

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study #48: God's Measuring Stick
Revelation 11: 1 - 2
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

In today's Revelation study we are going to learn more end time lessons from the visions John received after the sixth angel blows his trumpet and before the seventh angel blows his trumpet.

We are going to learn some significant end time lessons from John's vision in the first half of Revelation chapter 11. Also Revelation 11 will reveal more final events that will take place right before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Revelation 11 is the beginning of John's fourth vision in the first half of the book of Revelation.

Read Revelation 11:1 – 3. In order to understand the two witnesses we must have a thorough understanding of verses 1 and 2. This will be the main focus of our study today and we will continue our study of the two witnesses next study.

How does John's vision begin in Revelation chapter 11?

Revelation 11:1

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.**

"A reed like unto a rod" is a measuring stick.

Notice that John was given the measuring stick, John did not provide his own measuring stick. In the physical world, there are different standards to measure the length, height, or width of something depending on what part of the world you come from. But spiritually there is only one standard of measurement. God measures our character with His standard of righteousness which is His Holy Law of the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20:1-17. God's Holy Law is the foundation of all the principles in the Bible. It is based on how to love God and others. We are judged by the Law of God, His Ten Commandments.

1 John 3:4

4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Romans 7:7

7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

James 2:11-12

11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

God's law clearly defines sin for us. If we disobey God's law we are guilty of sin. According to Romans 6:23 the payment for those guilty of sin is eternal death!

Romans 3:23 says ²³*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

In other words we have all broken God's law, we have all sinned, and we all deserve eternal death. We ALL need the grace of God to save us. And that grace is in the form of Jesus Christ who came to this earth to save us from our sins, but not in our sins.

Ephesians 2:8

8 For by **grace** are ye **saved through faith**; and that **not of yourselves: it is the gift of God**.

Grace is a gift of mercy which contains the gift of righteousness that only God can bestow upon us. Grace is the manifestation of Jesus Christ and plan of salvation in action! You cannot buy it with silver or gold, nor earn it. The gift of grace is ONLY activated through faith in Jesus Christ. The gift of grace does NOT excuse SIN. Grace DOES NOT void the Ten Commandments! God did not give us to the gift of grace to become transgressors of His law!

It is very clear that we all can be saved by the gift of the Grace of God through the faith of Jesus Christ, but does God's grace void His law?

Romans 6:14-15

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, **but under grace**.

15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? **God forbid**.

Only Jesus can save us from the condemnation of the Law, but the law is our spiritual measuring stick in which we are judged.

Romans 7:12-14, 24, 25

12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

The law of God is spiritual, we are carnal. The ONLY WAY we can keep the standard of God's righteousness, we must also become spiritual. This is ONLY possible through faith in the righteousness of Jesus Christ to cleanse us from sin and give us power to live holy lives without SIN!

Jesus gives you a NEW HEART and a NEW SPIRIT to keep the Law of God, to measure up to the standard of righteousness.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

26 A **new heart** also will I give you, and a **new spirit will I put within you**: and I will **take away the stony heart out of your flesh**, and **I will give you an heart of flesh**. (Not sinful flesh, put a soft heart that hears the voice and knows the will of God)

27 And I will put **my spirit within you**, and **cause you to walk in my statutes**, and ye shall keep my **judgments**, and do them.

Galatians 2:20

20 I am **crucified with Christ**: nevertheless I live; **yet not I**, but **Christ liveth in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Philippians 2:13

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Remaining connected to carnal attractions and worldly lusts make it **IMPOSSIBLE** to be faithful to Christ and **IMPOSSIBLE** to keep a spiritual law! We must be totally CONVERTED and TRANSFORMED by Christ.

Jesus ONLY can work in you if you give Him a personal environment of humility, self sacrifice, obedience, and service. This is true conversion, total service.

Remember, why is the law of God, the Ten Commandments, the spiritual measuring stick of characters?

The law of God is a perfect reflection of the character of God. The grace of God through Christ helps us to perfectly reflect the image of God! This was God's original purpose for us from the beginning. He created us in the image of God to glorify Him. Look at the chart, powerful.

Characteristics	God is...	God's Law is...
Love	I John 4:8 - "God is love."	Romans 13:10 - "...love is the fulfilling of the law."
Holy	Psalm 99:9 - "...the LORD our God is holy."	Romans 7:12 - "the law is holy and the commandment holy..."
Eternal	Deuteronomy 33:27 - "The eternal God is thy refuge..."	Psalm 119:7,8 - "all His commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever."
True	John 3:33 - "...God is true."	Psalm 119:142 - "...thy law is the truth."
Righteous	Psalm 145:17 - "The LORD is righteous in all his ways..."	Psalm 119:172 - "for all thy commandments are righteousness."

Those who attack the law of God are directly attacking the character of God.

This is why the law of God is the measuring stick of righteousness because it reflects the righteousness of Jesus! Jesus, the standard of righteousness, was obedient to the standard of righteousness, the ten commandments.

John 15:10

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

Would Jesus break His own law! NO! When we reflect the character of Jesus we will automatically measure up to the standard of the Ten Commandments!

John 14:15

15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

Obeying ALL of God's commandments is not "legalism", **it is reflecting the character of JESUS!**

Remember the standard of measurement is Jesus and His law! God did not tell John to measure with the measuring stick of others. This is why we should NEVER compare ourselves with others. We and others are NOT the standard of righteousness.

Going back to Revelation 11:1 - What were the three things that John was told to measure? 1) The temple of God 2) The altar and 3) Those that worship in God's temple

1) The Temple of God

What was the standard of the sanctuary and temple of God? The ten commandments, the standard of righteousness.

Remember, where is John in vision at this point? The Heavenly temple of God in the Most Holy place.

When John measured the temple of God with the reed, did it measure up? Yes. The temple of God points to the standard of righteousness. From the Holy to the Most Holy place it teaches all who enter in by faith how to live a holy life after we are made righteous (guilty to not guilty) through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

The candlestick with seven branches on the south side of the temple points to Jesus the light of the world. The oil that is fuel for the candle stick is the Holy Spirit. We are the branches. When we abide in Christ and Christ is abiding in us, we also become a light to the world.

The table of shew bread with 12 unleavened flat cakes on the north side of the temple points to Jesus Christ, the bread of life. When we eat the Word of God, we are nourished spirituality. The twelve represented the twelve tribes who were supposed to be witnesses for God as they partake in the daily bread of God spiritually.

2) The Altar

The next thing John was told to measure was the altar. This is the altar of incense right before the most holy place in front of the ark of the covenant and the throne of God. The altar of incense is a miniature model of the altar of sacrifice or brazen altar that was in the outer court of the earthly sanctuary that points to the sacrifice of Christ on this earth. The altar of incense in the Heavenly temple stands as a memorial of the sacrifice of Jesus. When John measured the altar of incense did it measure up? Yes, because it still points to the standard of righteousness and holiness, Jesus Christ.

What do the measurements of the temple and the altar of incense teach us?

Psalms 18:30

30 As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler (shield) to all those that trust in him.

Psalms 19:7

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

What was measured after the temple and the altar? The people in the temple

Remember, who were judged during the day of atonement (earthly sanctuary)? Those who brought a sacrifice and confessed their sins. Their sins were symbolically transferred and recorded in the holy place. This was the daily service. Once a year the high priest went from the holy to the most holy place to “cleanse the sanctuary” and transfer the sins to the scape goat. On the day of atonement all the professed people of God were judged by the standard of righteousness to see if they had won the victory over all the sins they confessed. In other words, did they live a holy life as taught in the holy place.

We are living in the anti-typical day of atonement now, the time of judgment, since 1844 as we have already studied. Jesus went from the Holy to the Most Holy place. Jesus our high priest is still taking new cases. Those who want to confess their sins still have an advocate with the Father, but that time of judgment is soon to end.

Remember, where does judgment begin?

1 Peter 4:17

17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

**This is what is going on NOW! (The dead then the living judged).
Going back to Revelation 11, who was John NOT instructed to measure?**

Revelation 11:2

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.

Remember, the outer court in the earthly sanctuary represented the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ which was fulfilled by Christ. Those who reject the ministry and sacrifice of Christ are those in the court outside the temple of Heaven spiritually. These are the ones who “obey not the gospel of God.”

Who does the holy city represent?

The holy city represents the holy residents of the holy city who are the true people of God. They are ambassadors of the Heavenly kingdom.

Revelation 11:2 says, those residents of the holy city will be “tread (crushed) under foot forty and two months.”

42 months x 30 days per month = 1260 days

Daniel 7:25

25 And he (little horn) shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time (1260).

Little horn = The papacy

Daniel 8:24

24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.

1260 years = 538 AD to 1798 AD Papal Rome Kingdom , the little horn, 5th empire since Babylon.

Prophecy fulfilled, during the 1260 years the true people of God where persecuted by the papacy.

1260 prophecy repeated at the end of time: The true people of God based on Daniel 12 will be persecuted by the papacy after they are “set up” as the seventh empire. 1260 liter days (3 ½ years).

Daniel 12:6-7

6 And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?

7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half (1260 days); and when he shall have accomplished to **scatter (beat in pieces), the power of the holy people**, all these things shall be finished.

Now that completes our basic study of Revelation 11:1 – 2, next study starting with verse 3 we will study about the two witnesses.

Before we end today’s lesson let’s go back to Revelation 11:1. With your general understanding of Revelation 11:1, let’s go a little deeper.

As we know, the vision 4 scene is in the heavenly temple in the most holy place, but there are some personal and practical end-time lessons we must also learn from Revelation 11:1?

Let's go ahead and read Revelation 11:1 again and learn some lessons for these last days.

Revelation 11:1

1 And there was given me a reed (measuring stick) like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

Don't forget what we already learned. Remember, what does the measuring stick represent? The standard of righteousness, Jesus and the Ten Commandments.

What is being measured? The Temple, altar, and those that worship in the temple of God.

Let's go deeper. What are the spiritual meanings of these three things that directly apply to each person who profess Christ? This is your personal appeal...

In addition to what we already learned today, these three things also represent the three personal areas that will be measured of those who profess to follow Jesus.

These measurements of each of these three areas of your personal life will reveal if you will be able to stand through the plagues and the second coming of Jesus Christ.

1) Temple of God

First, let's take a look at the first main area in a true Christian's life that is mentioned Revelation 11:1 which is the temple of God. We know, in general, the temple or sanctuary of God is a holy place in which God dwells.

Where does the Holy Spirit want to dwell in a Christian's life?

1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

19 What? know ye not that your body is the **temple of the Holy Ghost** *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

This is how we maintain our power in Christ. We are not just mental and spiritual beings to God, but we are physical. Our bodies are what? The temple of God - His dwelling place. Even though God has a main temple in Heaven, your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. You are supposed to be a walking sanctuary. Not only did Jesus our God create our physical bodies, but He paid the price of death to Redeem us. He has the right and the authority to claim our bodies as His own.. We are only stewards or managers of the physical body that God has given us. Amen. Our bodies are holy unto God. Let's get an even deeper understanding here.

1 Corinthians 3:16, 17

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are.

Since our bodies are holy unto God, we must present Him a clean and healthy place to live. Yes, it is true that once Jesus comes back we will receive new bodies, but we are going to be measured or judged on how we treat our physical bodies on earth.

1 Corinthians 10:31

³¹Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Do you eat to the glory of God or the glory of self? How you eat and treat your physical body will affect your spiritual connection with God. Bad eating habits of the world, fast high fat food laden with chemicals puts you at a greater risk of a stroke or heart attack. Other bad habits such as drinking alcohol, smoking, lack of sleep, and lack of exercise can put you at risk of chronic illness or even EARLY death. All these things can put you in an early grave.

Listen. Intentionally defiling the temple of God with bad habits or sinful practices that you know will put you in an early grave is disobeying God's Ten Commandment Law that says, "Thou shalt not kill" or murder. Millions of people have made their taste buds their god and bow down to them, breaking the first and second commandment.

Don't miss this. We are living in preparation time. Our body temples must measure up with the temple in Heaven! How we treat the dwelling place of the Holy Ghost reveals how we respect the holy temple of God in heaven.

2) The altar

The altar of incense in the Heavenly temple is a memorial of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. In general, the altar is a spiritual symbol of sacrifice. The second area that will be measured is your sacrifice.

Sacrifice means to kill, or surrender something or someone. Have you surrendered ALL your sins to Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:17

17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

What does Jesus say in **Luke 9:23&24**?

23 If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

24 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

"Deny" here means to sacrifice or lose your own self interest for the cause of Christ. We must deny or sacrifice ourselves daily before God.

We must be a living sacrifice unto God daily:

Romans 12:1

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

When we sacrifice our all to Jesus and walk in his way our prayers and lives are represented in the sweet smelling incense on the altar of incense before the throne of God!

How big is your sacrifice to God? Have you laid your ALL on God's altar of sacrifice? Lay your all today while we are still in preparation time. Amen.

3) Worshiper

The third area that God will measure you is your worship. Are you a true worshiper of the true Jesus in the Bible? Worship is an active expression of reverence, devotion, admiration, or respect towards something or someone. In a spiritual sense we only have two ultimate choices of who we worship-that is God or Satan. There is no in between. So the third area in which a Bible believing Christian will be measured in the last days will be his/her worship toward God. Does your worship to God measure up to the standards of God now?

John 4:23-24 (Jesus says)

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

In order to worship God in spirit and in truth we must be obedient to God and His Word. Amen. Listen. In other words, true worship **equals** obedience to God and His Word. But in order to obey God we all must be spiritually in consistent connection with Him.

Appeal

Since we are living in the time of judgment, what is the main message that Jesus is teaching all those who confess Jesus?

Jesus reveals in Revelation 11:1 that ALL professors will be measured. Those who do not have victory over the sins they confessed will fall short. They will not measure up.

Some may say but I have done some good works for Christ, even though I did not quite measure up to God's standard.

What will Jesus say?

Matthew 7:21-23

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Do you measure up to the standard of Jesus and His Ten Commandments? Does your lifestyle measure up with the lifestyle and example of Jesus? Have you reached the standard of righteousness and holiness?

Next Lesson: "The Two Witnesses"