

Revelation 11: Measuring the Temple in Jerusalem

Revelation 11:1–2 | Sunday, January 29 | Revelation Series

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OVERVIEW

Hal spends the first half of this message walking the history of one city — from Abraham, who would not take so much as a shoelace from the king of Sodom, to David taking the city from the jebusites a thousand years later and setting aside the treasure for a temple his son Solomon would build. Then the losses: the assyrians turned back, Nebuchadnezzar, the Romans in 70 A.D., the revolt of 135 A.D., the muslim conquest in 635 A.D., the crusades, allenby in World War I, the birth of the state of Israel in 1948, and the six-day war of 1967. All of it is background for two verses. A measuring rod like a staff is given, with the word to measure the temple of God and the altar, but to leave out the court outside, because it has been given to the nations, who will tread the holy city under foot for forty-two months. The rest of the message is how those two verses came alive for Hal standing on the Temple Mount with a Bible open in his hands.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 11:1 — A measuring rod like a staff — measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship in it

Revelation 11:2 — Leave out the court outside; it has been given to the nations, who tread the holy city forty-two months

Matthew 24:15 — When you see the abomination that causes desolation stand in the holy place — let the reader understand

Matthew 24 — Hal reads on from verse 15: flee to the mountains, and a tribulation such as has not been from the beginning of the world

2 Thessalonians 2 — The man of lawlessness takes his seat in the temple of God and declares himself to be God

KEY TERMS

The measuring rod — the staff given with the command to measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship in it

The inner court wall — the wall of the temple compound inside which only priests could go; Hal measures where it would have to stand

The court of the Gentiles — the great outer court — the part expressly not to be measured, because it has been given to the nations

The eastern gate — the closed double arch on the east side of the wall by the Temple Mount, which Hal calls the key to finding where the temple stood

Forty-two months — the time the nations tread the holy city under foot — three and a half years, the last half of the Tribulation

The abomination that causes desolation — the Antichrist going into the holy of holies in the Jewish temple at the exact middle of the seven years and declaring himself to be God

The temple institute — the work gershon salomon began after the six-day war, building the temple furniture exactly to the pattern God gave Moses

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. What did Abraham refuse, and why?

2. How did the city become Israel's capital, and who built the temple?

3. What does the name of the city mean, and what does Hal make of that?

4. Trace the losses Hal lists.

5. What does Hal say happened in the six-day war?

6. What is to be measured, and what is to be left out?

7. What question had these two verses always raised for Hal?

8. Whose archeological work does Hal rely on, and what did it conclude?

9. What did Hal find when he measured?

10. Why does Hal say that matters so much?

11. Who will tread the holy city under foot, for how long, and why then?

12. What two witnesses to that same event does Hal bring in from the New Testament?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. Hal treats this city's history as evidence that God keeps his word over thousands of years. Where do you find it hardest to trust God over long stretches of time?

2. He describes standing on the Temple Mount and suddenly understanding two verses he had read for decades. Has a familiar passage ever opened up on you like that?

3. Abraham would not take a shoelace, so that no one could claim credit for blessing him. Where might that instinct apply to you?

4. Hal says two verses he thought were throwaway detail turned out to be precise. What does that do to the way you read the parts of Scripture that look like filler?

5. He speaks of a nation that received something by miracle and then came under pressure to give it back. What have you been given that you are tempted to bargain away?

6. Hal ends by saying everything is being prepared, and that believers go up before any of it happens. How should that shape what you do this week rather than what you expect?

MEMORY VERSE

"Then there was given me a measuring rod, like a staff; and someone said, get up and measure the temple of God, and the altar of those who worship in it."

— Revelation 11:1, as Hal reads it in this message