

Creation Revelation



God is in the details

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Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one
of thy righteous judgments endureth forever.

Psalm 119:160

R 1

The Two Witnesses

Her rash hand in evil hour
Forth reaching to the fruit, she plucked, she eat:
Earth felt the wound, and Nature from her seat,
Sighing through all her works, gave signs of woe
That all was lost. John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, 1667

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every
imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Genesis 6:5 KJV

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever
believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16 KJV

Time No Longer

There will come a time during the Great Tribulation, after the rapture of the Church,¹ that God will delay no longer His wrath upon the rebellious world. Given the present moral condition of the world, it is a wonder that He still waits. The time when He will wait no longer will finally arrive as described in Revelation 10:6.

And swear by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be **time no longer**: Revelation 10:6 KJV

God's focus will now be on Israel and the Temple, and He will not delay.² In Old Testament prophecy we see three things happening: God will gather the nations against Jerusalem, God will **shatter the nations**, and Israel will **rebuild the Temple**.³

God Will Gather the Nations

According to prophecy, God will make Jerusalem a "cup of trembling" to all the nations; a "burdensome stone" for all people, and all the people of the earth will be "gath-

ered against it."

The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him. Behold, **I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about**, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And **in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people**: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though **all the people of the earth be gathered together against it**. Zechariah 12:1-3 KJV

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For **I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle**; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. Zechariah 14:1-3

These prophecies do not seem farfetched in light of the current events plaguing the Middle East and the world.

God Will Shatter the Nations

God will gather the nations against Jerusalem, and then He will **shatter** them. Anyone gathered against Jerusalem will harm himself, since he will be going against God.⁴

The portion of Jacob is not like them; for he is the former of all things: and **Israel** is the rod of his inheritance: the LORD of hosts is his name. **Thou art my battle ax and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations**, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms; And with thee will I break in pieces the horse and his rider; and with thee will I break in pieces the chariot and his rider; With thee also will I break in pieces man and woman; and with thee will I break in pieces old and young; and with thee will I break in pieces the young man and the maid; I will also break in pieces with thee the shepherd and his flock; and with thee will I break in pieces the husbandman and his yoke of oxen; and with thee will I break in pieces captains and rulers. Jeremiah 51:19-23 KJV

Notice that God says that Israel is His weapon against the nations. We see that the focus of the world is on this tiny sliver of a nation, and on its capitol city Jerusalem. Arafat wants Jerusalem as the capitol of a Palestinian state. The Pope wants Jerusalem declared an international city so he can move his headquarters there. The religious Jews want to rebuild their temple. The Palestinians want to keep their mosque called the Dome of the Rock. The conflict is between Jacob and Ishmael, Judaism and Islam. Jerusalem is considered holy by three religions, Christian, Judaism, and Islam. Jesus was crucified there, the Temple of the Jews was located there, and the Muslims believe that Mohammed ascended into heaven from there.⁵ The question is who worships the true God? Regardless of the claims, we know that the Jewish Temple will be rebuilt from the reference to the "sacrifice" in Daniel 9:27.

And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause **the sacrifice** and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. Daniel 9:27 KJV

We do not know what is to become of the mosque when Israel rebuilds the Temple. A rebuilt Temple on the Temple Mount after removal of the mosque would be an insult to the God of Islam. The issue is extremely volatile.⁶ The Muslim mosque, called the Dome of the Rock, or the Mosque of Omar, is located over the site traditionally thought to be the place where Abraham offered Isaac on Mount Moriah.⁷ That Mohammed ascended to heaven from this spot is tradition.

The truth may be that the mosque was built over the exposed rock on the Temple Mount as a competition with the rival caliph of Mecca, in order to replace or divert the pilgrimage to Ka'ba, the holy stone of Mecca.⁸ The rebuilding of this temple may take place after the Gog and Magog invasion of Ezekiel 38. Russia and her allies, the Muslim nations, may have been destroyed or otherwise neutralized. During this battle the mosque may have been destroyed. With all opposition out of the way, the third Temple (Tribulation Temple) may be rebuilt with the aid of an international agreement.⁹ For other prophetic references to a future temple see Ezekiel chapters 40 through 48, and the following:

In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: Amos 9:11 KJV

But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. Micah 4:1 KJV

The glory of **this latter house** shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts. Haggai 2:9 KJV

And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold **the man whose name is The BRANCH**; and he shall grow up out of his place, and **he shall build the temple of the LORD**: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both. Zechariah 6:12, 13 KJV

As a "Son of David" Jesus was from the "stem of Jesse" (David's father). Jesus is the "Branch" as indicated by Isaiah:

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; Isaiah 11:1, 2 KJV

The Millennial Temple will be built by the "Branch," Jesus. But, Jesus was referring to an End Time (third) temple when He referred to Daniel 9:27:

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in **the holy place**, (whoso readeth, let him understand:.) Matthew 24:15 KJV

This is what Paul had in mind in 2 Thessalonians:

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and **that man of sin** be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God **sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.** 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4 KJV

It's clear that the third Temple must be rebuilt during the Tribulation, and the Lord, during the Millennium, will build another temple. After the Millennium there will be a "new heaven," and a "new earth." There will be no temple there because "the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the Temple." (Refer to Figure 1).

And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.
Revelation 21:22 KJV

515 BC. This was the temple enlarged by Herod in 20 BC, and it remained standing until destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. At that time it was burned, and the gold from the Temple flowed into the joints between the stones, causing the Romans to dismantle the stones to get at the gold. Not one stone was left on top of another in fulfillment of the Prophecy of Jesus.¹⁰

And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him **the buildings of the temple.** And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, **There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.** Matthew 24:1, 2 KJV

Since 1967 preparations have been underway for the rebuilding of the Temple.¹¹ John was given a measuring rod and told to measure, in order, the Temple, the altar, and the worshippers. There are two words used for the word "temple" in Hebrew, "Hieron, meaning the building, and "naos," meaning the Holy Place. John was asked to measure the Holy Place.¹² (Refer to Figure 2).

Inside the Holy Place was the golden altar, or the altar of incense.

And Solomon made all the vessels that were for the house of God, **the golden altar** also, and the tables whereon the shewbread was set; 2 Chronicles 4:19 KJV

In addition to the golden altar in the Holy Place were the golden candlestick and the table of shewbread. While the animal sacrifice was occurring in the court of the priests, outside the Holy Place, two priests entered the Holy Place to clean the altar of incense, and to trim and refill with oil the golden lamp. Five of the seven were left burning, while the other two were reserved for a later period of the service.¹³ At this point in the service a prayer was offered:

*With great love Thou hast loved us, O Lord our God, and with much overflowing pity hast Thou pitied us. Our Father and our King, for the sake of our fathers who trusted in Thee, and Thou taughtest them the statutes of life, have mercy upon us, and enlighten our eyes [in Thy law; cause our hearts to cleave to Thy commandments; unite our hearts to love and to fear Thy name, and we shall not be put to shame, world without end. For Thou art a God who preparest salvation, and us hast Thou chosen from among all nations and tongues, and hast, in truth, brought us near to Thy great name, Selah, in order] that we in love may praise Thee and Thy Unity. Blessed be the Lord, who in love chose His people Israel.*¹⁴

After the sacrifice, a golden bowl was filled with coals from the bronze altar (the altar of burnt offering) and the in-

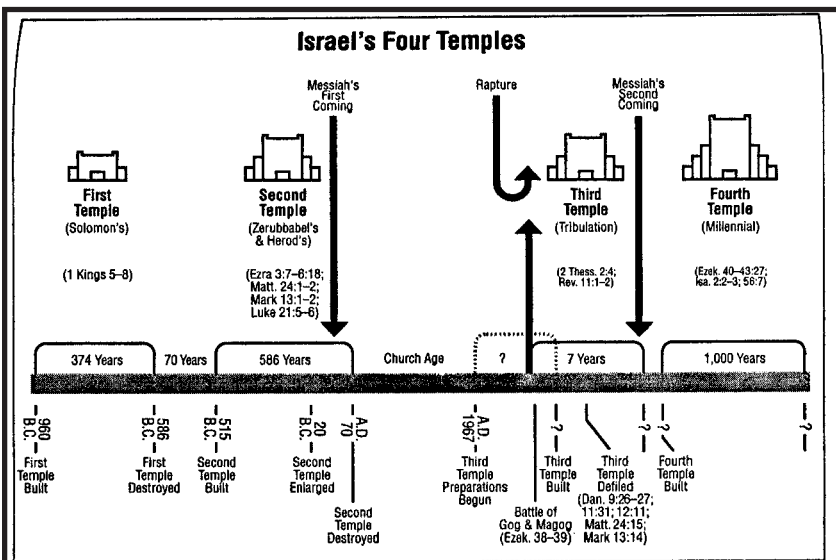


Figure 1 - Israel' Four Temples.

Thomas Ice, Randall Price, **READY TO REBUILD: The Imminent Plan to Rebuild the Last Days Temple**, Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1992, p. 53.

The Temple

REV 11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

There have been two temples in Israel's history, not including the portable Tabernacle in the wilderness. The first temple was built by Solomon in about 960 BC. This temple was eventually destroyed in the final Babylonian invasion by Nebuchadnezzar about 586 BC. Zerubbabal returning from the Babylonian exile built the second temple 70 years later in

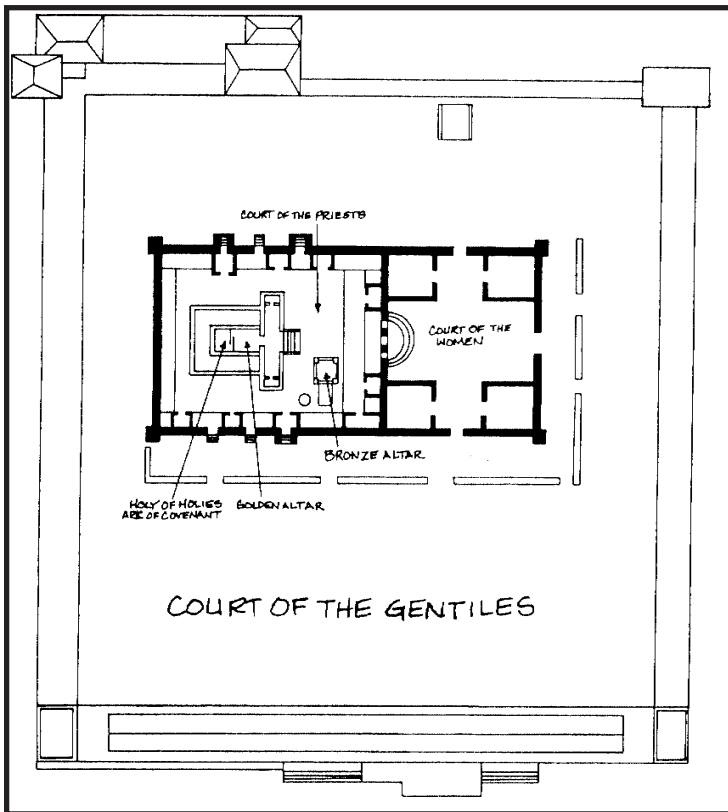


Figure 2 - The Temple in the Time of Jesus
 Daymond R. Duck, Larry Richards, **REVELATION: GOD'S WORD FOR THE BIBLICALLY-INEPT**, Lancaster, PA, Starburst Publishers, 1998, p. 153.

censing priest and his two assistants entered the Holy Place carrying the coals and a censer containing incense. The two priests, who had previously dressed the altar, preceded the incensing priest and his two assistants into the Holy Place. These two priests now removed the vessels they left behind and exited the Holy Place. The burning coals were placed on the altar of incense by one assistant, after which the other arranged the incense. The two assistants then departed leaving the officiating incensing priest alone to await the signal to burn the incense. It was at this moment 2000 years ago that Gabriel appeared to Zacharias:¹⁵

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years. And it came to pass, that **while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course**, According to the custom of the priest's office, **his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord**. And the whole

multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense. And **there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense**. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. And the angel answering said unto him, **I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God**; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. And, behold, **thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak**, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season. And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple. And **when he came out, he could not speak unto them**: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless. Luke 1:5-22 KJV

Deep silence ensued at this moment throughout the Temple, similar to the silence in heaven:

And when he had opened the seventh seal, **there was silence in heaven** about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And **another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne**. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake. Revelation 8:1-5 KJV

At this point in the service prayers were offered as follows:

True it is that Thou art Jehovah our God, and the God of our fathers; our King and the king of our fathers; our Saviour and the Saviour of our fathers;

our Maker and the Rock of our salvation; our help and our Deliverer. Thy name is from everlasting, and there is no God beside Thee. A new song did they that were delivered sing to Thy name by the sea-shore; together did all praise and own Thee as King, and say, Jehovah shall reign who saveth Israel.

Be graciously pleased, Jehovah our God, with Thy people Israel, and with their prayer. Restore the service to the oracle of Thy house; and the burnt-offerings of Israel and their prayer accept graciously and in love; and let the service of Thy people Israel be ever well-pleasing unto Thee. We praise Thee, who art Jehovah our God, and the God of our fathers, the God of all flesh, our Creator and the Creator from the beginning! Blessing and praise be to Thy great and holy name, that Thou hast preserved us in life and kept us. So preserve us and keep us, and gather the scattered ones into Thy holy courts, to keep Thy statutes, and to do Thy good pleasure, and to serve Thee with our whole heart, as this day we confess unto Thee. Blessed be the Lord, unto whom belongeth praise.

Appoint peace, goodness, and blessing; grace, mercy, and compassion for us, and for all Israel Thy people. Bless us, O our Father, all of us as one, with the light of Thy countenance. For in the light of Thy countenance hast Thou, Jehovah, our God, given us the law of life, and loving mercy, and righteousness, and blessing, and compassion, and life, and peace. And may it please Thee to bless Thy people Israel at all times, and at every hour with Thy peace. [May we and all Thy people Israel be remembered and written before Thee in the book of life, with blessing and peace and support.] Blessed be Thou, Jehovah, who blessest Thy people Israel with peace.¹⁶

At the conclusion the priest who trimmed the lamps reentered the Holy Place to light the remaining two lamps. Finally, the pieces of the sacrificed animal were usually arranged on the fire of the bronze altar by the high priest. A blessing was then pronounced by one of the priests, probably the incensing priest, the blessing of Numbers 6:24-26. If this was Zacharias (Luke 1:5-22), it explains the astonishment of his speechlessness.¹⁷

The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Numbers 6:24-26 KJV

In Revelation 11:1, the temple, the altar, and the people are measured to determine how many are true worshippers of Jesus.¹⁸ The true, once for all, sacrifice was not in the Temple, but on a wooden cross at Calvary. The animal sacrifice has become an abomination in its rejection of what God has done.¹⁹ The Jews intend to rebuild their Temple to re-institute the animal sacrifice, but will only gain an abomina-

tion. Revelation 11:1 indicates that the Jews have not only regained the Temple site, but the right to do something with it.²⁰

REV 11:2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

The outer court and Jerusalem are under control of the Gentiles, and will remain so during the last 3-1/2 years of the Tribulation, "until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and **Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.**
Luke 21:24 KJV

Israel was taken captive into all nations after the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD. The Gentiles tread down Jerusalem even today, but especially, the Gentiles will be in control of Jerusalem during the last 3-1/2 years (42 months) of the Tribulation.²¹

The Two Witnesses

Before the full force of God's wrath is unleashed, He will warn the nations. Two distinctive witnesses will appear in Jerusalem.

REV 11:3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

The Mosaic Law required that two witnesses validate matters pertaining to Jewish religious and civil matters. Because of this God will send two witnesses to "prophesy and validate the world's sin and blasphemy during the Tribulation Period."²²

At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death. Deuteronomy 17:6 KJV

One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established. Deuteronomy 19:15 KJV

These witnesses prophesy during the first 3-1/2 years of the Tribulation. The two witnesses are dressed in sackcloth, a course cloth worn as a sign of mourning.²³

And Jacob rent his clothes, and **put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned** for his son many days. Genesis 37:34 KJV

When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and **put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry**; And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, **there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes**. So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not. Esther 4:1-4 KJV

There is no word "power" in the Greek of Revelation 11:3. The intent may rather be "commission" or that "authority" was given to the two witnesses. Notice also in this verse the article "My" indicating that these two witnesses were well known, or familiar.²⁴ Who are they?

Who Are They? - The Candidates

Elijah was sent to Israel in a time of great apostasy to call the nation to repentance.²⁵ He had the power to shut heaven that it would not rain.

And **Elijah the Tishbite**, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, **said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word**. And **the word of the LORD came unto him**, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. 1 Kings 17:1-4 KJV

And it came to pass after many days, that **the word of the LORD came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth**. 1 Kings 18:1 KJV

Elijah wore coarse clothing.

But the angel of **the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron?**... And he said unto them, What manner of man was he which came up to meet you, and told you these words? And they answered him, **He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins**. And he said, It is **Elijah the Tishbite**. 2 Kings 1:3, 7, 8 KJV

Elijah had the power to call fire from heaven.

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that **Elijah the prophet came near**, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. **Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench**. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. 1 Kings 18:36-39 KJV

Elijah did not die, but went up to heaven by a whirlwind. Elijah represented **the prophets**.

And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared **a chariot of fire, and horses of fire**, and parted them both asunder; and **Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven**. 2 Kings 2:11 KJV

John the Baptist was sent to Israel in a time of great apostasy to call the nation to repentance.²⁶ John also wore coarse clothing, and it was he who **announced the Messiah** of the New Covenant.

In those days came **John the Baptist**, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And **saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand**. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, **Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight**. And the same **John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey**. Matthew 3:1-4 KJV

Enoch lived in a time of great wickedness, but pleased God. Like Elijah, he did not die, but was translated (raptured). Enoch's name means "teaching." He was **a type of the Church** and was raptured before the Flood destroyed the earth.

And **Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him**. Genesis 5:24 KJV

By faith **Enoch was translated that he should not see death**; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that **he pleased God**. Hebrews 11:5 KJV

Moses lived at a time of great trouble for Israel. Moses was God's deliverer for the Jewish slaves in Egypt. God gave Moses the laws, which Israel was to live by. Moses represented the **Old Covenant**, but most of all Moses repre-

mented the Law.

Sorting It Out - Who Are the Witnesses?

Revelation 11:3 indicates that the witnesses will have power from God and will prophesy for 3-1/2 years. Most scholars accept Elijah as one of the witnesses, but differ on the identity of the second. We see Elijah clearly in the message of repentance, and the power to shut heaven that it should not rain, as well as the power to call down fire.²⁷ Elijah was one of two individuals in the Bible that did not die. Furthermore, the last two verses of the Old Testament indicate that Elijah will be sent in association with the Tribulation of God's wrath.²⁸

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse. Malachi 4:5, 6 KJV

John the Baptist did not demonstrate the signs of Elijah, and he denied that he was Elijah.²⁹

And they asked him, What then? **Art thou Elias?** And he saith, **I am not. Art thou that prophet?** And he answered, **No.** John 1:21 KJV

So what is the truth of the matter? The angel said that John would come in the **spirit and power** of Elijah, but **he did not say that he would be Elijah.**³⁰

And **he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias**, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Luke 1:17 KJV

Jesus indicated that Elijah was yet to come in the future, but that he also had already come. John was a type of Elijah.³¹

And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come? And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.** But I say unto you, That **Elias is come already, and they knew him not**, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them. Then **the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.** Matthew 17:10-13 KJV

Like Elijah, Enoch did not die. Enoch represented the pre-Flood world. Enoch saw a world corrupted by great rebellion, and was God's witness during that period. Enoch and Elijah are logical candidates because they are the only ones that have not tasted death. The witnesses are to be killed, as we shall soon see. John the Baptist and Moses would be required to suffer death a second time. The argument against John and Moses is a verse in the book of He-

brews.³²

And as **it is appointed unto men once to die**, but after this the judgment: Hebrews 9:27 KJV

Arguing against Hebrews 9:27 as a support of Enoch is the rapture. During the rapture, all believers who are alive will be caught up to heaven without suffering death. There is the fact that Lazarus died a second time, after Jesus raised him from the grave (John 11:38-44). Previous death or the lack thereof is apparently not requisite. Finally, Enoch was not connected to Israel; Israel did not yet exist. Enoch was a Gentile.³³

The second reason that Enoch might be the second witness is that he prophesied of the return of Christ and the Tribulation as follows:³⁴

And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, **the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds** which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. Jude 1:14, 15 KJV

Moses, more than any other, represented the Law. Elijah represented the prophets. Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the prophets.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Matthew 5:17, 18 KJV

Moses appeared with Elijah once before, at the mount of Transfiguration, as witnesses representing the Law and the Prophets.³⁵

And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, **there appeared unto them Moses and Elias** talking with him. Matthew 17:1-3 KJV

Despite the fact of the previous death of Moses, I am persuaded that the two witnesses are Moses and Elijah. Moses was God's witness before Pharaoh. As we shall soon see, the plagues unleashed by these witnesses parallel the plagues unleashed against Pharaoh and Egypt.³⁶

Olive Trees and Candlesticks

Revelation 11:4 continues the description of the two witnesses.

REV 11:4 These are the two olive trees, and the two

candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.

Notice the parallel of this verse in Zechariah:

And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep. And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold **a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps**, which are upon the top thereof: And **two olive trees by it**, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, **This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain:** and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it. Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, **The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it;** and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth. Then answered I, and said unto him, What are **these two olive trees** upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? And I answered again, and said unto him, **What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?** And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then said he, **These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.** Zechariah 4:1-14 KJV

Symbolically the "two olive trees" are the two witnesses who preach under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (oil). The olive trees are directly connected to the candlesticks, which receive their oil continuously without attendance. This is contrary to the attention given to the candlestick by the priests in the Temple at Jerusalem. The light of these candlesticks, continuously fed by oil, is to shine brilliantly in its sevenfold brilliance.³⁷ **These two candlesticks represent light in the darkness, the Law and the prophets of God.** These witnesses stood in the very presence of God, the King of Kings. They will be encouragement to the "sealed" remnant of believers (Revelation 7:4).³⁸ According to Zechariah, their power is not their own, but that of God's Holy Spirit. As a matter of interest we see **two** olive trees and **two** candlesticks. **Two** and **two** are **four**. Each of the candlesticks has

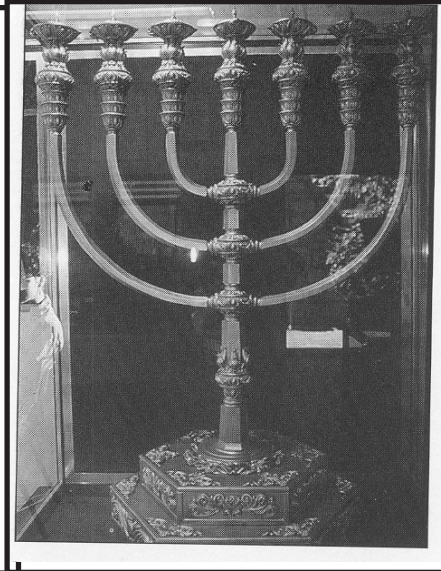
seven lamps. **Seven** and **seven** are **fourteen**. The **second** thing introduced at the creation was light (Genesis 1:3), indicating difference and division, a separating of light from darkness.³⁹ **Four** is the number of God's creation. It refers to all that is created in the material world.⁴⁰ The entire creation is to be filled with the light of God's Word. **Seven** signifies completeness and perfection. It stands for spiritual perfection. The root meaning is also completeness, or satisfaction of an oath.⁴¹ Regarding the candlestick Bullinger states:

*The Golden Candlestick had **six** branches out of **one** central stem, making **seven** in all, marking, and in harmony with, the fact, that the light was the light of God's people in the world, but its source was divine.⁴²*

Six is the number of imperfection. It represents man without God, without Christ.⁴³ **One** is the symbol of unity. It stands for God. It stands for Divinity.⁴⁴ **Six** and **one** are **seven**. **Seven**, being one more than **six**, makes imperfection perfect. **Fourteen** is a **double seven** implying a double measure of spiritual perfection.⁴⁵ (Refer to Figure 3)

The menorah that is on exhibit at Jerusalem is a wax replica. When it is finally constructed it will contain 94.6 pounds of gold, and a cost of approximately \$10 million.⁴⁶ Let's examine one last thing in regards to the candlestick. Genesis 1:1 is composed of seven Hebrew words that form the symbol of the candlestick (menorah). (Refer to Figure 4).

The seven (7) lamps are oil lamps mounted on the one (1) center and each of the six (6) branches on one (1) stand.



**Figure 3 -
The Candlestick (Menorah)**
Thomas Ice, Randall Price, **READY TO REBUILD: The Imminent Plan to Rebuild the Last Days Temple**, Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1992, photo section.

Genesis 1:1 Forms a Menorah

The Bible opens with a menorah. Note the Hebrew text in Genesis 1:1:

בראשית ברא אלהים את השמים ואת הארץ:
 ha'aretz · va'eht · hashamayim · eht · Elohim · barah · bereshit

Figure 4 - The Menorah of Genesis 1:1

J.R. Church, Gary Stearman, THE MYSTERY OF THE MENORAH... and the Hebrew Alphabet, Oklahoma City, OK: Prophecy Publications, 1993, pp. 29, 30.

Reading from right to left we see Bereshit [In the beginning] barah [created] Elohim [God] **eth** [aleph/tau] hashamayim [the heavens] va'eht [and] ha'aretz [the earth]. Eth [aleph/tau] is not translated. Eth is made of two Hebrew characters, the aleph is equivalent to our letter "A" while the tau is equivalent to our letter "Z." It is the same as the Greek alpha and omega. In Revelation 1:8 Jesus says that He is the Alpha and Omega.⁴⁷ In the very first verse of the Bible, Eth (the Alpha and Omega) represents the very foundation of the menorah.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. Revelation 1:8 KJV

The "great mountain" mentioned in Zechariah 4:7 is a symbol of the power of the world that God would level to a "plain." The "true Zerubbabel, the Messiah," will "build the spiritual temple, and make Israel into a candlestick, which is supplied with oil by two olive trees, so that its lamps may shine brightly in the world."⁴⁸

It is noteworthy to realize the "two anointed ones that stand by the Lord of the whole earth," mentioned in Zechariah, and the "two witnesses" mentioned by John parallel the "two men" (angels) that stood beside the Lord Jesus in the following verses:⁴⁹

And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, **two men stood by them in shining garments**: Luke 24:3, 4 KJV

And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, **two men stood by them in white apparel**; Acts 1:10 KJV

REV 11:5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

The witnesses will be preserved from harm until their time comes.⁵⁰ Similar to these witnesses, Elijah called down fire from heaven.

And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be

God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.... And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and **the God that answereth by fire, let him be God**. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken. And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under. And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.... And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.... And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. **Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.** 1 Kings 18:21, 24-26, 29, 36-38 KJV

REV 11:6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

We have seen that Elijah had power to "shut heaven," but it was Moses that had the power of God to turn water into blood and bring plagues on the Egyptians. These two witnesses will exhibit similar power. They operate during the first 3-1/2 years, and as we have seen, a worldwide famine would correlate nicely with the drought caused by these witnesses.⁵¹

Furthermore, the ability of these witnesses to turn water into blood matches the judgments of the first and second trumpets.⁵²

The first angel sounded, and there **followed hail and fire mingled with blood**, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. And **the second angel sounded**, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and **the third part of the sea became blood**; And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed. Revelation 8:7-9 KJV

These witnesses are responsible for "smit[ing] the earth with all plagues." It is significant that the "Seal" and "Trumpet" judgments are called "plagues" in Revelation 9:20.⁵³

And the rest of the men which were not killed by **these plagues** yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Revelation 9:20 KJV

REV 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

This is the first mention of the "beast" in Revelation. In Revelation 13:1 he comes "up out of the sea." In Revelation 13:11 "another beast" comes "up out of the earth." Two "beasts" are mentioned, the Antichrist and the False Prophet. It is the Antichrist who makes war with the saints. It is this "beast" that causes the death of the two witnesses. Wherever the "beast" comes from, he comes from below (the netherworld, darkness), and he has the power given him by Satan.⁵⁴

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a **beast rise up out of the sea**, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and **the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority....** And I beheld **another beast coming up out of the earth;** and he had two horns like a lamb, and **he spake as a dragon.** And **he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him,** and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. Revelation 13:1, 2, 11, 12 KJV

Notice the fourth "beast" of Daniel that made war with the saints.

Then I would know the truth of **the fourth beast**, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. I beheld, and **the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.** Daniel 7:19-22 KJV

Finally their time has come. The two witnesses are killed.

REV 11:8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt,

where also our Lord was crucified.

The witnesses will lie dead in the streets of Jerusalem, which will have as much spirituality as did Sodom and Egypt. Sodom was a city of much wickedness and was judged by fire from heaven, while Egypt represented oppression to the Israelite slaves and suffered plagues.⁵⁵

REV 11:9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

Their bodies will remain where they fell for 3-1/2 days. All people will "see" them. CNN and Fox will most likely be on the scene with live coverage of this media event. For the Jews not to bury their dead would be to treat them with dishonor.⁵⁶

REV 11:10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

This is going to be a party-time because the torment by the witnesses is over.

REV 11:11 And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

REV 11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

After 3-1/2 days God raised them from the dead and raptured them into heaven. The language is the same as we see of the "rapture" of John in Revelation 4:1 and the ascension of our Lord in Acts 1:9.

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, **Come up hither,** and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. Revelation 4:1 KJV

And when he had spoken these things, **while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.** Acts 1:9 KJV

REV 11:13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

While they are still gazing with astonishment into the sky at the receding image of the raptured witnesses the earth will begin to quake, and ten percent of Jerusalem will be destroyed with a loss of life of 7,000 of its citizens.

The Seventh Trumpet

REV 11:14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

REV 11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

The time has now come for the declaration of the changing of the guard. God is taking over. Man and Satan have had their run of things.⁵⁷ Christ delivers up the Kingdom to the Father.

Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 1 Corinthians 15:24 KJV

God is taking over the world from the hands of man and Satan. Jesus will take authority over the nations and go forth to conquer the forces of evil.⁵⁸

REV 11:16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

REV 11:17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

REV 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.

The "elders" anticipate seven great events as they worship before Christ. In his commentary on Revelation, Henry Morris lists seven great events.⁵⁹

1. Christ has displayed His mighty power over all creation.
2. Christ has demonstrated Himself to be King of all kings.
3. Christ has observed the implacable anger of all nations against Himself.
4. Christ has manifested His righteous wrath against all those living in rebellion.
5. Christ has prepared the final judgment for all the unsaved dead.
6. Christ has provided a gracious reward for all that believe and obey Him.
7. Christ has ordained eternal destruction for all that have corrupted the earth.

All this, and the world believes we serve a weak impotent God? This is Christ:

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for **I am**

meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Matthew 11:29 KJV

1. We find strength in His humble meekness.

And all bare him witness, and wondered at **the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth.** And they said, Is not this Joseph's son? Luke 4:22 KJV

2. He is gracious.

For **the Father** judgeth no man, but **hath committed all judgment unto the Son:** John 5:22 KJV

3. He is the righteous judge.

And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs. Revelation 14:19, 20 KJV

4. And finally, He will smite the nations. He will rule them with strength. It is He who treads the winepress of the fierceness and the wrath of Almighty God. Does this sound like weakness and impotence?

And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it **he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.** Revelation 19:15 KJV

REV 11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

The Temple of God was opened in heaven, exposing the Ark of the Covenant as a reminder that God is a covenant keeping God. The lightning, voices, thunderclaps, earthquakes, and hail signify that the interlude is over, and the wrath of God is about to begin.⁶⁰

Why wait?

Why wait for God's wrath to decide that God means what he says. He will not withhold His wrath on this rebellious world forever. The time will come when it will be too late to avoid the terrifying torments of His wrath. Remember, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believeth in Him **should not perish**, but have everlasting life."⁶¹ If you perish, you only have yourself to blame; for, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish**, but that all should come to repentance."⁶²

You can have the assurance of forgiveness and salvation today. You can be protected from the wrath that is coming.

Simply bow your heart to God and ask Him to forgive you of your sins. Then ask Jesus to come into your heart as Lord over your life. Read the Bible to strengthen your faith. Attend a Bible believing church regularly, fellowshiping with believers. Talk to God every day (pray unceasingly), making Him a part of your life and decisions. **AΩ**

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Topics will have a primary focus on the Defense of Scripture, including Creation (Genesis), Humanism, and Prophecy (Revelation). Other topics of interest may be presented. Questions, comments, and suggestions are encouraged.

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