

Revelation 11:1-14

Although these verses are placed between the sixth and seventh trumpets, they speak of things that don't necessarily take place in that time period. First, John is given an important revelation about the Third Temple (Rev. 11:1-2). Next, the ministry of the Two Witnesses is described (Rev. 11:3-14). Before considering these verses, it's worthwhile to remind ourselves of some foundational prophecies about this period –

1. Daniel 2:31-35, 2:36-45 – The Great Image Dream of Nebuchadnezzar
2. Daniel 9:24-27 – The Seventy Weeks prophecy given to Daniel
3. Matthew 24:3-22 – The Mount of Olives Discourse by Jesus
4. II Thessalonians 2:1-12 – The Apostle Paul's Reiteration

Revelation 11:1-2

John is told to measure a portion of the Temple of God. We survey when property changes hands or to establish our ownership boundaries. Could this be the reason John is told to do this? Notice –

1. There is a Temple and it is used as it should be – to worship God.
2. The Gentiles will again conquer Jerusalem.
3. The Gentiles will dominate Jerusalem for 42 months – 3 ½ years.

Revelation 11:3-12

If Jerusalem is neutralized by the Gentiles (and the Jews are forced to flee), is God left with a witness anywhere to the truth? Yes, in fact two witnesses rise up (Deut.17:6). They replace the witness of the Temple worship and the witness of the Jewish people who have fled Jerusalem. They testify and perform miracles like prophets of old. They are empowered by the Holy Spirit as symbolized by the olive tree and lampstand reference. They minister for 3 ½ years. They are killed in Jerusalem (sound familiar?) and great celebrations erupt around the world. They are raised from the dead after 3 ½ days and ascend to heaven – much to the world's amazement.

Revelation 11:13-14

An earthquake shakes Jerusalem after the resurrection of the two witnesses and actually shakes some of its residents spiritually awake enough to give the survivors second thoughts about the Lord. (Did they send the gifts back?)