**THOUGHT FOR TODAY: The Holy Spirit will WARN you when something feels off, LISTEN TO HIM!**

**John is instructed to measure the temple, the altar and its worshippers.**

[**Revelation 11:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/11/1/s_1178001) **Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.**

Barclay: “It has been said that [Chapter 11] is at one and the same time the most difficult and the most important chapter in Revelation.”

1. **A reed like a measuring rod**
2. Reed is [κάλαμος](https://www.preceptaustin.org/revelation-intro-introduction#2.2.2.6) [kalamos], the same word which described the mock scepter that was given to Jesus along with His crown of thorns ([**Mat. 27:29**](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Matt%2027.29)). The soldiers used this “scepter” to beat Him on the head ([**Mat. 27:30**](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Matt%2027.30)**;**[**Mark 15:19**](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Mark%2015.19)).
3. kalamos (measuring rod) refers to a reed like plant that grew in the Jordan Valley to a height of 15 to 20 feet. It had a stalk that was hollow and lightweight, yet rigid enough to be used as a walking staff ([**Eze. 29:6**](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Ezek.%2029.6)). These stalks were long and lightweight, were ideal for use as measuring rods.
4. In this day and age, we measure with 12” rulers, 36” yard sticks, Tape Measurer that come in different lengths.
5. Reeds were usually cut to lengths of 6 Cubits
   1. A Cubit was measured from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger about 17-18 inches and most people use the 18” measurement.
   2. This makes the reed measuring rod 9 feet long.
6. *Example of measurement* - [**Ezekiel 40**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/eze/40/1-49/s_842001)**:1-5 In the twenty-fifth year of our captivity, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth day of the month, in the fourteenth year after the city was captured, on the very same day the hand of the LORD was upon me; and He took me there. In the visions of God He took me into the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain; on it toward the south was something like the structure of a city. He took me there, and behold, there was a man whose appearance was like the appearance of bronze. He had a line of flax and a measuring rod in his hand, and he stood in the gateway. And the man said to me, “Son of man, look with your eyes and hear with your ears, and fix your mind on everything I show you; for you were brought here so that I might show them to you. Declare to the house of Israel everything you see.” Now there was a wall all around the outside of the temple. In the man’s hand was a measuring rod six cubits long, each being a cubit and a handbreadth; and he measured the width of the wall structure, one rod; and the height, one rod.**
7. There are a few other Biblical examples of measuring.
   1. [**Zechariah 2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/zec/2/1-13/s_913001), a man measured Jerusalem, a scene that evidently showed God’s coming judgment on the city.
   2. **Revelation** [**21**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/21/1-27/s_1188001), the New Jerusalem is measured.
8. **Rise and measure the temple of God**: Sometimes in the Old Testament, the idea of measuring communicates ownership, protection, and preservation.
   1. When Habakkuk prophesied, *He stood and measured the earth* ([**Habakkuk 3:6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/hab/3/6/s_906006)), the idea was that the Lord owned the earth and could do with it as He pleased.
   2. When this temple is measured, it shows that God knows it’s every dimension, and He is in charge.
   3. ***God is in charge***. This is one of the glorious, mighty themes of the Book of Revelation. [**Revelation 11:17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/11/17/s_1178017) again uses the title *Almighty* for God. The Greek word for *Almighty* is *pantokrater*, and it describes “the one who has his hand on everything.” This temple will be the scene of great horror and great glory, but God is in charge, working through both the good and bad actions of man.
9. **The temple of God**: Today there are Jewish people *very* interested in rebuilding the temple and resuming sacrifice, and are making preparations to do that even now.
   1. Today you can visit the Temple Institute in the Jewish Quarter of the old city in Jerusalem. There, a group of Jews absolutely dedicated to rebuilding the temple attempt to educate the public and raise awareness for a new temple. They are trying to replicate everything they can for a new temple, down to the specific pots and pans used in sacrifice.
   2. They say that there is a group that does a mock laying of the corner stone for the 3rd Temple every year**.**
   3. The main Jewish group leading the charge to rebuild the temple is an organization called *Faithful of the Temple Mount*, who say they will continue their efforts to re-establish the Jewish temple on the Mount.
      * 1. One leader in the group said, “We shall continue our struggle until the Israeli flag is flying from the Dome of the Rock.”
      1. There are students being trained for the priesthood, learning how to conduct animal sacrifices in the rebuilt temple.
   4. It is important to understand that most Jews — religious or secular — do not care about building a temple. And if there were one rebuilt, sacrifice would be difficult in a day of aggressive animal rights activists. Yet, there is a small, strong, highly dedicated group who live to see a 3rd temple — a temple that will ***fulfill prophecy***.
   5. Christians get excited when they see efforts to rebuild the temple. At the same time, we should understand that the basic impulse behind rebuilding the temple is *not of God* at all — the devil desires to have a place for man to sacrifice for sin.
      1. Christians believe that all sacrifice for sin was *finished* at the cross, and any further sacrifice for sin is an offense to God, because it denies the finished work of Jesus on the cross.
      2. Orthodox Jews consider that the Messiah will rebuild the temple; however, the man they may initially embrace as their Messiah will in fact be the Antichrist:
      3. [**John 5:43**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jhn/5/43/s_1002043) ***I have come in My Father’s name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.***
      4. **Measure those who worship there –** How do we/you measure up?

**The outer court of the temple.**

[**Revelation 11:2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/11/2/s_1178002) **But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot *for* forty-two months.**

1. **But leave out the court which is outside the temple**: The outer court need not be measured because it has been **given to the Gentiles**.
   1. Perhaps this is because the outer courts of this rebuilt temple include the Islamic Dome of the Rock shrine, which currently stands on the temple mount and is a point of great contention between Jews and Muslims.
   2. When the Romans conquered Jerusalem in ad 70, they destroyed the city so completely that the foundations of the old temple are not easily found. Most have long assumed that the Dome of the Rock shrine stands on the place of the old temple. But new research gives some evidence that the temple may have stood to the north where the Dome of the Rock shrine is today, and that if the temple were to be rebuilt at its old place, the Dome of the Rock shrine would be in its outer courts. If this is the case (and the research is by no means settled), then it would explain why the angel told John **leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles**.
2. **And they will tread the holy city underfoot**: The **holy city** (Jerusalem) will be **trodden underfoot** for a period of **forty-two months**, which equals 1260 days (three and one-half years). This trampling of Jerusalem by Gentiles probably takes place in the last half of the final seven year period described by [**Daniel 11:26-27**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/dan/11/26-27/s_861026) — when the Antichrist pours out his fury on the people of Israel (as described in [**Revelation 12:13-17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/12/13-17/s_1179013)and [**Matthew 24:15-28**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/24/15-28/s_953015)).
   1. Greek scholar A.T. Robertson said that to **tread underfoot** means “to trample with contempt.”

**The ministry of the two witnesses.**

[**Revelation 11:3-6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/11/3-6/s_1178003) **And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.**

1. **My two witnesses**: This introduces two of the more interesting characters of Revelation, the **2 witnesses**.
   1. The character of their ministry - *they will prophesy 1260 days*, they are dressed *in sackcloth*, and they have an effective ministry because *they have power from God*.
      1. The 1260 days are from the Babylonian calendar of 360-day year, (so 1260 divided by 360 equals 3 ½ years.
      2. One meaning of sackcloth was a token of morning by the Israelites.
      3. Another meaning of sackcloth is of repentance.
      4. Another meaning was a sign of submission **1 Kings 20:31** **Then his servants said to him, “Look now, we have heard that the kings of the house of Israel are merciful kings. Please, let us put sackcloth around our waists and ropes around our heads, and go out to the king of Israel; perhaps he will spare your life.”**
   2. (Walvoord) “Such power, in fact, that they are able to witness for 1,260 days in spite of the hatred of the world.”
2. **These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands**: The witnesses have an unique, continual empowering from the Holy Spirit, as shown in Zechariah’s olive trees and oil lamps picture ([**Zechariah 4:2-3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/zec/4/2-3/s_915002) **and** [**4:14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/zec/4/14/s_915014)).
   1. The passage from Zechariah had its first application to two men in Zechariah’s day: Joshua and Zerubbabel.
   2. In this picture from Zechariah, the oil lamps were filled directly from olive trees which piped oil right to the lamps. *This is a picture of continual, abundant supply*.
   3. (Walvoord) “Just as these two witnesses were raised up to be lampstands or witnesses for God and were empowered by olive oil representing the power of the Holy Spirit, so the two witnesses of [**Revelation 11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/11/1-19/s_1178001) will likewise execute their prophetic office.”
   4. If we are to be witnesses as the 2 witnesses will be in the end times, we must first have something to *witness* about, such as our own personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Then, we must have the *power of the Holy Spirit* to bring forth the story that we can witness effectively.
3. **And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies**:
   1. **Fire proceeds from their mouth!**
   2. The two witnesses have special protection from God, similar to Elijah’s.
   3. **2 Kings 1 After King Ahab’s death, the land of Moab rebelled against Israel. One day Israel’s new king, Ahaziah, fell through the latticework of an upper room at his palace in Samaria and was seriously injured. So he sent messengers to the temple of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, to ask whether he would recover. But the angel of the LORD told Elijah, who was from Tishbe, “Go and confront the messengers of the king of Samaria and ask them, ‘Is there no God in Israel? Why are you going to Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, to ask whether the king will recover? Now, therefore, this is what the LORD says: You will never leave the bed you are lying on; you will surely die.’” So Elijah went to deliver the message. When the messengers returned to the king, he asked them, “Why have you returned so soon?” They replied, “A man came up to us and told us to go back to the king and give him this message. ‘This is what the LORD says: Is there no God in Israel? Why are you sending men to Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, to ask whether you will recover? Therefore, because you have done this, you will never leave the bed you are lying on; you will surely die.’” “What sort of man was he?” the king demanded. “What did he look like?” They replied, “He was a hairy man, and he wore a leather belt around his waist.” “Elijah from Tishbe!” the king exclaimed. Then he sent an army captain with fifty soldiers to arrest him. They found him sitting on top of a hill. The captain said to him, “Man of God, the king has commanded you to come down with us.” But Elijah replied to the captain, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and destroy you and your fifty men!” Then fire fell from heaven and killed them all. So the king sent another captain with fifty men. The captain said to him, “Man of God, the king demands that you come down at once.” Elijah replied, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and destroy you and your fifty men!” And again the fire of God fell from heaven and killed them all. Once more the king sent a third captain with fifty men. But this time the captain went up the hill and fell to his knees before Elijah. He pleaded with him, “O man of God, please spare my life and the lives of these, your fifty servants. See how the fire from heaven came down and destroyed the first two groups. But now please spare my life!” Then the angel of the LORD said to Elijah, “Go down with him, and don’t be afraid of him.” So Elijah got up and went with him to the king.**
4. **These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy;** 
   1. The two witnesses have the power to bring both drought and plague, similar to the power Elijah ([**James 5:17-18**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jas/5/17-18/s_1151017)) and Moses ([**Exodus 7**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/exo/7/1-25/s_57001)**-**[**12**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/exo/12/1-51/s_62001)) had.
5. **They have power over waters to turn them to blood**
   1. **Exodus 7:19-21 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. And there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in buckets of wood and pitchers of stone.’ ” And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood. The fish that were in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.**
6. **They have power to strike the earth with *all* plagues, as often as they desire**
   1. Example of some Plagues: The Plagues of Egypt: water turning to blood, frogs, (gnats or lice), flies, livestock pestilence, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, and the death of the firstborn.
7. **The words used to describe them - They… These… Them**: In the ancient Greek grammar, all the nouns used to speak of the two witnesses in this passage are in the *masculine gender*. The two witnesses are definitely two men.

**The death of the two witnesses.**

[**Revelation 11:7-10**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/11/7-10/s_1178007) **When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then *those from* the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.**

1. **When they finish their testimony:** God protects them until they are finished with their ministry that God gave them.
   1. I believe that God protects us in like manner until we are finished with the calling that he has given us.
   2. If you’re not dead then God’s not done with you!
      1. My car accident years ago
      2. My cancer 6+ years ago
2. **Make war against them, overcome them, and kill them**: The two witnesses are killed by the **beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit** (first introduced in [**Revelation 9:11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/9/11/s_1176011)) **but** their ministry *is not cut short*.
   1. They fully accomplish their task (**when they *finish* their testimony**).
   2. Thank God, we cannot be taken off of this earth until we **finished,** because the devil **does not** have power over our lives, God does.
   3. We are witnesses of the Lord, and He will protect us until our ministry is finished.
3. **And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified**: The two witnesses are killed in the city of Jerusalem, which is described in three illustrative terms.
   1. **the great city (**sinful as Babylon**)**, a term often applied to *Babylon*, the headquarters of Antichrist ([**Revelation 16:19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/16/19/s_1183019)**,** [**17:18**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/17/18/s_1184018)**,** [**18:10**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/18/10/s_1185010)**,** [**18:16**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/18/16/s_1185016)**,** [**18:18**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/18/18/s_1185018)**,** [**18:19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/18/19/s_1185019)**,** [**18:21**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/18/21/s_1185021)).
   2. Called **Sodom**, speaking of immorality.
   3. Called **Egypt**, speaking of oppression and slavery.
   4. If, during the first three and one-half years, Jerusalem’s leadership is in league with the Antichrist, it is easy to see how these titles apply. Any city in love with the Antichrist, or entering into a covenant with him, could be called **Sodom**, **Egypt**, and **Babylon**.
4. **Then *those from* the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves**
   1. A Jewish funeral usually occurs within 24 hours after death;
      1. But not these 2, because they are happy to see them dead and unable to torment or hurt them again.
   2. These 2 will be left for 3 ½ days for worldwide viewing
5. **Those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another**: The **earth saw** and rejoiced over the deaths of the two witnesses.
   1. The fact that this is seen by all **people, tribes, tongues,** and **nations** is perhaps a prophecy of modern *mass media*.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ABC | NBC | CBS | FOX | CW | USA | ESPN | CNN | ION | Nat Geo |
| HBO | A&E | Disco very | Animal Planet | TNT | Me Tv | TBS | BET | Get TV |  |

* 1. Internet, Facebook, X/Twitter, Instagram and 19 others.
  2. It is amazing — and not far-fetched at all — to think of a live, worldwide broadcast on channels and over the internet, “***Live from Jerusalem***,” and seeing the amazing scene described here taking place.
  3. Can you visualize the place surrounded by multiple news people describing an hour by hour of the celebrating that is taking place?

1. **Make merry, and send gifts to one another**: A new holiday, eat drink and be merry and give gifts.
   1. Party, party on, I believe it will be bigger than Burning Man: Black Rock Desert NV, Coachella: Indio CA, Octoberfest: Munich, Mardi Gras: New Orleans.
2. **Because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth**: The **preaching** of these two witnesses and their **call to repentance** was a torment for many, because they could not stand to hear the truth *while they loved their lies*. (I’m ok your ok)

**The reviving of the two witnesses.**

[**Revelation 11:11-14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/11/11-14/s_1178011) **Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.**

1. **Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them,**
   1. Where have we heard this before, **Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils *the breath of life*; and man became a living being.**
2. Can you imagine being one of the reporters that is reporting the 2 dead witness and the people still partying and drinking and giving gifts, and all of a sudden, the witnesses that have been ***DEAD*** (not asleep) for 3 ½ days, stand up!
3. **They stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them**: As this happens before the eyes of the watching world, the enemies of these two witnesses are horrified and astonished.
4. **And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.”**: The earth was not worthy of these two witnesses, so God simply calls them home, and **they ascended to heaven in a cloud**.
5. **In the same hour there was a *great* earthquake**: This earthquake brings judgment, and moves many to *give glory to God*. But it remains to be seen if this will become true repentance unto salvation.
6. **and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake *seven thousand* people were killed, 70,000 were there and a tenth were killed.**
7. **The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.**

**What is the identity of the two witnesses?**

* Many interpreters see the two witnesses as symbolic of the entire church in the tribulation period or as symbols of the law and the prophets.
* The most plain and straightforward interpretation sees them as two real individuals, *not* symbolic representations.
* Unfortunately, the list is not short of those who think that ***they*** are one of the two witnesses.
* Generally, if the two witnesses are identified with any two individuals from the past, the leading candidates are Elijah and Enoch *or* Elijah and Moses *or* ………..
* Some think Enoch is one of the witnesses because he was carried up to heaven by God ([**Genesis**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/gen/5/25/s_5025) **5:24**)
* Some think Elijah is one of the witnesses because:
  + - His ministry seems like one of these two witnesses ([**2 Kings 1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2ki/1/1-18/s_314001) **and** [**James 5:17-18**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jas/5/17-18/s_1151017)**).**
    - He was carried up to heaven ([**2 Kings 2:11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2ki/2/11/s_315011)).
    - Enemies of Elijah were destroyed by fire ([**2 Kings 1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2ki/1/1-18/s_314001)).
    - It is specifically prophesied that Elijah will return before the end of the age ([**Malachi 4:5-6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mal/4/5-6/s_929005)).
    - Elijah had a unique “conference” with Jesus at the Mount of Transfiguration ([**Matthew 17:1-6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/17/1-6/s_946001)).
* Some think that Moses is one of the witnesses because:
  + - His ministry seems like one of these witnesses ([**Exodus 7:20-21**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/exo/7/20-21/s_57020)).
    - God seems to have a special purpose for the body of Moses that Satan wanted to defeat ([**Jude 9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jde/1/9/s_1167009)).
    - **Deuteronomy 34:6** **So Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, just as the LORD had said. The LORD buried him in a valley near Beth-peor in Moab, but to this day no one knows the exact place.**
    - The enemies of Moses were destroyed by fire ([**Numbers 16:35**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/num/16/35/s_133035)).
    - Moses had a unique “conference” with Jesus at the Mount of Transfiguration ([**Matthew 17:1-6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/17/1-6/s_946001)).
* Some believe the two witnesses **must** be Enoch and Elijah, because neither of them died a natural death and were instead carried to heaven, and [**Hebrews 9:27**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/heb/9/27/s_1142027) says that it is appointed for men to die once — so Enoch and Elijah must return to die on the earth.
  + - This is a misunderstanding of [**Hebrews 9:27**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/heb/9/27/s_1142027), which is a principle rather than an absolute law. For example, Lazarus and others were raised from the dead and apparently died *twice* — yet this does not disprove [**Hebrews 9:27**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/heb/9/27/s_1142027).
    - The entire church on earth at the time of the rapture will *not die*, but be carried to heaven. [**Hebrews 9:27**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/heb/9/27/s_1142027) stands as a principle, and there are a few notable exceptions which ultimately serve to prove the rule, not deny it. There may be good reasons for considering Enoch and Elijah as the two witnesses, but the principle of [**Hebrews 9:27**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/heb/9/27/s_1142027) is not among those good reasons.
* God is God and he can use whomever he pleases, even 2 others that we haven’t mentioned!
* Who they are must not be terribly important, or God would have told *exactly* who they are!

**The seventh trumpet finally sounds.**

[**Revelation 11:15**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/11/15/s_1178015) **Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms of o*ur Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”**

1. **Then the 7th angel sounded**: The seventh seal brought forth a profound *silence* ([**Revelation 8:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/8/1/s_1175001)); the seventh trumpet *initiates joy* at the inevitable resolution. What a glorious proclamation: **The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!**
2. **Have become the kingdoms of our Lord**: In the ancient Greek grammar, the verb tense of **have become** indicates an absolute certainty about Jesus’ coming and reign, even *before* the fact is accomplished.
3. **He shall reign forever and ever!** How can there be such joy, when the King is not reigning completely yet?
   1. At the headquarters of a successful political campaign on election night, there is joy, even though it will be a while until their candidate is actually installed into office. The joy anticipates a certain result.

**The twenty-four elders worship God.**

[**Revelation 11:16-18**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/11/16-18/s_1178016) **And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.”**

1. **We give You thanks**: This thanksgiving isn’t to thank God that He has *already* done this; but that the hour has come for it to take place, and that these things are permanently set in motion.
2. **The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come**: God’s punishment matches the crime; there is nothing arbitrary about it. The nations are **angry** with God and He responds with **wrath**; those that **destroy** the earth are themselves destroyed.
3. They are angry because God comes to rule. The world wants *anything* but the reign of God.
   1. As it says in a parable of Jesus, [**Luke 19:14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/luk/19/14/s_992014)*We will not have this man to reign over us*.

**The temple in heaven is opened.**

[**Revelation 11:19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/11/19/s_1178019) **Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.**

1. **The ark of His covenant was seen in His temple**: The **ark** refers to God’s throne, the place where the previously mentioned resolution will come from.
2. **The ark of His covenant was seen in His temple**: It is called the **ark of His *covenant*** — in the Old Testament, this was the earthly representation of God’s throne — to emphasize God’s faithfulness.
   1. The ark of the covenant is (Alford) “The symbol of God’s faithfulness in bestowing grace on His people, and inflicting vengeance on His people’s enemies.”
3. **And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail**: The great and awesomeness at the opening of the temple and the revelation of the ark show that the presence of the Lord is *there*; it is reminiscent of God’s manifested presence at Mount Sinai ([**Exodus 19:16-19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/exo/19/16-19/s_69016)).