

1 **A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

LESSON 34

2 **OLD ROMAN EMPIRE MAP**

3 **INTRODUCTION TO LESSON 34**

- We are beginning chapter 11 in these prophecies of the end days
- This is also the last portion of Scripture from heaven's point of view
- Chapter 11 is a continuation of chapter 10

4 **A REED LIKE UNTO A ROD**

Revelation 11:1-2

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.

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.

- We have a reed which looks like a rod
- A reed is like an instrument of measurement, a yardstick
- A rod is an instrument of punishment
- This was at once a measuring and a judgement

5 **A REED LIKE UNTO A ROD cont.**

- When a property is possessed or redeemed there must be a survey and an inventory
- Then there will be a general cleaning up
- In chapter 10 Jesus took legal possession of the earth; now there is a measuring and a cleansing
- This work has been in process ever since the Rapture but with special attention to the Gentile nations, the beast, and his kingdom
- Up to this point Palestine has not been mentioned in Revelation

- The kingdom of Antichrist will not include Palestine until the last 3-1/2 years before the return of Jesus Christ

6 **OLD ROMAN EMPIRE MAP**

7 **ROMAN MAP OF PALESTINE**

8 **THE JEWS IN REVELATION**

- Chapter 11 is given over to the Jews although they are not mentioned by name
- Even Jerusalem is referred to without naming it
- This is because Revelation is about the church, not the Jews. The Book of Daniel concerns the Jews as part of these prophecies
- The Jews must be included here because it is part of the work of the saints to measure and judge even the Jews
- This time period is spoken of by Jeremiah the prophet as the day of Jacob's trouble which is the last 3-1/2 year period of judgement before the return of Jesus Christ

9 **THE JEWS IN REVELATION cont.**

Jeremiah 30:5-7

5 For thus saith the Lord; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace.

6 Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?

7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

- This 3-1/2 year period is not the total reign of Antichrist, he's been in power since just before the Rapture

10 **THE JEWS IN REVELATION cont.**

- This last 3-1/2 year period is the length of time that Antichrist will attempt to force the Jews to worship him
- It is also during this time period that Antichrist and his Gentile

- hordes will attempt to possess Palestine
- "...the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months."
This is 3-1/2 years

11 **THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION**

Daniel 9:27

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.

- One week in this Scripture is 7 years
- The midst of the week is 3-1/2 years
- Antichrist stops the Jew's worship of God; for some of them
- The consummation is the return of Jesus Christ
- This 7 weeks is the same time period as the 7 years of judgement

12 **THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION cont.**

- In the middle of this 7 year period is when Antichrist will turn against the Jews
- Antichrist has already set himself up in their temple and now he sets himself up and declares himself god
- This is what Jesus referred to when He warned the Jews that when they saw the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it should not, they should flee from the city of Jerusalem (Matthew 24:15-16) (Mark 13:14)
- More details of this event can be found in the Book of Daniel

13 **THE TWO WITNESSES**

Revelation 11:3-4

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

4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing

before the God of the earth.

- This is still the last 3-1/2 year period before the return of Jesus
- The two witnesses are dealing with the Jews these last 3-1/2 years also know as the day of Jacob's troubles

14 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

- Here we find that God gives power to these two witnesses
- They are to prophesy on the earth 1,260 days – 3-1/2 years
- This same period of time is described by the prophet Zechariah in his 4th chapter

Zechariah 4:14

14 Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

15 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

- Zechariah tells us what they are doing and where they came about in his 4th chapter
- In Revelation chapter 11 the scene is still in heaven
- The angel who had the little book is telling John what is going to happen on the earth as a result of this measuring
- The two witnesses are to be sent down from heaven for they have supernatural power
- When their testimony is complete they return back to heaven
- The time of their prophesying coincides with the time that the Gentiles are persecuting the Jews in Palestine during the last 3-1/2 year judgement period

16 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

- Who are these two witnesses?
- The two who were with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration were Moses and Elijah (Matthew 17:1-9)
- The two in the Bible who had not seen death were Elijah and Enoch

- The names of these witnesses are not given in the Scriptures
- It is almost certain that one of them is Elijah fulfilling the prophecy in Malachi

17 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

Malachi 4:5-6

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord:

6 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.

- The Scriptures tell us that all things are given and should be proven in the mouth of two or three witnesses (Deuteronomy 19:15, Matthew 18:16, 2 Corinthians 13:1)
- We must listen to both sides in order to resolve conflict or disagreement

18 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

- In the 20th chapter of the Gospel of John when Mary came to the empty sepulcher she saw two angels: they were God's witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ

Acts 1:9-11

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

10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

19 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

- Here again we have two witnesses to the fact of the second coming of Jesus Christ

- First we have two witnesses that Jesus is resurrected from the dead
- Second we have two witnesses stating that He is coming back again

20 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

Matthew 17:1-3

1 And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart,

2 and was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah talking with him.

- These two, Moses and Elijah, might well be the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth
- Moses represents those who die and will be raised again
- Elijah represents those who will never die and who are alive to be caught up at the Rapture

21 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

- Beside Elijah, who we are all but certain of, the other witness is either Moses or Enoch
- There is no Scripture that tells us directly who these two witnesses are
- John is not told what these two witnesses say

22 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

Revelation 11:5-6

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.

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.

- This definitely describes Elijah and Moses
- John is not told here what the two witnesses say however in the parallel account in earth's view in chapter 16 their testimony is heard

23 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

Revelation 16:15

15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

- This is to the Jews and is not a prophecy before the Rapture
- This prophecy is just before the thousand year reign, right before the battle of Armageddon
- It's the testimony to Israel that was spoken before of "Prepare ye the way of the Lord" (Isaiah 40:3)
- Jesus is just ready to come back and they, the Jews, need to be more afraid of Him than they are Antichrist

24 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

- These two witnesses are for the Jews, not the Gentiles
- The plagues we find in verse 6 are to restrain Antichrist in his malignant attack on the Jews
- No rain for 3-1/2 years will cause untold hardship throughout Antichrist's kingdom
- This is not the first time Elijah has done this, stopped the rain
- The works that you do before you are caught away will be the same works you will do afterward, when the earth redeemed back to God's people and back to Jesus Christ

25 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

James 5:17

17 Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. (1 Kings 17 & 18)

- This is showing the power of prayer
- Elijah was as we are except his faith and obedience to God
- The Bible is miraculous in how it ties the Word and thoughts together
- God means for us to understand the Bible; His Word

26 **UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WORD**

- God tells us that natural man cannot understand His Word as it is only spiritually discerned
- We must have the Holy Ghost to understand the Word of God and spiritual things
- The understanding of God's Word makes the past, present, and future come alive
- Biblical prophesy is history written in advance, before it ever happens
- A study such as this of Revelation is a great faith builder

27 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

- We know that Moses demonstrated the power of God by sending plagues on Egypt
- These two witnesses were given power in Revelation chapter 11 verse 6 to smite the earth with plagues as often as they will
- These two witnesses are not in the past tense; they will be here on earth during the last 3-1/2 year judgement period before Jesus comes back at the beginning of the Millennial reign
- These two witnesses, during the 3-1/2 years, continually remind the Jews of Moses and Elijah

28 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

Revelation 11:7-10

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.

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.

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

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.

29 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

Revelation 11:11-12

11 And after three days and a 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.

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.

- We now see with these two witnesses their death, their resurrection, and their ascension
- Up to this last 3-1/2 year period the Jews have been blinded by God; they could not see that Jesus Christ was their Messiah

30 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

- The Scriptures tell us that God blinded the eyes of the Jews because they did not accept Jesus Christ (Romans chapter 11)
- The Jews had no problem accepting Jesus as their earthly king, they wanted Him as that, but they would not accept Him as their spiritual leader, their God, and their eyes were blinded and they could not see
- All through the Scriptures God promises that one day He would take the veil from their eyes and they would know and behold Him whom they had crucified (Zechariah 12:10)
- It is not so much what the two witnesses say as what they do that makes an impact on the Jews

31 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

- They had returned to their country but they had never returned to

God

- This has to happen to them before the battle of Armageddon
- The two witnesses actually re-enact the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ
- The Jews will recognize this parallel between Jesus and these two witnesses
- Their ministry is 3-1/2 years in length, the same as that of Jesus
- Verse 8 tells us the manner of death of these two witnesses was crucifixion, the same as Jesus

32 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

- We also see that they were not buried
- In the Death, Burial, and Resurrection (DBR) for us today under grace, burial is represented by baptism
- In the time of these two witnesses there is no grace and no baptism which is why they were not buried
- There is however death and there is resurrection
- Antichrist wants them left in the street so that all can see that they are dead
- It will be through modern technology such as television and livestream that the entire world will see their dead bodies in the streets for 3-1/2 days
- In verse 10 we see the people rejoicing of the fate of these two witnesses who brought them remorse, plagues, and no rain for 3-1/2 years

33 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

- These three days of rejoicing would be much like the Mardi Gras celebration of today
- The death of these two witnesses gave Antichrist/Satan and those who took the mark of the beast a false sense of victory
- After these 3-1/2 days the Spirit of life from God came back into them just as it did with Jesus Christ
- When they stood up on their feet great fear came upon those that

saw them

- This event and the fear didn't make them repent however
- The entire world then heard a great voice from heaven say to these two; "Come up hither"

34 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

- They then ascended up to heaven in a cloud and their enemies beheld them
- The Jews see all of this and they understand the parallel with Jesus Christ and they can no longer deny that Jesus Christ is the Messiah
- God is so longsuffering with us as is His mercy, patience, grace
- God's mercy is enduring however there is an end to it with both individuals and the world
- Here with the Jews after all this length of time, God is giving them one more time to show them just who He is
- He has taken the blinders off of their eyes

35 **THE TWO WITNESSES cont.**

- God is showing them just who it is that they crucified
- The Jews are going to see Him and they are going to recognize Him
- These two witnesses will accomplish their main purpose by their death, the same as Jesus did
- The Jews are now able to see and recognize what they have done

36 **THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE**

Revelation 11:13-14

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.

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

- If the Jews could have only looked down through the corridors of time and seen all this they could have saved themselves so much misery, pain, and death

- If all of mankind could only see how all of this is lined out and that we are so close to that door being closed on the Bride as it is time for the Rapture

37  **CLOSING GRAPHIC**