



The
Revelation
of **Jesus Christ**

16. The two witnesses

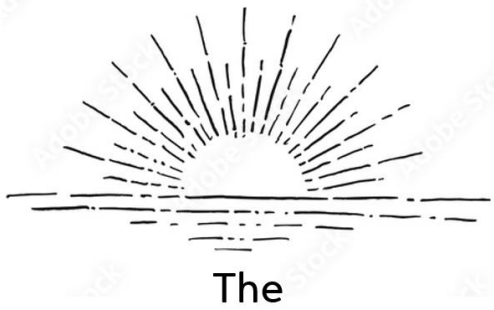


The

Revelation of **Jesus Christ**

He is coming with clouds,
and every eye will see Him
(Revelation 1:7)

“Surely I am coming soon.”
Amen. **Come, Lord Jesus!**
(Revelation 22:20)



Revelation of **Jesus Christ**

- **Where we are up to (briefly)...**
 - The layout of first 11 chapters
 - The third section
 - The first 6 trumpets (Chapter 8 and 9)
 - The interlude (so far) (Chapter 10)

- **The interlude continues**
 - **Measuring the temple** (Chapter 11:1-2)
 - **The two witnesses** (Chapter 11:3-14)

The first 11 chapters

1:1-8

Prologue

Section 1...

1:9 – 3:22

The vision of Christ, then His messages to the seven churches

Section 2...

4:1 – 8:1

The vision of God's throne and the Lamb and the opening of **the seven seals**

Section 3...

8:2 – 11:19

The seven trumpets, seven thunders, the little book and the two witnesses...



The third section – the first 6 trumpets (Chapters 8 and 9)

Prelude

- The prayers of saints are offered with incense

The first six trumpets

- 1st trumpet – plant life burned
- 2nd trumpet – the seas turn to blood
- 3rd trumpet – the waters poisoned
- 4th trumpet – the heavens darkened

**Against
nature**

- 5th trumpet – locust like creatures torment people
- 6th trumpet – a vast army kills one third of mankind

**Against
humanity**

*“Woe, woe, woe
to those
who dwell
on the earth”*

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Against
nature

The earth is the LORD's...
(Psalm 24:1)

Against
humanity

The **mystery of lawlessness**
is already at work.
Only he who now **restrains** it
will do so until he is out of the way.
(2 Thessalonians 2:7)

The interlude before the seventh trumpet...

I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven...

...he called out with a loud voice,
like a lion roaring. When he called out
the seven thunders sounded.

...I was about to write when...

*Seal up
what the seven thunders
have said,
and do not write it down.*

(Revelation 10:4)

I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven...

And the angel...
swore by Him who lives forever and ever...
that there would be **no more delay**...
but that in the days of the trumpet call
to be sounded by **the seventh angel**,
the mystery of God would be finished...

(See Revelation 10:5-7)

The trumpets
are a warning

That which can only be
known by revelation

I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven...

Go, take the scroll which is open in the hand of the angel...



Take and eat it;
it will make your stomach **bitter**,
but in your mouth
it will be **sweet** as honey.

And they said to me,

*“You must again prophesy about many peoples
and nations and languages and kings.”*

(See Revelation 10:8-11)

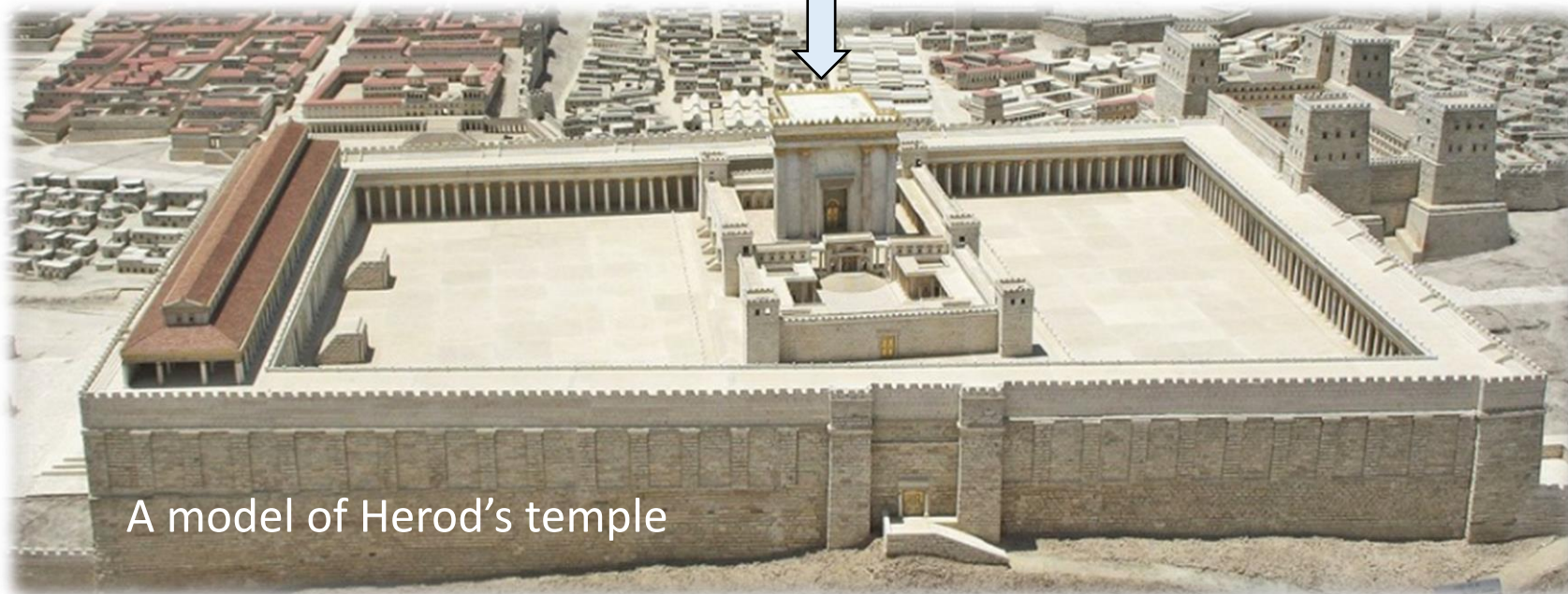
Measure the temple...

Revelation 11:1-2

*Rise and **measure**
the temple of God
and the altar and
those who worship there*

Greek: *naos*
= the Holy Place and
the Holy of Holies

Measuring
confirms both
acceptance and
safety / security



A model of Herod's temple

Measure the temple...

Greek: *naos*
= the Holy Place and
the Holy of Holies

*Rise and **measure**
the temple of God
and the altar and
those who worship there*

*...but **do not measure**
the court outside the temple;
leave that out,
for it is given over to the nations,
and **they will trample the holy city**
for 42 months.*

Luke 21:24



A model of Herod's temple

Measure the temple...

How are we to understand this part of the vision?

- The temple John sees is in Jerusalem.
- John is also to *measure* the people worshipping there.
- The whole city is being *trampled* by the Gentiles/nations.

➤ **The faithful are safe and in the presence of God.**

Who are the faithful ones?

- The whole church on earth?
- Those saved during the end times?
- Jewish believers – a remnant?

My two witnesses...

Revelation 11:3-14

...and they will trample the holy city for 42 months.

And I will give power to my two witnesses,
and they will prophesy 1260 days,
clothed in sackcloth.

(Revelation 11:2-3)

Mourning, repentance
(Psalm 30:11)

42 months = 3½ years
1260 days (42 x 30) = 3½ years

Zechariah 4:1-14

These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands
that stand before the Lord of the earth.

(Revelation 11:4)

*“Not by might, nor by power,
but by my Spirit...”*

(Zechariah 4:6)

My two witnesses...

And if anyone would harm them,
fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes.

If anyone would harm them,
this is how he is doomed to be killed.

They have the power to shut the sky,
that **no rain** may fall during the days of their prophesying,
and they have power over the waters to turn them **into blood**
and to strike the earth with **every kind of plague**,
as often as they desire.

Jeremiah 5:14 ?

Elijah: 1 Kings 17:1

Moses: Exodus 7:17

(Revelation 11:5-6)

My two witnesses...

2 Thessalonians 2:3-5

The readers
had already
heard of
him...

The Lord reigns

And **when they have finished** their testimony,
the beast that rises from the bottomless pit
will **make war** on them and **conquer** them **and kill them**,
and their dead bodies will lie in the street of **the great city**
that **spiritually** is called **Sodom** and **Egypt**,
where their Lord was crucified.

The abyss

(Revelation 11:7-8)

Sodom = moral corruption
Egypt = worldly strength and the
oppression of God's people

My two witnesses...

For 3½ days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, and **those who dwell on the earth** will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because **these two prophets had been a torment** to **those who dwell on the earth**.


Torture, distress.
(A touchstone)

(Revelation 11:9-10)

Where are you located?

My two witnesses...

But after the 3½ days
a breath of life from God entered them,
and they stood up on their feet,
and great fear fell on those who saw them....



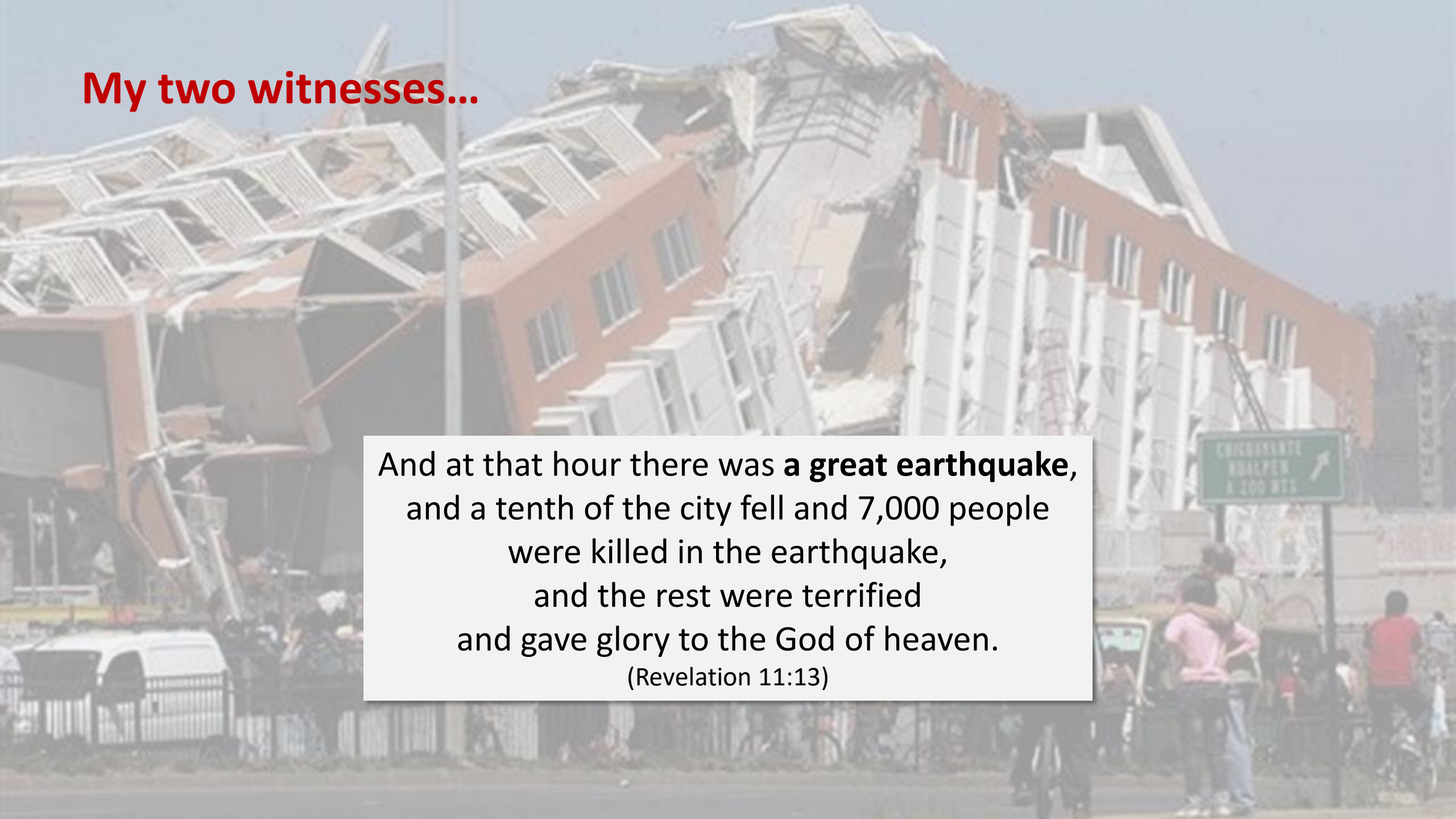
**Come up
here!**

...And they went up to heaven in a cloud,
and their enemies watched them.

(Revelation 11:11-12)

My two witnesses...

And at that hour there was **a great earthquake**,
and a tenth of the city fell and 7,000 people
were killed in the earthquake,
and the rest were terrified
and gave glory to the God of heaven.
(Revelation 11:13)



My two witnesses...

Who are these two witnesses?

- **Prophets who come in the last days?**
 - Elijah and Enoch?
 - Moses and Elijah?
 - Two unnamed prophets?
- **A symbol of the church?**
 - Minister and missionary?
 - Old and New Testament?
 - Jew and Gentile?
 - Simply “two by two”?
- **A symbol of the Jewish nation?**
 - The Law and the Prophets?



“Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth...”

(Revelation 8:13)

The **second woe** has passed;
behold,
the **third woe** is soon to come.

(Revelation 11:14)



One vision – measuring the temple and the two witnesses

- **The spiritual principles at the end are also true now**
 - ✓ The saints are safe even when evil is triumphant
 - ✓ There will be a (costly) witness right up to the Lord's coming
 - ✓ The Lord reigns, even in the darkest hour
- **The gospel in power will torment those who are refusing it**
- **The spirit of antichrist is already in the world** (1 John 4:3)



The
Revelation
of **Jesus Christ**

He who testifies to these things says,
“Surely I am coming soon.”

Amen. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

(Revelation 22:20)