



BEHOLD, I AM COMING QUICKLY!

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Faithful, Fearless Witnesses

Revelation 11
Kirk Bertsche

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write these things... (Rev. 1:19)

- things which you have seen (ch. 1)
- things which are (ch. 2-3)
- things which will take place after these things (ch. 4-22)

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John's Revelation of the Future

WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN

Salutation (1:1-8)
Vision of Jesus Christ (1:9-20)

THE THINGS WHICH ARE

7
CHURCHES
(2 - 3:22)

RAPTURE
HEAVENLY VISION (4 - 5:14)

Seven-sealed Book

7
SEALS
(6 - 8:5)



7
TRUMPETS
(8:7 - 11:19)



7
KEY
PERSONS
(12:1 - 13:18)

7
BOWLS
(15 - 16:21)



7
DOOMS ON
BABYLON
(17 - 18:24)



RETURN
OF
CHRIST
(19:1-21)

MILLENNIAL
KINGDOM
(20:1-10)



ISRAEL
RULES THE
NATIONS

7
NEW
THINGS
(21- 22:5)



Farewell Testimony (22:6-21)

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The Trumpet Judgements



Vegetation Struck



Seas Struck



Fresh Water Struck



Heavens Struck



Non-Lethal Attacks (**Woe 1**)



Lethal Attacks, 1/3 killed (**Woe 2**)



Interlude (Rev 10-11a)



Semi-Final and Final Judgments (**Woe 3**)

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Measuring the Temple (Rev. 11:1-2)

- **Rev. 11:1** Then there was given to me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, “Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. **2** “Leave out the courtyard which is outside the temple and do not measure it, because it has been given to the nations; and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.

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- **Note Jewish context (entire chapter)**
- **Temple: literal on earth? Or figurative/metaphorical/heavenly?**
- **When is the 42 month (3 ½ year) period?**

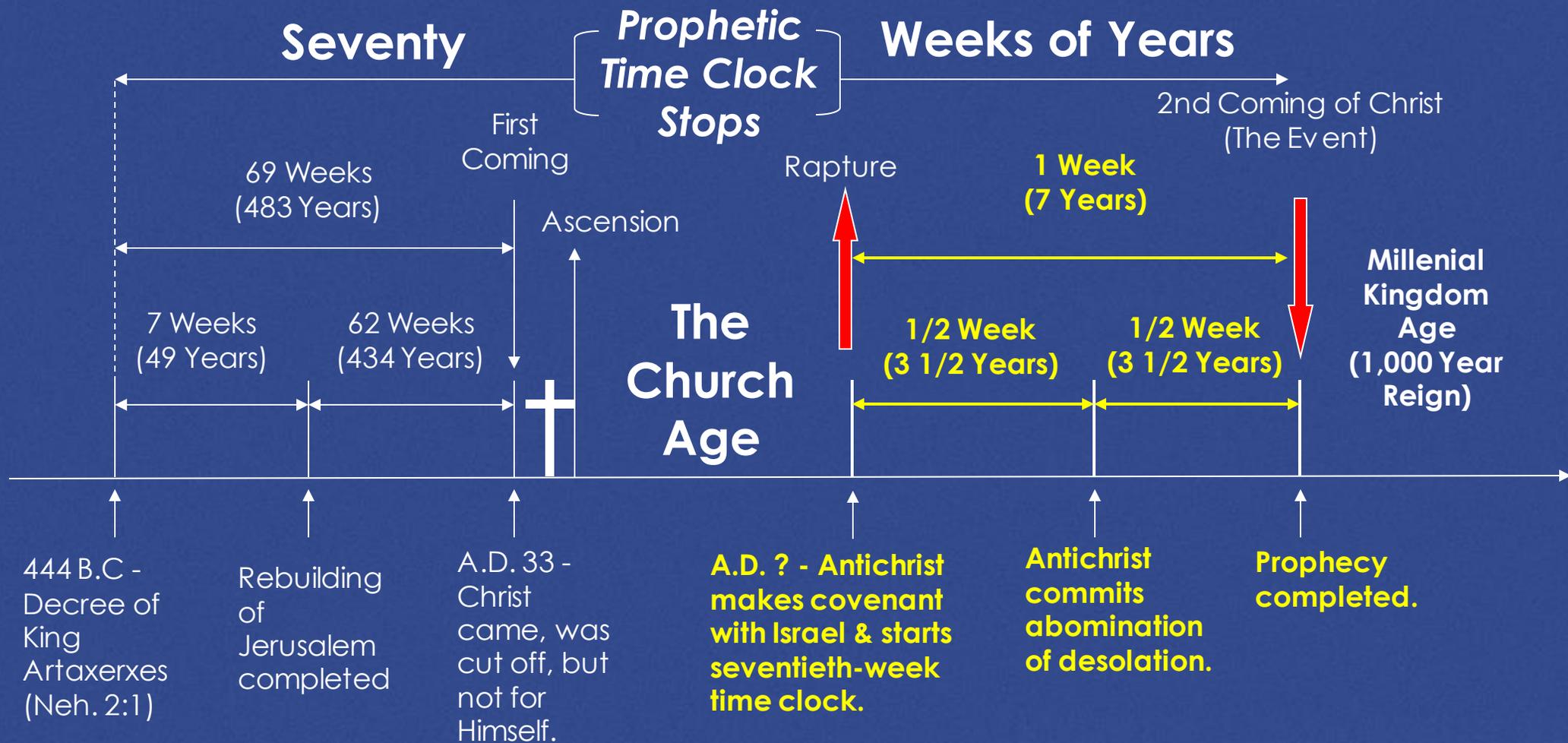
Calls to Mind some Old Testament Passages

- **Ezek 40-47** While in exile in Babylon, Ezekiel receives a vision of an angel measuring a future (Millennial) temple
- **Zech 2** Zechariah received a vision of a man measuring a future rebuilt city of Jerusalem (New Jerusalem)
- **Dan. 9:26** "... and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. **27** "And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate."
- *This suggests a literal temple on earth*

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Trampled by the Nations (Gentiles)

- **Rev. 11:2** “... and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.
- **Luke 21:20** “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is near. ... (24) and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.



Daniel's Seventy Weeks

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Two Faithful, Fearless Witnesses (Rev. 11:3)

- **3** “And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”

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- **3** “And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”
- Why two witnesses?
- Why sackcloth?
- What is “1260 days”?

1260 Days: Approximate or Precise Number?

- **Rev 12:6** Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for **1,260 days**.
- **Rev 12:14** But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a **time, times, and half a time**, away from the presence of the serpent.

Two Faithful, Fearless Witnesses (Rev. 11:4)

- 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

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Zechariah was given a vision of a candelabra with an olive tree on each side:

- **Zech. 4:11** Then I said to him, “What are these two olive trees on the right of the lampstand and on its left?” ... **14** Then he said, “These are the two anointed ones, who are standing by the Lord of the whole earth.” [Joshua and Zerubbabel]

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Two Faithful, Fearless Witnesses (Rev. 11:5)

- **5** And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; and so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way.

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- **2Kings 1:10** But Elijah replied to the captain of fifty, “If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty men.

Two Faithful, Fearless Witnesses (Rev. 11:6a)

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- **6a** These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying;
- **1Kings 17:1** Now Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the settlers of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the Lord, the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall certainly be neither dew nor rain during these years, except by my word.” (This began 3 ½ year famine; c.f. Js 5:17)

Two Faithful, Fearless Witnesses (Rev. 11:6b)

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Two Faithful, Fearless Witnesses (Rev. 11:6b)

- **6** ...and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.
- **Ex. 7:19** Then the Lord said to Moses, “Say to Aaron, ‘Take your staff and extend your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, over their streams, over their pools, and over all their reservoirs of water, so that they may become blood; and there will be blood through all the land of Egypt, both in containers of wood and in containers of stone.’”

Two Faithful, Fearless Witnesses

- Given divine protection
- Similar to Elijah and Moses
 - Given divine power to do miracles
 - Testified faithfully to powerful, pagan rulers

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Death of the Witnesses (Rev. 11:7)

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- **Rev. 13:1** ... Then I saw a **beast** coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten crowns, and on his heads were blasphemous names.
- **Rev. 17:8** “The **beast** that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction.

Death of the Witnesses (Rev. 11:8-9)

- **8** And their dead bodies will lie on the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. **9** Those from the peoples, tribes, languages, and nations will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not allow their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb.
- **Sodom** Immoral, wicked (c.f. Jer 23:14)
- **Egypt** Persecuted God's people

Death of the Witnesses (Rev. 11:10)

- **10** And those who live on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who live on the earth.

Death of the Witnesses (Rev. 11:10)

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- *katoikountes epi tēs gēs* : lit. “dwellers on the earth/land”
- Num 33:55 ‘But if you do not drive out the **inhabitants of the land** from you, ...
- Ezek 37:25 “And they will **live on the land** that I gave to My servant Jacob, in which your fathers lived; and they will live on it, they, and their sons and their sons’ sons, forever; and My servant David will be their leader forever.

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The Witnesses Raised (Rev. 11:11)

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- **Ezek 37:10** So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath entered them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

The Witnesses Raised (Rev. 11:12)

- **12** And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them.

The Witnesses Raised (Rev. 11:13)

- **13** And at that time there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

The Witnesses Raised (Rev. 11:13)

- **13** And at that time there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were **terrified** and **gave glory** to the God of heaven.
- **Is this true or false repentance?**

“Fear and Glorify God”

- **Rev. 14:7** and [the angel] said with a loud voice, “**Fear God and give Him glory**, because the hour of His judgment has come; worship Him who made the heaven and the earth, and sea and springs of waters.”
- **Rev. 15:3** And they sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, ... 4 “Who will not **fear** You, Lord, and **glorify Your name**? For You alone are holy; For all the nations will come and worship before You, For Your righteous acts have been revealed.”
- **Rev. 16:9** ... and they did not repent so as to give Him **glory**.

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End of Second Woe (Sixth Trumpet) (Rev. 11:14)

- **Rev. 11:14** The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is coming quickly.
- **The deadly earthquake ends the second woe (sixth trumpet)**



The Trumpet Judgements



Vegetation Struck



Seas Struck



Fresh Water Struck



Heavens Struck



Non-Lethal Attacks (**Woe 1**)



Lethal Attacks, 1/3 killed (**Woe 2**)



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The Seventh Trumpet (Rev. 11:15-17)

- **Rev. 11:15** Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying,
 - “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.”
- **16** And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, **17** saying,
 - “We give You thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, the One who is and who was, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.

Two Views on the Timetable (Rev. 11:15-17)

- Kingdom still future at v. 15?
 - "... the period of the seventh trumpet chronologically reaches to Christ's return. Therefore the seventh trumpet introduces and includes the seven bowl judgments of the wrath of God revealed in chapter 16." *Walvoord & Zuck, Bible Knowledge Commentary*
- Kingdom begins at v. 15?
 - "The blowing of the seventh trumpet reveals that the Great Tribulation is over and the reign of Christ has begun." *William MacDonald, Believers Bible Commentary*
 - "At long last, the rightful Lord's eternal reign begins. ... (To be precise, this marks the beginning of his millennial reign. But that will flow without interruption into eternity.)" *Gary Tuck, Jesus Shall Reign*

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The Seventh Trumpet (Rev. 11:18)

- **18** “And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”

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- **Fulfillment of Psalm 2**
- **Two judgments to come: one at beginning and one at end of Millennium**

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A Glimpse of Heaven (Rev. 11:19)

- **Rev. 11:19** And the temple of God which is in heaven was opened; and the ark of His covenant appeared in His temple, and there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder, and an earthquake, and a great hailstorm.
- **A reminder that God honors His covenant promise to Israel**

Summary

- Two faithful, fearless witnesses—an example for us!
- Gospel is preached, repentance is possible until the Lord returns to reign
 - Most will be blinded and will reject God
 - When the Lord returns, the opportunity to repent will end

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