

THE GREAT DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL AND JERUSALEM

Rev. 11:1-2

Study #22

Introduction: These two verses speak of the great destruction of Israel, her temple, worship, people and the great destruction of Jerusalem and the Jews for three and one half years.

I. THE GREAT DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL: HER TEMPLE, WORSHIP, AND PEOPLE

1. John is instructed to take a rod and measure the temple, its altar and the people who worship there.
 - The rod can be used to measure for building or restoration.
 - The rod can be used to measure for preservation or protection.
 - The rod can be used to measure for destruction, punishment and correction.
2. The Bible says that the antichrist is to actually walk into the temple and demand that the world give their first loyalty to him and the state.
 - Matthew 24:15; Dan. 9:24-27; 11:31; 2:11
3. The Bible says that the antichrist will sit in the *temple of God* declaring that he is god, that is, that he and the state can meet the needs of the world and bring utopia.
 - 2 Thess. 2:3-4
4. The temple in Jerusalem must be rebuilt before these events can happen for the temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. There are five temples mentioned in the Bible:
 - Solomon's temple (1 Ki. 7:1), destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 587 B.C.
 - Zerubbabel's temple (Ezra 3:12), desecrated in 168 - 170 B.C.
 - Herod's temple (Jn. 2:20), in Jesus' day, destroyed in 70 A.D.
 - The temple of the tribulation yet to be built during the first three and one half years of the antichrist. (2 Thes. 2:4; Rev. 11:2)
 - The temple of the millenium, the temple of our Lord (Acts 15:16; Ezek. 40 - 43)
5. John is told to measure the temple, the altar, and the worshippers for judgment.

-rejected Jesus	-denied Jesus
-disbelieved Jesus	-disobeyed Jesus
-cursed Jesus	-ignored Jesus
-neglected Jesus	-blasphemed Jesus

God has no favorites and shows no partiality. All ungodly will be judged.
6. Any person who does not approach God through Jesus Christ is worshipping a false God. A worshipper may be a Jew or a Gentile..it doesn't matter..worship must be through Jesus Christ or else that worship is false. This is why God marks the Jewish temple and worship for destruction.

(Mt. 7:21; Mt. 15:8-9; Mk. 7:6; 1 Tim. 2:5; Tit. 1:16; Heb. 8:6; 9:24; 9:15)

II. THE GREAT DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM AND THE JEWS FOR THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS

1. Note that the court of the Gentiles was not measured or marked for judgment.
 - The inner courts were for Jews only. No Gentile was ever allowed within.
 - the court of the priests (altar of burnt offerings)
 - the court of Israel or Jewish men
 - the court of women.
 - The Gentiles will already be under God's judgment and under the rule of the antichrist.
2. Forty two months (3 1/2 years) is the time God set that the antichrist and his terrible persecution of the believers will be unleashed upon the world.
 - in the holy city -2 witnesses will preach -the woman in the wilderness preserved -God blasphemed
3. The antichrist will rule for seven years, but the *abomination of desolation* will bring the worst tribulation the world has ever known for 3 1/2 years.
4. Daniel pointed to these days: Dan 9:27; 7:25; 12:7, and other verses).
5. Jesus pointed to these days: Mt. 24:15; 24:8; 24:21; 24:29-30; 24:31.
6. For three and one half years there will be great satanic power unleashed in the world. A *great tribulation* is the name God chose to give these three and one half years. God is going to judge Israel as well as all unbelieving Gentiles but there will be a limit to His judgment - three and one half years. God will stop the judgment and have mercy upon all who will turn to Him for mercy.

CONCLUSION

1. God will use judgments on Israel to prepare them for salvation.
2. The "*times of the Gentiles*" was launched with the Babylonians and Nebuchadnezzar (2 Chron. 36:1-31)
3. We are living in the "*times of the Gentiles*."
4. The "*times of the Gentiles*" will end at the climax of history when Jesus Christ returns in great glory and destroys the antichrist and his government and followers.
5. In spite of all the judgment falling, God will still hear and save all who call upon Him.