



+INTRODUCTION

As with many other colorful events outlining John's revelation, your interpretation of this chapter will be largely influenced by your overall view of this book. The dominate lenses used when seeking to understand this chapter (as with the rest of the book) are stated below:

- 1. **Literal:** Reading with a western mindset, leaning towards literalism, the Jewish temple is seen as being rebuilt, before the period of great tribulation. Also, the two witnesses (Rev. 11:3-12) are seen as two people commissioned with the task of testifying to the Lord. Most who interpret Revelation literally, seldom agree on the identity of these men.
- 2. **Symbolic:** Those who view this chapter symbolically, see the temple (Rev. 11:1-2) as the collective body of worshippers, the church (1Cor. 6:19) and the two men symbolizing the witnessing activity of the church, testifying to the truthfulness of the Gospel and suffering martyrdom for it. The figurative number "two" is associated with establishing a credible testimony (Deut. 17:6).

What's important to note, that among believers, the disagreement is not about whether or not the

+READ (Revelation 11)

Read this passage out loud together as a group/family before asking any of the below questions.

+OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

- 1. It's easy to become opinionated about secondary topics which may inevitably bring unnecessary division, yet one thing must be kept clear, the bible is about God!
What does Revelation 11:1-14 tell us about God? What does it tell us about the world we live in?
- 2. Read, Luke 12:8-12, 21:12-19. In what way and to what extent is every believers' responsibility and protection like that of these two witnesses?
- 3. Consider the statement loudly proclaimed by the many voices from heaven, "**The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever!**" (Rev. 11:15) What emotions fill your heart when you stop and consider this proclamation? In light of this reality, how should this truth, affect the way you live?

+MEMORY VERSE/MEDITATION VERSE

Rev. 11:15 "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever!"

scripture is true. Those who prefer a 'literal approach', feel the book should be interpreted much the way a narrative, like the Gospels are. They also point out that, biblical figures generally interpret prophecy literally, e.g. Dan 9:2. Those who prefer the 'symbolic approach', say that because it's written in the genre of "apocalyptic literature", we should interpret it according to the rules applying to this specific genre. Once again, what is most important regardless of which interpretive rule you follow, is that Jesus remains the central theme.

This chapter concludes with yet another, snapshot of the heavenly scene, where there are loud voices heard shouting,

"The kingdom of the world
has become the kingdom of our Lord
and of his Christ,
and he shall reign forever and ever!"
(Rev. 11:15)

It's at this announcement, the 24 elders fall from off of their thrones and end up facedown, worshipping and praising the Almighty One who not only sits upon the throne, but who acts to establish universal justice. At last, His kingdom has come and his enemies will be vanquished!

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