

“The Temple of God & The Two Witnesses”  
Revelation 11:1-19  
Series: He Who Has An Ear”  
6/2/21  
Message 20

## Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “The Temple of God & The Two Witnesses”

- **Brief Update on Current Events – The Days are Evil**

**Ephesians 5:16–17 (NKJV)**

**16** redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

**17** Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

- Source - Daymond Duck – Rapture Ready  
(<https://www.raptureready.com/>)
- **Review Of Israel’s Recent war with Hamas – Things you may have missed in the Media**
  - On May 17, 2021, Turkey’s Pres. Erdogan called upon the UN, the UN Security Council, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and other international groups to wrestle Jerusalem away from Israel and to establish a commission of Muslims, Christians and Jews to administer the city.
  - On May 18, 2021, Israel’s Prime Min. Netanyahu said Israel’s 9 days of strikes on Gaza have “set Hamas back by years,” and “We will continue [to strike] as long as needed in order to restore the quiet to all citizens of Israel.”
  - On May 18, 2021, Israel shot down and recovered pieces of an armed Iranian drone that was launched from Syria or Iraq and entered Israeli air space from Jordan.
  - On May 18, 2021, Kohanim (Jewish priests) wearing priestly garments reenacted the Shavuot (Feast of Weeks; Pentecost) Temple service. The service could not be held on the Temple Mount because the Palestinians were rioting, but it was held near the Temple Mount despite the rioting.

- On May 19, 2021, four rockets were fired at Israel from southern Lebanon, but Hezbollah denied responsibility (Israel responded with artillery fire).
- On May 19, 2021, it was reported that Israel has been striking Hamas' navy. The head of Hamas' submarine development program has been killed, the head of Hamas' naval commando force has probably been killed, 8 warehouses that store naval weapons, 10 naval posts and 22 ships have been destroyed, and more.
- On May 19, 2021, Pres. Biden pushed Prime Min. Netanyahu to move toward a ceasefire with Hamas. Netanyahu said he is determined to continue until he has achieved quiet and security (peace and safety) for the citizens of Israel. Netanyahu said, "The possible responses to Hamas are to either conquer Gaza or deter them."
- On May 20, 2021, there was an 8-hour lull in Israel's attacks on her enemies, but 341 rockets were fired at Israel. Despite that (and the fact that 4,400 rockets had been fired at Israel since May 10), Prime Min. Netanyahu declared a unilateral ceasefire.
- **Current**
  - IRAN'S ENRICHED URANIUM STOCKPILES 16 TIMES HIGHER THAN LIMIT SET BY NUCLEAR DEAL
  - SPEAKER AT TULSA RALLY TELLS ARMED CROWD: 'KILL EVERYTHING WHITE IN SIGHT'
  - Huge Blast –
    - **Show Pic**
    - Iran Largest Naval Ship Sunk
    - Off the Coast of Iran – Strait of Hormuz
  - U.S. monitoring Iranian warships that may be headed to Venezuela

- **Show Pic**

- Cargo containing very small and fast boats

- **Anti – Semitism on The rise**

- Read Excerpt from Olivier Melnick

- **World Support For Evil**

- Biden said he will give Gaza \$338 million
  - Egypt said he will give \$500 million
  - Qatar pledged \$360 million
  - Almost \$1.2 billion so far
  - Why shouldn't Hamas go to war if world leaders reward them like that?

- **Concerning the Great Reset – World Economic Reform**

- Quote Daymond Duck
  - The Great Reset is an elitist effort to impose a series of changes on the masses because it would be difficult to get the changes approved if the masses are given a choice.
  - The changes are intended to prepare for the reign of the Antichrist.
  - The elite are hiding their true intent (deceiving the masses) under the guise of creating a better world, protecting the environment, freedom, equality, etc.
  - The principles they espouse reveals a hatred for religion, especially Christianity and Jesus.
  - Their idea of freedom is rebellion against God and the Word of God.

- Their idea of equality is to place everyone on the same level, and that is the lowest level of society today.
- Man is made in the image of God with the freedom to choose to obey or not obey God, but the globalists intend to remake man in an image they prefer and force man to obey them.
- Good and evil will not be defined by the Bible; it will be defined by them.
- The Great Reset is not just setting the stage for the rise of Antichrist; it is also setting the stage for their godless world religion.
- Covid is a tool the globalists have been using to justify restrictions on the natural freedoms and rights of the masses.

- **Show Pics**

- **Digital Currency**

- It was reported that the Federal Reserve expects a money system similar to a digital dollar to be ready for use by the general public in two years.

- **Apostasy**

- Concerning a falling away from the faith in the U.S., on May 20, 2021, it was reported that an Arizona Univ. Cultural Research Center found that 43% of Millennials (18-36) and 31% of Gen Xers (37-54) do not know or care whether God exists.
- Only 40% of those that are 55 or older are believed to be born again.
- Concerning this, Dr. George Barna said, "The influence of the Christian church has diminished while the influence of arts, entertainment, and news media has exploded."

- **In Conclusion**

***Ephesians 5:16–17 (NKJV)***

**16** *redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

**17** *Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

- **Tonight Chapter 11**

- Scenes In The Bible

- There are a lot of scenes in the Bible That I would love to see when we get to Heaven
- Hope He replays them for us
  - God parting the Red Sea - (Look on their faces)
  - Shadrach ... In the Fiery Furnace - (The Look on Neb's Face)
  - The Crucifixion / The Resurrection
  - Paul on the road to Damascus
- One Yet Future – I can't wait to see
  - John measuring the temple...
  - The ministry of two witnesses who can do some amazing things

- **Review**

- **We're near the MIDDLE of the TRIBULATION PERIOD**

- The Church has been Raptured / Chapters 4-5
- The Antichrist has Come to Power...
- 144,000 Jews have been sealed
- Multitudes have come to the Lord and been martyred
- The world has gone thru war, famines and plagues... billions of people killed

○ **Chapter 8**

- The First 4 Trumpet judgments
- We saw unprecedented disaster...
  - Hail & Fire from heaven...
  - 1/3 of all trees, all grass burned up
  - 1/3 Of the sea became blood
  - 1/3 Of sea life died
  - 1/3 Of ships destroyed
  - 1/3 Of all fresh water was poisoned - Rivers & Springs
  - The sun, moon and stars were darkened

○ **Chapter 9**

- 5th & 6th Trumpet Sounded
- Star Fallen (satan)
- Keys to Bottomless Pit
- Demons Released
- Look like Locusts / Scorpions Tail
- Stinging all those not marked
- Men could not die for 5 months
  - Preview of hell
  - God seeks to get them to repent
    - Men still don't repent!

○ **Chapter 10**

- Parenthetical Section
  - It is a BRAKE, between the 6th & 7th Trumpets.

- John is given a vision of a Mighty Angel with this Little Book
  - Message of the mighty Angel
    - That there should be delay no longer
  - The Little Book
    - God's Word is Sweet
    - Judgments are Bitter
- **3 Main Points Tonight**
  - The Measuring Of The Temple Of God Vs. 1-2
  - The Ministry Of The Two Witnesses Vs. 3-14
  - The Majesty Of God and His Plan Vs. 15-19

### **The Measuring Of The Temple Of God vs. 1-2**

#### ***Revelation 11:1–2 (NKJV)***

**1** *Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.*

**2** *But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.*

#### • **First: The Measuring of the Temple**

- **1<sup>st</sup> John was given a measuring rod**
  - Consisted of a reed plant
  - They grew in Jordan valley 10-15 ft. long / used as walking staff
  - John was told to take that Staff and to...
    - "Measure the Temple of God..."
    - "Measure the altar..."

- This refers to the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies, & the Altar of Incense in the Holy Place
- BUT
  - DO not Measure the outer court of the Temple.
  - More on this in a minute
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Now The REASON John was told to measure the Temple is 2 Fold**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> Measuring speaks of Ownership (Property Line)**
    - In Zechariah 2
      - Jerusalem is measured just prior to being judged.
    - In Ezekiel 40
      - The Temple of God is carefully measured with a reed
    - Revelation 21
      - The New Jerusalem is measured.
    - The objects or areas being measured belong to God in some special way.
    - So it speaks of OWNERSHIP
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Speaks of EVALUATION of His property.**
    - In Zechariah 2
      - WHEN the city of Jerusalem was measured it was found to be spiritually Lacking (The Evaluation wasn't Good)
    - So the Purpose was for Ownership & Evaluation

• **Second: Prophecies Concerning The Temple of God**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Confirm the Prophecies Concerning the Temple Being Rebuilt**

**Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)**

**27** Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

- Daniel tells that a temple will be in place in the last days and sacrifice taking place.
- We also see the Antichrist
  - Then he [Antichrist] shall confirm a covenant with many for one week (7 years)
  - But in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. Demand to be worshiped
  - Jesus referred to this verse in Matthew 24...

**Matthew 24:15–16 (NKJV)**

**15** “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),  
**16** “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

**Daniel 12:11 (NKJV)**

**11** “And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.

**2 Thessalonians 2:4 (NKJV)**

**4** who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

- **Third: History Of the Temple**

- **1<sup>st</sup> There were 3 Temples in Israel's History**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Was built by Solomon in 1050 B.C.**

- Destroyed by the Babylonians in 586B.C.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Was rebuilt in 536 B.C. by Zerubbabel**
  - 168 BC when Antiochus Epiphanies desecrated the temple by slaughtering a pig on the altar and demanding he be worshipped as god.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Herod's Temple**
  - He expanded & remodeled the temple in 20 B.C.
    - It was very Elaborate & Ornate
    - Took Decades to finish & no expense was Spared
  - Jesus prophesied of in Matt. 24 - that not one stone would be left upon another
    - That prophesy was Fulfilled less than 40 years later when The Romans led by general Titus over threw Jerusalem in A.D. 70
    - The temple was
      - Ransacked
      - Set on fire
      - Gold melted - between the stones in their greed to get gold - stones were turned over one by one
  - And for some 2000 years - the Temple has been absent in Israel
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Today Muslims Built a Mosque**
  - **Show Picture – Overview**
  - In the late 600's the unthinkable happened the Muslims built a Mosque on the old Temple Sight
  - Called the Mosque of Omar - Doom of the Rock

- It stands to this day
- **3<sup>rd</sup> A little History**
  - Israel regained control of Jerusalem in 1967 - The 6- Day War
  - Israeli General Moshe Dayan allowed The Arabs kept control of the temple Mt. - (a gesture that he himself never really explained)
  - Didn't make sense - Biggest sources of Contention to this day

• **Fourth: So How Will The Temple Be Rebuilt?**

- **1<sup>st</sup> How is the Mosque going to be replaced?**
  - 3 Scenarios
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Psalm 83
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ezekiel 38 - Battle
      - Arab nations for all intents and purposes will be wiped out
      - (Muslim religion rendered a death Blow)
      - Mosque replaced
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Anti – Christ Will Fix All
      - In Daniel 9 Covenant with Israel
      - We are told that in the Beginning of the Tribulation
      - The Antichrist comes on the Scene & makes a Covenant with Israel for 7 years
      - Will center around him - helping them rebuild their temple

- So it is Possible that the Antichrist...
  - Helps solve the Arab - Israeli conflict
  - Comes up with a way for both groups to coexist on the temple Mt.
  - Interesting
    - Ask an Orthodox Jew today - who is waiting for the Messiah to come...
    - How they know when the messiah will come?
- REBUILD TEMPLE**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Possible Location Of the Temple**
    - Possible Solution
      - Archaeologist by the name of Dr. Asher Kaufman
      - After spending 16 years studying the Temple Mt. Area
      - Came to some remarkable conclusions
      - In an Incredible article 1983 March / April - Biblical Archaeological review - Kaufman Unveiled a great Misconception
    - Here are his findings
      - All these years people have thought that the Dome of the Rock is sitting on the Spot of the Original Holy of Holies
        - When in Actuality the true Location is 100 meters north of there
        - Where the Muslims have set up a Little Gazebo Like structure
- Show Picture**

- Now Below this gazebo like structure is a flat piece of bedrock from the original temple
- Which Kaufman believes is where the Ark of the Cov. sat in the Holy of Holies
- ALSO when the Muslims built the gazebo - like they gave it two names:
- The Dome of the Spirit, and the Dome of the Tablets.
  - Which would seem to indicate that even Islam recognized this site as the spot where the tablets –
  - The Ten Comm. within the Ark of the Covenant, 1) and the Spirit - the Shekinah, chabod, glory of God over the Ark of the Covenant had been.
- Seems Logical – But Also Historical
  - Now this spot where this Gazebo sits is Not only more logical, this site seems more historical.
  - According to the Mishna - (The highly esteemed book of Jewish oral traditions)
  - When the priest stood in the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, he could look through the veil, through the door, and see the Eastern Gate directly before him.
  - Now this makes Dr. Kauffman's assertion even more intriguing
  - For if you stand in that Gazebo 100 meters north of the Dome of the Rock, the Eastern Gate is in plain view.

- So according to Kauffman and a lot of scholars, the Temple could be rebuilt and the Dome of the Rock would remain standing.
  - Now If that is the Case & - And the Antichrist - somehow - convinces both groups to allow this -
  - That would put the Dome of the Rock in the OUTER COURT
  - Which is very intriguing in light of what John is told in v. 2 DO NOT MEASURE THE OUTER COURT

• **Fifth: Strong Movement to Rebuild today**

- There is a very strong movement today in Israel to rebuild the Temple there on the Temple Mount.
- There is a group (TEMPLE INSTITUTE)
- Has already begun to gather the materials for the Temple
- There are 2 schools where they are training young men with the last name Cohen - which means Priest / trained to Sacrifice animals
- Almost all the instruments needed for Temple worship to take place according to O.T. regulations are in Place

**The Ministry Of The Two Witnesses vs. 3-14**

• **First: Their Duty Is To Prophecy vs. 3-4**

- **1<sup>st</sup> I will Give Power v. 3a**

**Revelation 11:3 (NKJV)**

**3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."**

- These two witnesses have a ministry unlike anything
- They are able to do some radical things

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days v. 3b**

**Revelation 11:3 (NKJV)**

**3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."**

- The Word Prophecy
  - In the O.T.
    - It is used to PREDICT - events that were to happen in the Future
  - In the N.T.
    - It simply means to PROCLAIM God's Word / God's Mind & God's Heart
- Their Message
  - I think these guys Ministry Probably was Comprised of Both
  - PREDICTING
    - A warning of the Future Judgment that awaited - all those who would take the Mark / who would continue to reject God
  - PLEADING for men to REPENT & turn to the Lord
    - Repent / God wants ALL men to repent

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Clothed in sackcloth v. 3c**

**Revelation 11:3 (NKJV)**

**3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."**

- Not Armani Suits - but SACKCLOTH

- Their wearing of sackcloth will be an OBJECT LESSON for the World
- Showing their great Sorrow for the Wickedness of the World
- Telling the WORLD it NEEDS to REPENT
- I Love what Vance Havner Said -

- **Show Meme**

- **4<sup>th</sup> When will they be here?**

- Scholars Differ / Some the latter half
- I believe this 3 ½ years is the FIRST half of the Tribulation.
- These individuals are allowed to speak until the Antichrist is given permission to kill them.
- That fits best as taking place at the mid-point of the Tribulation, when the Antichrist reveals himself as pure evil.

- **Second: Their Description Is Interesting v. 4**

***Revelation 11:4 (NKJV)***

***4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.***

- The "Two Olive Trees and the Two Lampstands"

- **1<sup>st</sup> Olive Oil**

- In John's day, olive trees were not valued as a source of olives to eat, but olives to make olive oil.
- Olive oil was what drove the lighting industry.
- Olive oil brought light.
- Olive oil is also a picture in the Bible of the Holy Spirit.

- Means The witnesses have an unique, continual empowering from the Holy Spirit
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Two Lampstands**
  - These witnesses are describes as "lampstands", the same word used by Jesus to describe us as being lights (Mat. 5:14-15)
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Who Are they?**
  - We will solve that issue TODAY / No we wont...
  - Many thoughts
  - **1<sup>st</sup> A Symbolic Approach**
    - That sees them as representatives of Israel and the church or Israel and the Word of God
    - Yah No...
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Two unique individuals who have never before existed**
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> Leaders from Israel's past**
    - Suggestions include...
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Zerubbabel and Joshua
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Enoch and Elijah (two men who were taken to heaven by unusual circumstances)
      - Heb. 9:27 appointed to die once...
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Moses and Elijah
      - A strong case can be made for Moses and Elijah
      - One Representing the Law
      - The other the Prophets

- The miraculous powers mentioned in Revelation 11:6 certainly could point to these two men
- Moses and Elijah who appeared with Jesus Christ on the mount of transfiguration (Matthew 17:3)
- According to Malachi 4, the prophet Elijah is going appear on the scene of human history before the Messiah returns to the earth

***Malachi 4:5–6 (NKJV)***

**5** *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.*

**6** *And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.”*

- At a Jewish Passover celebration, a young child is sent to the door to see if Elijah has come yet
- That symbolic action reminds us of Malachi's prophecy

• **Third: Their Demonstrations Of Power vs. 5-6**

- **1<sup>st</sup> A whole new meaning to "witness protection plan" v. 5**

***Revelation 11:5 (NKJV)***

**5** *And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.*

- God supernaturally protects them by giving them awesome power.
- Death WILL COME to anyone who even wants to harm them.

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Sounds like the Power given to Moses and Elijah v. 6**

***Revelation 11:6 (NKJV)***

**6** *These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.*

- Maybe Another reason for believing these two witnesses are Moses and Elijah
- We see similar fate befell their enemies in the Old Testament (Numbers 16:35; 2 Kings 1:10-12)
- Similar to Elijah / 2 KINGS 1
- Elijah - The Power to "shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy,"
- Moses - Who struck the waters of Egypt so that they "were turned to blood" (Exodus 7:20)
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson - We are Invincible**
  - For 3.5 Years these two Witnesses are Invincible
  - No one not even Antichrist can do anything to them
  - The ENEMY HAS no power over them until their Ministry is complete
  - Same is true of us
  - God knows the number of our days, and there are certain things that God would have us to do and accomplish for His glory.
  - No one can stop the purposes of God for my life
  - No one can take my life until God's divine purpose for my life is accomplished
  - He will preserve me until all is finished.

• **Fourth: Their Death Is Celebrated vs. 7-13**

***Revelation 11:7–13 (NKJV)***

***7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.***

- 8** *And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.*
- 9** *Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.*
- 10** *And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.*
- 11** *Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.*
- 12** *And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.*
- 13** *In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.*

- **1<sup>st</sup> Their Ministry is Finished**

- When the Lord says it is time - the Beast Kills them

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Everyone will See their Dead Bodies**

- This ability did not exist until TV what 1950's
  - Now Smart Phones

- **3<sup>rd</sup> Celebration?!**

- When these guys are Killed the Whole World Celebrates
  - That is how much the Love of God is HATED
  - Give Gifts?!
  - The people feel that it has finally rid itself of God and they can finally do what they want.
  - No God... No accountability for one's actions

- **4<sup>th</sup> Lesson - Hatred for God is Already happening and Increasing**

- Greg Laurie Billboard / Bible

- **5<sup>th</sup> The Drama of their Resurrection**

- Wow

***Revelation 11:13–14 (NKJV)***

**13** *In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.*

**14** *The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.*

- Many believe that the "REST" mentioned here refers to the inhabitants of Jerusalem - Jews
- It is Shortly after this Earthquake & this Scene that the Lord returns
- QUICKLY - SOON - expresses the imminence of the last WOE

**The Majesty Of God and His Plan vs. 15-19**

- **First: The seventh trumpet. V. 15**

***Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)***

**15** *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"*

- **1<sup>st</sup> The seventh trumpet finally sounds.**

- Loud voices in heaven, saying,
- "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"
- Have become the kingdoms of our Lord
- In the ancient Greek grammar, the verb tense of "have become"
- Indicates an absolute certainty about Jesus' coming and reign, even before the fact is accomplished.

- He shall reign forever and ever!
- It WILL HAPPEN

• **Second: The twenty-four elders worship God. vs. 16-18**

***Revelation 11:16–18 (NKJV)***

**16** *And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,*  
**17** *saying: “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.*  
**18** *The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.”*

○ **1<sup>st</sup> We give You thanks:**

- This thanksgiving isn't to thank God that He has already done this;
- But that the hour has come for it to take place, and that these things are permanently set in motion.

○ **2<sup>nd</sup> The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come:**

- God's punishment matches the crime; there is nothing random about it.
- The nations are angry with God and He responds with wrath
- Those that destroy the earth are themselves destroyed.

• **Third: The temple in heaven is opened v. 19**

***Revelation 11:19 (NKJV)***

**19** *Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.*

○ **1<sup>st</sup> The ark of His covenant was seen in His temple:**

▪ Ark:

- The original was built under the direction of Moses 3400 years ago.
- It was supposed to be a model of God's throne.
- The Ark was made of wood, covered with gold, and was basically a box meant to hold the two stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments, which were God's "contract" or "covenant" with the Jews.
- The lid of the box was made of solid gold and called the "mercy seat"
- The idea is that this was where God sat.
- God's throne is all about "mercy".
- The Ark was kept in a tent called the Tabernacle for 500 years until Solomon built the first Temple, where it was moved into the inner sanctuary, the "Holy of Holies".
- The Ark has been missing since the time of Jeremiah when Solomon's Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC.
- There was no record of it being carried off to Babylon like the other parts of the Temple.
- It was just missing. MIA.
- When Zerubbabel built the second Temple, there was no Ark.
- In Jesus' day there was no Ark.

○ **2<sup>nd</sup> What's the point of John seeing the Ark in heaven? Perhaps it's this ...**

- God never changes

- God keeps His promises.
- He keeps His contracts.
- Even though the "contract box" hasn't been seen in 2500 years, God still honors His contracts.
- He still honors His word.
- It's still valid in heaven.

### **Closing**

- REMEMBER
- Jesus is COMING SOON
- Be Ready
- Be About His Business / Share your faith
- Be Encouraged