***REVELATION***

**Revelation 11:1-12**

We are still in the midst of a parenthetical passage that began in chapter 10.

We are in the midst of a pause in the actions and activities of the Tribulation Period judgments.

Revelation 11 is hard to understand, but keeping in mind that we are on Jewish ground will help us as we study

**I. WORSHIP**

 A. The promise v. 1

 1. This verse makes it crystal clear that a new Temple will be built in Jerusalem.

 a. The History of the Temple

 1) Solomon built the Temple as he was commanded by David--- **1 Kings 6:1**.

 2) The Temple has been destroyed 3 times: in 538 BC, 168 BC, and in 70 AD.

 b. The Preparations for The Temple –some have already prepared many of the items needed to resume worship

 c. The Placement of the temple---a symbol of the church or a literal Temple on the Earth?

 1) The church is described as a temple---**Ephesians 2:19-21; 1 Peter 2:5**

 2) A symbolic representation of the church does lead to some problems:

 a) Why then should it be measured? What is the significance of the courts and the altar?

 b) There is too much specific detail here for this to match the generalized picture of the church as a temple

 4) It is more likely that this temple must be on the earth

 a) Daniel said the Antichrist will defile the temple and stop sacrifices---**Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11**

 b) Jesus said to look for an abomination standing in the holy place---**Matthew 24:15-16; 24:21**

 c) Paul told us that the Antichrist would sit in the temple as God---**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**

 B. The possessionv. 1

 1. A Rod was a reed of about six cubits, or nine feet.

 2. Sometimes in the OT, the idea of measuring communicated ownership, protection, and preservation.

 a. **Habakkuk 3:6**---the idea was that the Lord owned the earth and could do with it as He pleased.

 b. Measuring this temple shows that God knows it’s every dimension, and He is in charge.

 1) Full possession – The act of measuring speaks of possession. God is claiming the Temple as His Own.

 2) Faithful possession – God will keep every promise He has ever made to the nation of Israel.

 a) He has set them aside for a time because of their unbelief.

 b) In the end, however, Israel will return to God -----**Zech. 12:10; 13:1; 8-9.**

 C. The punishmentv. 2

 1. The Rod of Judgement---In 3 of 4 verses in Rev., it is used in connection with Jesus ruling with a “rod of iron”

 2. John is told ***NOT*** to measure the outer court of the Temple. It is to be given to the Gentiles

 a. Perhaps this is because the outer courts will include the Islamic Dome of the Rock shrine

 b. New research suggests that the temple may have been north of where the Dome of the Rock shrine is today

 1) This would place the Dome in its outer courts and may explain why they had been given to the Gentiles

**II. WITNESSES**

 A. Their ministry v. 3-6

 1. They will have power to withstand the entire world for 1,260 days

 2. They have special protection from God, similar to Moses and Elijah

B. Their murder v. 7-10

 A. They will be killed and lie in the streets for 3.5 days while people look at them and celebrate

 B. After this, they are resurrected and they ascend to heaven in a cloud----**Rev.** **11:12**

C. Their identity

 A. The Bible tells us nothing definitively, but the leading candidates are usually Elijah, Moses, or Enoch.