

APOCALYPSE OF JOHN

Session 15: John's Second Vision of the Future, Part 2 (Revelation 10:1 – 11:19)

REVIEW

- A. Structure of John's Apocalypse:
1. Prologue (Rev. 1:1-20)
 2. Part I: The Revelation of "what is "now" (PRESENT) (Rev. 2:1-3:22)
 3. Part II: The Revelation of "what must take place after this" (FUTURE) (Rev. 4:1-22:6)
 - a. Introduction: John's Heavenly Vantage Point (Rev. 4:1-5:14)
 - b. First Vision of the Future (Rev. 6:1-8:1)
 - c. Second Vision of the Future (Rev. 8:2-11:19)
 - d. Third Vision of the Future (Rev. 12:1-22:6)
 4. Epilogue (Rev. 22:7-21)
- B. First Vision of the Future—Opening 7 Seals (Rev. 6:1 – 8:1):
- C. Second Vision of the Future, Part 1—Sounding 7 Trumpets (Rev. 8:2 – 9:21):

THE INTERLUDE (REVELATION 10:1-11:14): PART ONE

- A. Functions of the Three Interludes in Revelation (7:1-17; 10:1–11:14; and 16:15):
1. They create _____ leading up to the climactic _____ element.
 2. They draw a distinction between _____ and _____.
 3. They encourage readers to view their _____ circumstances in light of what God will do in the _____, which encourages _____ and _____.
- B. IMAGE 1: The Mighty Angel with the Little Scroll (Revelation 10:1-11):
- ¹Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. ²He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, ³and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. ⁴And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down."**
- ⁵Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. ⁶And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay! ⁷But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets."**
- ⁸Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: "Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land."**

⁹So I went to the angel and asked him to give me the little scroll. He said to me, "Take it and eat it. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey." ¹⁰I took the little scroll from the angel's hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour. ¹¹Then I was told, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages and kings."

1. The Angel's Appearance and Voice:

Compare Revelation 1:15-16; 4:3; 5:5; Exodus 13:21; 14:24; 16:10; 19:9; 40:34-38; Numbers 9:15-23; 1 Kings 8:10-11; 2 Chronicles 5:13-14; Ps 105:39; Amos 3:8.

2. The Seven Thunders:

Compare Exodus 19:16-19; Job 37:2-5; 40:9; Psalms 18:13; 29:3-9; 68:33; 103:7; Isaiah 30:30.

3. The Little Scroll:

Compare Ezekiel 2-3.

4. The Angel's Actions—A Comparison with Daniel 12:

¹"At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book—will be delivered. ²Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. ³Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. ⁴But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

⁵Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. ⁶One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, "How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?"

^{7a}The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, times, and half a time."

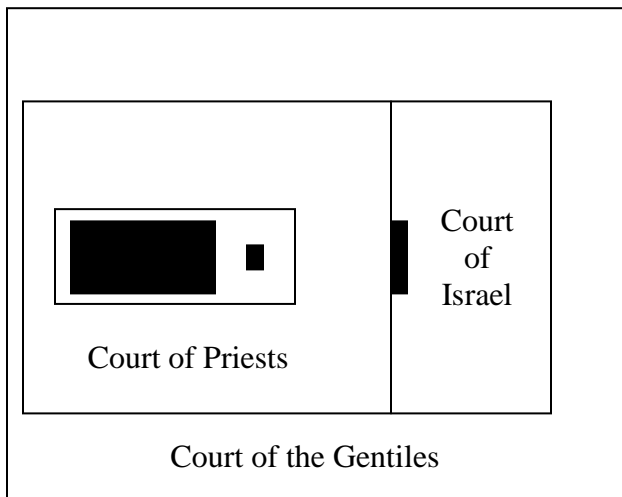
Daniel 12	Revelation 10
a. (Verse 6)	a. (Verse 2)
b. (Verses 1-3)	b. (Verses 2, 8-11)
c. (Verse 4)	c. (Verses 2, 8-11)
d. (Verses 6-7)	d. (Verses 5-7)

5. "A time, times and half a time" (compare Revelation 11:2, 3, 9, 11, 19; 12:6, 14; 13:5):

C. IMAGE 2: The Measuring of the Temple (Revelation 11:1-2):

¹I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. ²But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.

1. The Temple Layout (*simplified*) and the Measuring of the Temple (compare Ezekiel 40-43 and Revelation 7:1-8):



2. "[The Gentiles] will trample on the holy city for 42 months":

D. IMAGE 3: Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:3-14):

³And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." ⁴These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. ⁵If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. ⁶These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

1. The two witnesses resemble:
 - a. _____ the _____ (compare Exodus 7-12; esp. 7:14-24)
 - b. _____ the _____ (see 1 Kings 17:1; 18:45)
 - c. _____ the _____ during the post-exilic period
 - d. _____ the _____ during the post-exilic period

2. The two witnesses "symbolize" _____ because Revelation portrays them as:
 - a. Kings (1:6; 2:26-27; 3:21; 4:4; 5:10), priests (1:6; 4:4; 5:8, 10; 11:1), and prophets or spokesmen for God (e.g. 6:9; 12:11).
 - b. Witnesses (*martys*, 1:2, 9; 2:13; 6:9; 12:11; 17:6; 20:4).
 - c. "Striking the earth the plagues" in that their prayers unleash the "plagues" of the first six trumpets (8:3-5).
 - d. Persecuted and killed, which is why they wear "sackcloth," the black garment of mourning (see Genesis 37:34; 2 Samuel 3:31; Esther 4:1-3; Psalm 30:11; Isaiah 15:3; 22:12; Lamentations 2:10; Joel 1:13; Amos 8:10).

3. Why are there "two" witnesses?

"A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."
(Deuteronomy 19:15; cf. Deuteronomy 17:6; Matthew 18:16; 2 Corinthians 13:1)

4. Why do the two witnesses "prophesy for 1,260 days"? (see Matthew 24:14; Acts 1:8)

5. In what sense does "fire come from their mouths and devour their enemies"? (v. 5; compare v. 10 and Jeremiah 5:14)

6. What happens to the two witnesses?

⁷Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. ⁸Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom (see Genesis 18-19) and Egypt (see Genesis 15:13; Exodus 1-14), where also their Lord was crucified.

⁹For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. ¹⁰The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. (On "refusing them burial," see, e.g., 1 Samuel 31:8-13; 2 Samuel 21:9-14; 1 Kings 14:10-13; 2 Kings 9:34-37.)

¹¹But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. (Compare Revelation 1:7.)
¹²Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. (Compare Matthew 24:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18.)

¹³At that very hour there was a severe earthquake (compare Revelation 6:2; 16:18) and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.

E. A Note on "Protection" from the "Plagues":

THE SEVENTH TRUMPET (REV 11:15-19)

¹⁵The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."

¹⁶And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

¹⁸The nations were angry (compare Psalm 2:1); and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great— and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

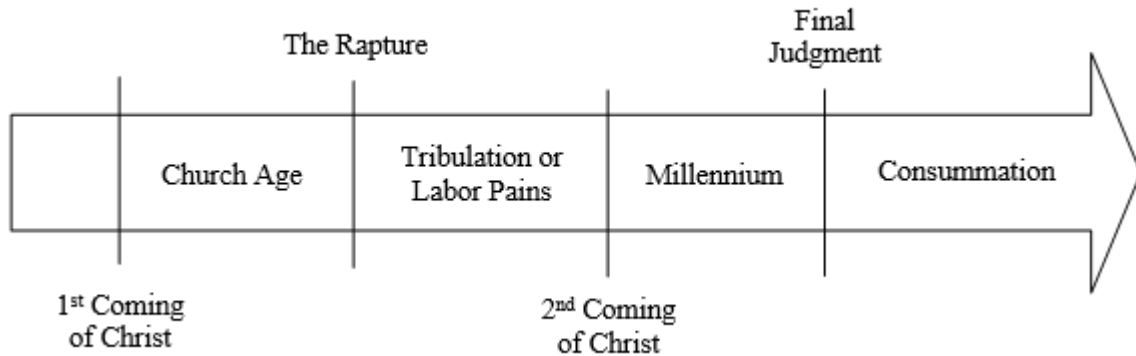
¹⁹Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

A. The Seventh Trumpet symbolizes the _____ and the coming of God's _____.

B. The "ark of his covenant" signifies God's _____, God's _____, and the _____ or _____ of God's covenant people.

A NOTE ON THE "RAPTURE"

- A. What does the word "rapture" mean?
- B. What is a "pre-Tribulation Rapture"? (one common scenario—Dispensational Premillennialism)



- C. The two primary Scriptures used to support the idea of a "pre-Tribulation Rapture":

1. Revelation 11:11-12:

¹¹But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them [the two witnesses, the Church], and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. ¹²Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

2. Matthew 24:36-41:

³⁶No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

- D. Assessment of the Idea of a "pre-Tribulation Rapture":

1. "One will be taken and the other left" continues the theme of _____ at the _____ in Matthew's Gospel (wheat and chaff in 3:12; good trees and bad trees in 7:19; wheat and weeds in 13:30; good fish and bad fish in 13:48; wedding clothes and lack of clothes in 22:12-14; wise virgins and foolish virgins in 25:10-12; sheep and goats in 25:32; two men and two women in 24:40-41)

2. The eschatological scenario in Revelation:

