**Revelation 11**

**Main: In the midst of God’s warnings, we often still reach new lows**

**I. Two different halves – Rev. 11:1-3**

* **“Measure” seems to signify ownership Ez. 40; Rev. 21:15-17; but it’s also possible because it needed to conform to biblical standards which reflect the heavenly reality (Heb. 8:5).**
* **The Gentiles dominate for “forty-two months” in the second half. The two halves are distinguished by different references to 3 ½ years.**
* **The first 3 ½ years are controlled by the Two Witnesses – 11:3**

**II. The Two Witnesses: Their ministry, their murder, and the reaction Rev. 11:4-14**

**The ministry of the Two Witnesses – 11:4-6**

* **References to 3 ½ years: Dan. 9:27; 12:7; Rev. 11:2, 3; 12:6; 13:5**
* **Olive trees – Provide oil for the lampstands to keep the testimony bright**
* **Israel is supposed to be a light to the nations (Isa. 42:6; 49:6)**
* **Notice the allusions to the ministries of Elijah (fire) and Moses (plagues). The Elijah allusion may be another allusion to Mt. 17 that “Elijah is coming” (Also, Mal. 4:5; Mt. 11:14; 16:14; 17:3, 4, 10, 11, 12; Lk. 1, Mt. 11)**
* **The point is that the Two Witnesses judge the earth and send the plagues on the earth, likely those of the Trumpet Judgments, probably with more judgments, like the drought.**

**The murder of the Two Witnesses – 11:7-8**

**Jerusalem (11:8) is spiritually “Sodom” = immorality and “Egypt”, known for worshipping false gods.**

**Earth’s reaction – 11:9-10**

* **The 3 ½ is once again referenced as they are dead that long (literal days here). Remember: they were to minister 1,260 days (3 ½ years).**
* **The condemnation on the earth is emphasized following the end of ch. 9 with the fact that, rather than mourning the loss of two great men, the earth is not only glad, but has a “Satanic Christmas” and exchange gifts.**

**Heaven’s response – Rev. 11:11-14**

* **The God of heaven, going “up,” and the clouds.**
* **Just as Elijah “went up,” as well as Jesus and believers, now they “go up.”**
* **Men are battling “the god of heaven” in their minds.**
* **Notice the repeated reference to heaven and the clouds here and in other books (11:8; 1 Thess 4 “in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air”) Heaven is referenced 55 times in Revelation. The God of heaven is also a focus (Rev. 11:13; 16:11; 20:9), along with that coming being associated with the clouds. This is a major focus - Daniel 7:13; Mt. 17:5; 24:30; 26:64; 1 Thess. 4:17; Acts 1:9-11; Rev. 1:7; 10:1; 11:12; 14:14, 15, 16.**
* **The two witnesses have been murdered and the world responded with joy. Heaven’s response was a massive earthquake that caused some in Jerusalem to give God glory. The further response from heaven is the announcement of the Kingdom and the praise that follows.**
* **Just as the seventh Seal brought the Trumpet Judgments and eventually the Bowl Judgments, now the Great Tribulation begins with the proleptic announcement that, “It is over!”**

**III. The third Woe: the Seventh Trumpet, the Kingdom proclaimed - Rev. 11:15-19**

* **Psalm 2:1-9 – The rebellion of the nations**
* **Daniel 12:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:10-11 – Resurrection to reward**
* **In 4:1, a door is opened in heaven. Here, the Temple of God is opened. These “bookend” verses mark the beginning and the end of the events of the first 3 ½ years. Here, the Ark is seen. God dwells between the Cherubim of the Ark (1 Sam. 4:4). The Ark led Israel in their wanderings and across the Jordan (Josh. 3-4). God will lead and care for His people during this time, also (Rev. 12:6).**
* **Once again, the Jewish nature of the Tribulation is in focus. God remembers His covenant to His people. Another storm is coming.**

**For us:**

* **A suggested correction: Isaiah 6:1-3**
* **A suggested warning: Proverbs 1:20-33**
* **A suggested reminder: James 4:6-10**
* **A suggested attitude: Luke 10:38-42**
* **A suggested prayer: Matthew 11:28-30**