

We come from such different doctrinal planets, that I'm not sure we can even understand each other, but I'm going to try. Please take time to read the following with an open heart because it will take this servant of the Lord several hours to write it.

Because of its Hebrew poetic form (chiasmic), some eschatologists see the book of Revelation as a series of repetitive prophecies. The Seven Churches, the Seven Seals, the Seven Trumpets, the Two Witnesses, the Leopard-Bear-Lion beast, the Scarlet beast and Babylon, each presenting a different **spiritual** picture of the Christian era. Somewhat like the old fable of the four blind men looking at the elephant.

If I understand you correctly, you see Revelation 11 being fulfilled over several years, I see the chapter as a picture of all the redeemed of the whole Christian era. I'll exegete the chapter as I understand it, my notes inserted into the text in italics.

Revelation 11:1 "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod (**angelic measure**): and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein." (**A picture of the Temple of Solomon and all Old Testament believers. They can now be numbered because the Temple has been destroyed, the veil of the Temple has been rent and we are now in the Christian era**).

Revelation 11:2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles (**the Dome of the Rock is in what was once the Court of the Gentiles, 300 feet south of the Temple of Solomon, see Biblical Archaeology Review, March-April 1983**): and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two is months (**42 months is 1278.34 days, Jerusalem was freed of Gentile domination in 1967. 1967-1278.34 = 688.66, the exact year the Muslims began construction of the Dome of the Rock on God's Temple mount.**)

Revelation 11:3-4 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, (**the new nation of Israel was established in 1948, 1948-1260 = 688 A.D. and the Islamic Dome of the Rock**) clad in sackcloth (**of repentance**) These are the two olive trees (**Romans 11:24-25**), and the two candlesticks (**Revelation 1:19**) standing before the God of the earth.

Revelation 11:7 "And when they (**The Two Witnesses**) shall have finished their testimony (**among the Gentile nations, 1948-1967, one witnesses now back in their homeland**), the beast (**Satan**) that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make (**spiritual**) war against them, and shall overcome them (**spiritually with materialism, false doctrine and the cares of this world**), and kill them" (**spiritually**).

Isn't that verse an accurate picture of the spiritual condition of the Western Church today?

Revelation 11:8-11, (Excerpts) "And their dead bodies (**Greek: pto'-ma, by definition: a**

fall, a ruin, the carcass, the bones, i.e., the empty churches.) will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified (Jerusalem). And those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations (the the surrounding Islamic countries) will look at their dead bodies (the empty churches) for three and a half days (Greek: hay-mera may also be translated years, so years of day-years, i.e., from 688AD to 1967AD) and will not permit their dead bodies (the empty churches) to be laid in a tomb (to be torn down). And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets (the Christians and Jews) tormented those who dwell on the earth" (it is torment for the lost when the gospel is preached and they refuse to repent).

Revelation 11:11-19 "After the three and a half days the breath of life (after Jerusalem was freed of Gentile control in 1967) from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; (In new Israel, God's people are again welcome in all of Jerusalem's synagogues and churches) and great fear fell upon those (Moslems) who were beholding them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up here.'" (Saints, both Jew and Gentile, taken to be with the Lord. . . still future! Compare with the "Come up here" of Rev 4:1) and they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies beheld them. And the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. And the seventh angel sounded; (the Last Trumpet) and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of the world are become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." (It seems there is no "Seven Year Great Tribulation" or "1000 year Millennium" following the Last Trumpet! Instead, we are instantly translated into the eternal Kingdom of God, just as Revelation 11:15 and the following verses plainly declare.)

The Eternal Kingdom of God

"And the four and twenty elders, (the twelve sons of Jacob and the twelve apostles) which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying . . . "We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets (physical seed of Israel), and to the saints (the Gentile Church), and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. **And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament:** and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail."