11:11-19

After three and a half days, the breath of life from God raises the witnesses (Ezekiel 37). Then the seventh trumpet sounds: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever" (11:15). The world gets a short party; God's people get joy forever. Not one gift, prayer, or life given for Him will be wasted.

Know whose you are. Say what He says. Expect what He endured. Wait for what He will do.

A TALE OF TWO KINGDOMS

WEEK 12 - SYMBOLISM & TERMS

STUDY REFERENCE • REVELATION 11

How to Read Revelation 11

This chapter is full of Old Testament imagery and symbolic numbers. Christians differ on the details; some expect a rebuilt temple and two end-time prophets. The point is not to build a timeline, but to see God's protection, His people's costly witness, and His final victory.

Revelation 11:1–8: The Temple and the Two Witnesses

Measuring Rod (v. 1): John's prophetic sign act, drawn from Ezekiel 40–48 and Zechariah 2. Measuring marks what belongs to God and promises His protection.

Temple, Altar, and Worshipers (v. 1): God's people, the temple where He dwells (1 Corinthians 3:16). The altar recalls the church's sacrificial calling (6:9).

Outer Court / Holy City (v. 2): Not a false church, but God's own people seen as exposed to the world's hostility. The nations trample only what God allows.

Forty-Two Months / 1,260 Days (vv. 2–3): Both equal three and a half years, the same as "a time, times, and half a time" (12:6, 14; Daniel 7:25). Half of seven: a real but limited season of suffering.

Two Witnesses (v. 3): Not two individuals, but God's people bearing faithful, Spirit-empowered witness. Two witnesses established the truth in God's law (Deuteronomy 19:15).

Sackcloth (v. 3): Clothing of mourning and repentance. The witnesses grieve as they warn of coming judgment.

Olive Trees and Lampstands (v. 4): From Zechariah 4, where oil flowed from two olive trees, God's anointed priest and king, into the lampstand. The lampstands are the churches (1:20), shining by the Spirit's power.

Fire from Their Mouth (v. 5): The word of God as judgment on those who reject it (Jeremiah 5:14), not literal flames.

WEEK 12 - SYMBOLISM & TERMS (CONTINUED)

Shutting the Sky / Water to Blood (v. 6): Elijah's drought (1 Kings 17:1) and Moses' plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7). The witnesses carry the same prophetic authority through their message.

Beast from the Bottomless Pit (v. 7): Satanic power working through hostile earthly authority. The beast appears here for the first time and is described fully in Revelation 13.

Great City / Sodom and Egypt (v. 8): The world organized against God: Sodom's corruption, Egypt's oppression, and the city that crucified Jesus. Not a single place on a map.

Refused Burial (v. 9): In the ancient world, being left unburied was the ultimate dishonor (Psalm 79:2–3).

Three and a Half Days (vv. 9, 11): A brief season of apparent defeat, short compared to God's forever kingdom.

Gave Glory to the God of Heaven (v. 13): Christians differ on whether this is true repentance or a forced acknowledgment of God's power, like every knee bowing in Philippians 2:10–11.

Second and Third Woe (v. 14): The second woe (the sixth trumpet) has passed. The third comes with the seventh trumpet: final victory for God's people and judgment for His enemies.

Seventh Trumpet (v. 15): The final trumpet announces that God's kingdom has fully come.

"Who Is and Who Was" (v. 17): Earlier, God is also the one "who is to come" (1:8; 4:8). That phrase drops out here because He has come.

Ark of the Covenant (v. 19): The sign of God's presence and covenant faithfulness, once hidden behind the curtain, now in full view. Lightning, thunder, earthquake, and hail echo Sinai (Exodus 19).