

## The Protection of God and the 42 Months Revelation 11:1-2

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## The Measuring of the Temple - v.1

▶ John is told to measure the temple

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

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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 its fulfillment in Rev 22:1-5

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## The Measuring of the Temple - v.1

### ►The Solution:

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

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## 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

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## 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

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## 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

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## The Outer Court and the Gentiles-v.2

Eschatological 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

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## The Outer Court and the Gentiles-v.2

Conclusions:

- ▶ 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

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## The 3 ½ 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

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## The 3 ½ 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

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## The 3 ½ 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

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## 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

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## The Abomination that Causes Desolation

Events of 70 A.D.

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

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## 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 ½ years
- ▶ See Matt 24:21-22

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## 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!

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