

Evaluating Witnesses

Revelation 11:1-13

Introduction & Review:

Measuring – Revelation 11:1-2; Ezekiel 40; Zechariah 1-2

The Temple – The Wilderness Tabernacle (Exodus 35-40); Solomon's Temple (1 Kings 5-6); Zerubbabel's Temple (Ezra 3-6); Herod's Temple (Matthew 4:5-6); Jesus (John 1:14); The Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Revelation 11:1-2) the New Temple (Revelation 21:10-27).

Conclusion: The first two verses are a unit connecting chapter ten and the two witnesses of chapter eleven. (Mark 10:30; Revelation 6:9-11)

Exercising Authority – Revelation 11:3-13 – The two witnesses have divine authority and then the beast exercises his wicked authority and kills them, and God is behind both.

What I Learn: How I exercise my authority says a lot about me.

What I Learn: This closing part of the story turns on the phrase in verse 7a, “And when they have finished their testimony”.

Responding – Revelation 11:7-11 – Three responses: the beast (11:7-8); the celebrating masses (11:10) and those who were terrified and gave glory to God (11:13).

What I Learn: We are responsible for the message and the listener is responsible for reception of the message. (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)

Conclusion: Let's return to our three questions:

First, what time is it on God's calendar? The end is near and what is coming is rapid and overwhelming.

Second, where are God's people? There is every indication that they are secure.

Third, what can we expect as we approach the return of Jesus Christ? I sense that I must be prepared for suffering and for some, harsh death.

Revelation 11:1-13 challenges us to not hide from the world, we should fearlessly preach and proclaim the gospel calling people to repentance and belief in Jesus.

Paul wrote Philippians 3:9-10 and calls us to suffering. (Psalms 79) God's people are secure and vulnerable, safe and targeted; redeemed but open to all sorts of physical and emotional confrontations that can make life challenging. Our response to these things is the most important part of this reality.