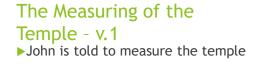
The Protection of God and the 42 Months Revelation 11:1-2 Dr. Michael D. Wedman



►Question: Why measure the temple? What is the purpose?

### The Measuring of the

- Temple v.1 ►Answer: The act of measuring is common in the O.T. prophets
- ► Zechariah 2:1-5 A man with a measuring rod begins to
  - measure the temple. ► This indicates God's protection, presence and claim over the city

### The Measuring of the

Temple - v.1 ► Ezekiel 40:1-5

- Ezekiel sees a man who is measuring the temple with a measuring rod
- This indicates God's protection, presence and claim over the city
- In Rev 11:1 measuring the temple is symbolic of declaring God's protection and presence

### The Measuring of the

- Temple v.1 The background to this is Ezekiel 40-42 Compare Rev 10:8-11 with Ezek 3
- Ezekiel 40-42 a man is given a measuring rod to measure all the aspects of the temple
  - Signifies that God will return to Israel and Israel to God
- ▶ It finds it fulfillment in Rev 22:1-5

#### The Measuring of the

#### Temple - v.1

- John measures the altar and worshippers
  - Altar of incense 6:9; 8:3
- There is a problem with the worshippers being in the inner court
  - Only priests are allowed into the inner court

### The Measuring of the

Temple - v.1 ▶ The Solution:

- 1. This is not a physical temple of God, it is a heavenly temple
- It is the eschatological in which Christ will reign
- It is the symbol of the protection and presence of God

## The Measuring of the

Temple - v.1 ► The Solution:

- 2. Temple in the N.T. often describes the church
- See 1 Cor 3:16-17; 2 Cor 6:16; Eph 2:19-22; Heb 3:6; 1 Pet 2:5-10
- 3. Revelation also speaks of Christians as a Kingdom of priests See 1:6; 5:10; 20:6

### The Measuring of the Temple - v.1 The Solution:

 An angel measures the city of God in 21:15-21
 Note that there is no temple - v.22

### The Measuring of the Temple - v.1 ► Conclusion:

- Measuring is symbolic of God's protection, presence and claim among His people
- ► He is able to protect His people unto eternal life

▶ See Matt 16:18; 2 Tim 1:12

This is not protection from physical harm ▶ See 6:9 and 11:2

### The Outer Court and the Gentiles-v.2 The outer court will be given to the Gentiles

- Question: What does this mean?
- ► BACKGROUND:
- Solomon's Temple 2 courts, the inner and the outer were both for believers.
- Zerubbabel's Temple no information
- ▶ Herod's Temple 2 courts, inner and outer

### The Outer Court and the Gentiles-v.2 Herod's Temple:

- The inner court was separated into 3 parts - for priests, for Israelites, for women
- The outer court was for the Gentiles they were not allowed into the inner court

# The Outer Court and the Gentiles-v.2

- Eschatalogical Temple/Ezekiel's Temple
- 2 courts inner and outer, both for believers
- In all of these temples, the courts belonged to God, whether for Jews or Gentiles

# The Outer Court and the Gentiles-v.2

- The outer court was not measured and was given over to the Gentiles
- ► God will protect the inner court His church
- The church will be protected yet still persecuted and given over to the Gentiles for a time. There will be suffering for the church for a time

### The 3 1/2 Years - v 2b-3

Trample:

- A victorious army swarming through a conquered city - mistreatment and abuse
- The unbelievers will conquer the believers for a time but will not overcome them (wipe them out)
- Believers will overcome and be victorious to everlasting life
- See Dan 8:9-14; Lk 21:24

### The 3 1/2 Years - v 2b-3

Background of 42 months:

- 3 ½ years of drought in Israel
  See 1 Kings 17:1; 18:1; Lk 4:25; James 5:17
- 42 encampments of wilderness wanderings
  See Numbers 33:5-49
- Both indicate a time of tribulation and judgment
- ▶ See also Dan 7:25; 9:27; 12:11-12

### The 3 1/2 Years - v 2b-3

Background of 42 months: Conclusion:

- ► There is a limited time, controlled by God, in which the antichrist and his followers will triumph over the church to a degree.
- See also Rev 13:5-8

### The Abomination that Causes Desolation

#### Events of June 167 - 164 B.C.

- Syrian ruler Antiochus Epiphanes took over Jerusalem
- ► He had pigs sacrificed upon the altar in the temple
- Tried to take away Jewish culture and religion
- Sparked the Maccabean Wars Judas Maccabean defeated Antiochus and ruled Jerusalem

### The Abomination that Cause Desolation

Events of 70 A.D.

▶ The destruction of the temple in Jerusalem by the Romans See Mark 13:14 and Mt. 24:15

### The Abomination that Causes Desolation Events of the Great Tribulation

Days of the Antichrist who will claim to be God and trample the holy city for 3 1/2 years See Matt 24:21-22

### Conclusion/Summary

- ▶ There is a set time frame of 42 months/ 3 ½ years in which the antichrist will reign and the church will suffer and be persecuted (trampled on).
- >Yet it is also a period of protection wherein God's presence will keep His people unto everlasting life.
- ► God is always in control!