

THE RAPTURE

“Escape all these things [taken together] that will take place”...Luke 21:36

Part 5

Pastor Grant Williams

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Prophet defined:

1. One that foretells future events; a predictor; a foreteller.
2. a person illuminated, inspired or instructed by God to announce future events; as Jeremiah, Elijah, Isaiah, Ezekiel etc.

-1828 Webster's Dictionary

Matthew 5:17 KJV

17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

18 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.

Title defined: a tiny amount or part of something; the rules have not been altered one jot or tittle since, a small written or printed stroke or dot, indicating omitted letters in a word.

Matthew 5:17 GNT

17 “Do not think that I have come to do away with the Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets. I have not come to do away with them, but to make their teachings come true.

18 Remember that as long as heaven and earth last, not the least point nor **the smallest detail** of the Law will be done away with—not until the end of all **things**.

The Rapture is judgment both for the living and the dead. Jesus said in John 5 that God the Father has given Him the responsibility of judging and that will be through and by the Word (Jesus is the Word John 1:1). This is why it is life and death what preachers and teachers you listen to, it is about your eternity and the Rapture is about was it our habit to be righteous, were we habitually following God’s Words, His Commands. ... Do we love Him? Then we have to Keep His Commands (John 14)

John 5:22-25 AMPC

22 Even the Father judges no one, for He has given all judgment (the last judgment and the whole business of judging) entirely into the hands of the Son,

23 So that all men may give honor (reverence, homage) to the Son just as they give honor to the Father. [In fact] whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, Who has sent Him.

24 I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the person whose ears are open to My words [who listens to My message] and believes and trusts in and clings to and relies on Him Who sent Me has (possesses now) eternal life. And he does not come into judgment [does not incur sentence of judgment, will not come under condemnation], but he has already passed over out of death into life.

25 Believe Me when I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the time is coming and is here now when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear it shall live.

The warning from the Old Testament prophets about judgment are true today as well in the New Testament, "Repent for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand". We are not promised tomorrow...

Jonah 3:1-10 AMPC

1 And the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying,

2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach and cry out to it the preaching that I tell you.

3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city of three days' journey [sixty miles in circumference].

4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown!

5 So the people of Nineveh believed in God and proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth [in penitent mourning], from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

6 For word came to the king of Nineveh [of all that had happened to Jonah, and his terrifying message from God], and he arose from his throne and he laid his robe aside, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

7 And he made proclamation and published through Nineveh, By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; let them not feed nor drink water.

8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth and let them cry mightily to God. Yes, let every one turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands.

9 Who can tell, God may turn and revoke His sentence against us [when we have met His terms], and turn away from His fierce anger so that we perish not.

10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God revoked His [sentence of] evil that He had said that He would do to them and He did not do it [for He was comforted and eased concerning them].

Malachi 3:6 KJV

6 For I am the Lord, I change not;

2 Peter 3:9 AMPC

9 The Lord does not delay and is not tardy or slow about what He promises, according to some people's conception of slowness, but He is long-suffering (extraordinarily patient) toward you, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should turn to repentance.

From the beginning of time to the end of time, God's Word or Jesus has not changed...

Hebrews 13:8 KJV

8 Jesus Christ (the Word) the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

The "Never Wrong Prophet" John the Baptist, preached the message of repentance the same as today.

Matthew 3:2 AMPC

2 And saying, Repent (think differently; change your mind, regretting your sins and changing your conduct), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

John was foretold by the Prophets...

Isaiah 40:1-5 KJV

1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

*5 And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: **for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.***

How can we be 100% certain that this message was about John the Baptist or Baptizer? The message of Matthew 3 proves it:

Matthew 3:1-5 KJV

1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3 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.

4 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.

5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

Matthew 3:1-5 AMPC

1 In those days there appeared John the Baptist, preaching in the Wilderness (Desert) of Judea

2 And saying, Repent ([a]think differently; change your mind, regretting your sins and changing your conduct), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3 This is he who was mentioned by the prophet Isaiah when he said, The voice of one crying in the wilderness (shouting in the desert), Prepare the road for the Lord, make His highways straight (level, [b]direct).

4 This same John's garments were made of camel's hair, and he wore a leather girdle about his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the country round about the Jordan went out to him;

John himself acknowledged that he was not the Christ (John 1:20), and when he was asked, "What do you say about yourself," his response was, "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the LORD'" (John 1:22,23). John literally preached in the wilderness (Mark 1:4), the wilderness of Judea (Matthew 3:1). In what sense did he prepare the way of the Lord, as Isaiah foretold?

John's work was one of preparation, helping to get ready the soil, that is, the hearts of the Jewish people, who were waiting and looking for the Messiah. By declaring God's word to the Jews, John fulfilled what his own father also foretold:

Luke 1:76-77 AMPC

*76 And you, little one, shall be called a prophet of the Most High; for you shall go on before the face of the Lord to make ready His ways,
77 To bring and give the knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness and remission of their sins.*

The “never wrong Prophet” Malachi foretold or prophesied about John.

Malachi 3:1 AMPC

3 Behold, I send My [a]messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me. And the Lord [the Messiah], Whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; the [b]Messenger or Angel of the covenant, Whom you desire, behold, He shall come, says the Lord of hosts.

So, Malachi, like Isaiah, spoke of John's role of preparing the way of the Messiah. Notice in the text of Malachi 3:1 that the word “messenger” is used twice. In the first case, it refers to John as Jehovah's messenger. The second time, it points to “the Messenger of the covenant” – that would be the Christ, Who is the Speaker of the new covenant, which He established with His blood (Matthew 26:28).

The Bible, God's Word says, “There was a man sent from God, whose name was John” (John 1:6). So, should we consider him as a prophet? Here is Jesus' answer...

Matthew 11:7-9 AMPC

7 Then as these men went their way, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: What did you go out in the wilderness (desert) to see? A reed swayed by the wind?

8 What did you go out to see then? A man clothed in soft garments? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in the houses of kings.

9 *But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one [[a]out of the common, more eminent, more remarkable, and] [b]superior to a prophet.*

The message from the beginning to the end...

Matthew 4:12-17 AMPC

12 *Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested and put in prison, He withdrew into Galilee.*

13 *And leaving Nazareth, He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the country of Zebulun and Naphtali—*

14 *That what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be brought to pass:*

15 *The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, in the [a]way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles [of the [b]peoples who are not of Israel]—*

16 *The people who sat [c](dwelt enveloped) in darkness have seen a great Light, and for those who sat in the land and shadow of death Light has dawned.*

17 *From that time Jesus began to preach, [d]crying out, Repent ([e]change your mind for the better, heartily amend your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

He ended His earthly ministry like He started...

John 14:15 KJV

15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

Malachi 3:6 KJV

6 *For I am the Lord, I change not;*

Hebrews 13:8 KJV

8 *Jesus Christ (the Word) the same yesterday, and today, and forever.*

In part 4 we concluded with the the Hebrew scriptures, which refers to the Old Testament, reveal not only the pattern of the **Rapture** but they actually reveal an escape from the indignation and wrath or anger of God. What we are about to do is prove that the **Rapture** is in the Old Testament and not just found in the New Testament.

Often, people will only study what they believe or want to believe is true. But, that is not what a follower of Jesus Christ is supposed to do, we are to be on the meat of the Word and understand that the whole counsel of God is beneficial.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 KJV

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 AMPC

16 Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action),

17 So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

In the Old Testament, God says that His people, followers of Christ which is the Word, will escape the wrath and indignation that is coming.

Zephaniah 1:18-2:1 AMPC

*18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the **Lord's indignation and wrath**. But the whole earth shall be consumed in the fire of His jealous wrath, for a full, yes, a sudden, end will He make of all the inhabitants of the earth.*

Zephaniah 2:1-2 AMPC

1 Collect your thoughts, yes, unbend yourselves [in submission and see if there is no sense of shame and no consciousness of sin left in you], O shameless nation [not desirous or desired]!

2 [The time for repentance is speeding by like chaff whirled before the wind!] Therefore consider, before God's decree brings forth [the curse upon you], before the time [to repent] is gone like the drifting chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord comes upon you—yes, before the day of the wrath of the Lord comes upon you!

Zephaniah 1:18 - 2:2 KJV

18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land. 2:1 Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired;

2 **Before the decree bring forth**, before the day pass as the chaff, before **the fierce anger of the Lord** come upon you, before **the day of the Lord's anger** come upon you.

We are going to take these phrases in Zephaniah, Old Testament Hebrew, and see it translated in Greek in the New Testament.

The Lord's Wrath

Zephaniah 1:18 KJV

18 Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of **the Lord's wrath**;

Revelation 6:16 KJV

16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from **the wrath of the Lamb**:

Revelation 11:18 KJV

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 shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth

Revelation 14:19 KJV

19 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**.

A Nation Will Provoke You

Zephaniah 2:1 KJV

1 Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired;

Matthew 21:43 KJV

43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

1 Peter 2:9 KJV

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

Before The Decree Is Issued

(7 year peace treaty signed by the antichrist)

Zephaniah 2:2 KJV

2 Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you...

Daniel 9:27 AMPC

27 And he shall enter into a strong and firm covenant with the many for one week [seven years]. And in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and offering to cease [for the remaining three and one-half years]; and upon the wing or pinnacle of abominations [shall come] one who makes desolate, until the full determined end is poured out on the desolator.

Revelation 12:14 KJV

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

The Lord's Anger

(Before it comes)

Zephaniah 2:2 KJV

2 Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the Lord come upon you, before the day of the Lord's anger come upon you.

Romans 1:18 KJV

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Romans 2:8 KJV

8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Ephesians 5:6 KJV

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 KJV

10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

This prophecy is found in Zephaniah (O.T.). The day of God's wrath is coming and the land will be destroyed. You will find that in Isaiah Chpt 13, Revelation Chpt 16 and all throughout the book of Revelation.

The Prophet Zephaniah writes, ***Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired*** and that ***nation*** is a reference to the Church in 1 Peter 2:9. Then, ***we are gathering ourselves together before the decree is issued*** speaks of a specific time and event that is prior to the last 7 year covenant or peace treaty that will ever be signed by Israel in Daniel 9:27. This peace treaty will be signed by the Antichrist and Israel which will follow the War of Gog and Magog found in Ezekiel Chapters 38 and 39. God's Word says that 83% (5/6) of the Muslim nations that rise up against Israel will be annihilated and will have no alternative but to sign a Peace Treaty with Israel.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 KJV

*16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead **in Christ** shall rise first:*

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

We know from reading and studying the book of Revelation that the time of God's Wrath is called the **Tribulation**.

Revelation 2:22 KJV

*22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into **great tribulation**, except they repent of their deeds.*

Revelation 7:14 KJV

*14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of **great tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

The Tribulation is not a theory that someone came up with to try and scare people. The Tribulation is mentioned as Jacob's Trouble in the book of Jeremiah and in the book of Isaiah it reveals how the nations will be shaken along with cosmic activity during that time.

These events in Isaiah, along with other prophecies all throughout God's Word specifically pertaining to what will take place during the Tribulation, parallels the Apostle John's writings in the book of Revelation or the book of the Apocalypse. The origin of the word apocalypse is an Old English word from the ecclesiastical Latin from the Greek word apokalupsis meaning to 'uncover, reveal'.

Revelation defined:

...a fact this is disclosed or revealed, an uncovering, a bringing to light of that which had been previously wholly hidden or only obscurely seen...to reveal what was before hidden, or present.

Jeremiah 30:7 KJV

*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.*

Isaiah 13:13 KJV

*13 Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the **wrath of the Lord** of hosts, and in the **day of his fierce anger**.*

The prophets of the Old Testament deal extensively with the Time of The End and the Last Days. They wrote about all these terrible judgments that will be happening in the earth including famines, pestilence and earthquakes.

Jesus mentioned these prophetic signs or things regarding His return in Matthew Chapter 24 and in Luke Chapter 21. These prophetic signs will be in combination with other prophetic signs that will occur confirming what the Old Testament prophets had already spoken. Jesus said that this time would be a time of great Tribulation...

Matthew 24:21 AMPC

*21 For then there will be **great tribulation** (affliction, distress, and oppression) such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now—no, and never will be [again].*

The Apostle John speaks about the Tribulation as well in Chapter 7 of the book of Revelation...

Revelation 7:14 KJV

*14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of **great tribulation**, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*

So, there is coming a time of tribulation, the length of time regarding the tribulation is identified in Daniel 9:27 as one week...

Daniel 9:27 AMPC

*27 And he shall enter into a strong and firm covenant with the many for **one week [seven years]**. And **in the midst of the week** he shall cause the sacrifice and offering to cease **[for the remaining three and one-half years]**; and upon the wing or pinnacle of abominations [shall come] one who makes desolate, until the full determined end is poured out on the desolator.*

The word ***week*** in Hebrew in Daniel 9:27 is not a week of days but a Hebrew word meaning a week of years or a 7 year time frame. In the book of Revelation Chapters 4-19, it is broken up into two, 42 month time frames equalling 84 months or 7 years. The Bible says that in the midst of the 7 years or half way through the 7 years, the antichrist breaks the Peace Treaty. You will find that in chapters 11-13 in the book of Revelation.

Revelation 11:2 AMPC

*2 But leave out of your measuring the court outside the sanctuary of God; omit that, for it is given over to the Gentiles (the nations), and **they will trample the holy city underfoot for 42 months (three and one-half years)**.*

Revelation 11:2 KJV

*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**.*

Notes: _____

Revelation 13:5 AMPC

5 And the beast was given the power of speech, uttering boastful and blasphemous words, and he was **given freedom to exert his authority and to exercise his will during forty-two months (three and a half years).**

Revelation 13:5 KJV

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; **and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.**

This occurs after the Antichrist kills the two witnesses, Enoch and Elijah who have been preaching to the Jews regarding missing the Rapture of the Church and what they need to do to spend eternity in Heaven. (Revelation 11:7-8)

Revelation 11:1-19 KJV

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.

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.** (reference in OT)

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.

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 an 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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 shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

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.

Revelation 11:1-19 AMPC

1 A reed [as a measuring rod] was then given to me, [shaped] like a staff, and I was told: Rise up and measure the sanctuary of God and the altar [of incense], and [number] those who worship there.

2 But leave out of your measuring the court outside the sanctuary of God; omit that, for it is given over to the Gentiles (the nations), and they will trample the holy city underfoot for 42 months (three and one-half years).

3 And I will grant the power of prophecy to My two witnesses for 1,260 (42 months; three and one-half years), dressed in sackcloth.

4 These [witnesses] are the two olive trees and the two lampstands which stand before the Lord of the earth.

5 And if anyone attempts to injure them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their enemies; if anyone should attempt to harm them, thus he is doomed to be slain.

6 These [two witnesses] have power to shut up the sky, so that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying (their prediction of events relating to Christ's kingdom and its speedy triumph); and they also have power to turn the waters into blood and to smite and scourge the earth with all manner of plagues as often as they choose.

7 But when they have finished their testimony and their evidence is all in, the beast (monster) that comes up out of the Abyss (bottomless pit) will wage war on them, and conquer them and kill them.

8 And their dead bodies [will lie exposed] in the open street (a public square) of the great city which is in a spiritual sense called [by the mystical and allegorical names of] Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

9 For three and a half days men from the races and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and will not allow them to be put in a tomb.

10 *And those who dwell on the earth will gloat and exult over them and rejoice exceedingly, taking their ease and sending presents [in congratulation] to one another, because these two prophets had been such a vexation and trouble and torment to all the dwellers on the earth.*

11 *But after three and a half days, by God's gift the breath of life again entered into them, and they rose up on their feet, and great dread and terror fell on those who watched them.*

12 *Then [the two witnesses] heard a strong voice from heaven calling to them, Come up here! And before the very eyes of their enemies they ascended into heaven in a cloud.*

13 *And at that [very] hour there was a tremendous earthquake and one tenth of the city was destroyed (fell); seven thousand people perished in the earthquake, and those who remained were filled with dread and terror and were awe-struck, and they glorified the God of heaven.*

14 *The second woe (calamity) has passed; now the third woe is speedily to come.*

15 *The seventh angel then blew [his] trumpet, and there were mighty voices in heaven, shouting, The dominion (kingdom, sovereignty, rule) of the world has now come into the possession and become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ (the Messiah), and He shall reign forever and ever (for the eternities of the eternities)!*

16 *Then the twenty-four elders [of the heavenly Sanhedrin], who sit on their thrones before God, prostrated themselves before Him and worshiped,*

17 *Exclaiming, To You we give thanks, Lord God Omnipotent, [the One] Who is and [ever] was, for assuming the high sovereignty and the great power that are Yours and for beginning to reign. 18 And the heathen (the nations) raged, but Your wrath (retribution, indignation) came, the time when the dead will be judged and Your servants the prophets and saints rewarded—and those who revere (fear) Your name, both low and high and small and great—and [the time] for destroying the corrupters of the earth.*

19 *Then the sanctuary of God in heaven was thrown open, and the ark of His covenant was seen standing inside in His sanctuary; and there were flashes of lightning, loud rumblings (blasts, mutterings), peals of thunder, an earthquake, and a terrific hailstorm.*

Let's break this passage down in Revelation Chapter 11 because this will give revelation or answers to many questions that people in the church have had over the years. Make sure you are not following a false teacher - Jesus warned us about this.

In verse one of Chapter eleven it starts with an instruction to measure the Temple of God, but to leave out the outer court. This is not the Temple in Jerusalem in John's day since it was destroyed in 70 A.D., or twenty five years before John wrote the Book of Revelation.

It is not the heavenly Temple, as no Gentile will trample the heavenly city for forty-two months, and God is releasing His judgments on earth from out of His heavenly Temple (Revelation 11:18). This passage and several others in the Old and New Testament indicate that this Temple is a rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem, where later the Apostle John saw the "abomination of desolation" occurring in Jerusalem.

*15 So when you see the **appalling sacrilege [the abomination that astonishes and makes desolate], spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the Holy Place—let the reader take notice and ponder and consider and heed [this]—***

16 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains;

17 Let him who is on the housetop not come down and go into the house to take anything; 18 And let him who is in the field not turn back to get his overcoat.

What prophecy is Jesus referring to by the Prophet Daniel which is also spoken of by the Apostle John in the book of Revelation regarding when you see all these things taking place collectively?

Daniel 9:27 AMPC

*27 And he shall enter into a strong and firm covenant with the many for one week [seven years]. And in the midst of the week **he shall cause the sacrifice and offering to cease [for the remaining three and one-half years];** and upon the wing or pinnacle of abominations [shall come] one who makes desolate, until the full determined end is poured out on the desolator.*

Chapters 10-12 of Daniel is a dream which recaps the previous 9 chapters of this great Apocalyptic book. Daniel reveals the kingdoms to come: Babylon, Media/Persia, Greece, Rome, Mystery Babylon (7th kingdom and first 42 months of Tribulation) and the final 42 months which is the 8th Kingdom.

Daniel 11:31 AMPC

*31 And armed forces of his shall appear [in the holy land] and they shall pollute the sanctuary, the [spiritual] stronghold, and shall take away the continual [daily burnt offering]; and they shall set up [in the sanctuary] **the abomination that astonishes and makes desolate** [probably an altar to a pagan god].*

Daniel 12:11 AMPC

*11 And from the time that the continual burnt offering is taken away and **the abomination that makes desolate is set up**, there shall be 1,290 days.*

Once the Church Age is complete, the Rapture and 7 year peace treaty have been fulfilled two witnesses (Rev 11:3) will minister/witness for the first 42 months of the Tribulation. Then, the image of the beast which is the kingdom or governmental and religious system will be set up at the wing of the Temple in Jerusalem. These two witnesses are first alluded to in Zechariah's vision in Chapter 4:9-14... this is the Old Testament everyone.

Zechariah 4:11-14 KJV

11 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?

12 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?

13 And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

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

Isaiah 46:9-10 AMPC

9 [Earnestly] remember the former things (in my Word), [which I did] of old; for I am God, and there is no one else; I am God, and there is none like Me,
10 Declaring the end and the result from the beginning, and from ancient times the things (Biblical prophecies) that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure and purpose...

The Prophet Zechariah saw the rebuilding of the Temple in his day (after the Babylonian captivity) and observed in a vision Jerusalem's prophetic future. Zechariah wrote of two olive branches pouring out the gold oil (v.12) which are later described by the angel as the "two anointed ones", that stand by the Lord of the whole earth (v. 14). Most people believe these two witnesses are Elijah and the other is either Enoch or Moses.

Malachi 4:5 AMPC

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes.

There are six things that will occur in Revelation 11:7-15 which is the mid-point of the Tribulation. Both witnesses are slain at once when the Antichrist sets up his political-religious system or stronghold in Jerusalem which is the eighth kingdom of Bible prophecy that John saw in Revelation Chapter 17.

Revelation 11:7 KJV

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.

Today, East Jerusalem is mostly Muslim. Normally Muslims and devout Jews bury dead bodies shortly after they are pronounced dead. However, in the Islamic world, if a person were considered a blasphemer of Islam/Mohammad, his body is often laid out in the street for several days. Here in Revelation 11:9, the dead bodies are openly viewed for three and a half days.

Revelation 11:9 AMPC

9 For three and a half days men from the races and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and will not allow them to be put in a tomb.

Remember, John wrote the book of Revelation 600 years before the Quran was written and that is when the practices of Islam began their origin. God knows the end from the beginning and told John what this religion would do in the future. This practice by Islam will be done to humiliate the memory of these two men and to advance the power of the antichrist among his followers.

In Revelation 11:10, sending presents/gifts seems odd, until we remember that **in the eyes of the world**, these two men were responsible for the plagues and judgments that were released.

Revelation 11:10 AMPC

*10 And those who dwell on the earth will gloat and exult over them and rejoice exceedingly, taking their ease and **sending presents** [in congratulation] to one another, because these two prophets had been such a vexation and trouble and torment to all the dwellers on the earth.*

We read that angels were releasing plagues from heaven, however, these men are speaking these plagues into existence on earth and that is why they are blamed for the earth's problems.

Revelation 11:4-6 AMPC

4 These [witnesses] are the two olive trees and the two lampstands which stand before the Lord of the earth.

*5 And if anyone attempts to injure them, **fire pours from their mouth and consumes their enemies**; if anyone should attempt to harm them, thus he is doomed to be slain.*

*6 These [two witnesses] have power to shut up the sky, so that **no rain may fall during the days** of their prophesying (their prediction of events relating to Christ's kingdom and its speedy triumph); ...*

This miracle causes the Jewish remnant to be afraid, which some believe this could be the 144,000 who have not yet been translated. This is when the Antichrist has no opposition or spiritual resistance, all restraint is removed beginning his horrible reign of terror and death from Jerusalem.

2 Thessalonians 2:7-8 KJV

*7 For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: **only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.***

8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

2 Thessalonians 2:7-8 AMPC

*7 For the mystery of lawlessness (that hidden principle of rebellion against constituted authority) is already at work in the world, **[but it is] restrained only until he who restrains is taken out of the way.***

8 And then the lawless one (the antichrist) will be revealed and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of His mouth and bring him to an end by His appearing at His coming.

The book of Revelation reveals two separate and distinct judgments that occur at the heavenly Temple, each separated by slightly more than 1,000 years. The judgement of rewards given at the Judgment Seat or Bema Seat of Christ begins at the start of the 7 year Tribulation. The Great White Throne judgment occurs one thousand years after the end of the Tribulation equalling one thousand and seven years apart.

This first judgment which is the Judgment Seat or Bema Seat that we've studied over the last few weeks in Revelation Chapters 4 and 5, is also spoken of here in Chapter 11.

Revelation 11:18-19 AMPC

18 And the heathen (the nations) raged, but Your wrath (retribution, indignation) came, the time when the dead will be judged and Your servants the prophets and saints rewarded—and those who revere (fear) Your name, both low and high and small and great - and [the time] for destroying the corrupters of the earth.

19 Then the sanctuary of God in heaven was thrown open, and the ark of His covenant was seen standing inside in His sanctuary; and there were flashes of lightning, loud rumblings (blasts, mutterings), peals of thunder, an earthquake, and a terrific hailstorm.

The second judgment which is the Great White Throne Judgment will occur at God's throne.

Revelation 20:11-13 KJV

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

There are several references to the Judgement/Bema Seat of Christ throughout scripture - 1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans and 1 & 2 Timothy.

2 Timothy 4:1 KJV

*4 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at **his appearing and his kingdom**;*

The Bema Seat judgment will begin the moment the heavenly Temple doors are open and it will reward the saints, prophets, servants, and those who fear God's name.

Revelation 11:18 KJV

*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.*

