

Revelation- Class 8 (Revelation 11)
“The Two Witnesses”

Recap:

Last week, we discussed the 5th and 6th Trumpet Judgement

[The 5th Trumpet Judgement involved opening the Bottomless Pit](#)

This judgement included:

- Masses of demons who’s purpose was to sting humanity five months
- Causing such torment that people will seek death/lust for death
And **WILL NOT FIND IT.**
- We are also introduced to the king of the bottomless pit, Abaddon.



[The 6th Trumpet Judgement released four demons under the Euphrates River](#)

This judgement included:

- Demonic army with 200 Million soldiers on mission, killing 1/3 humankind.
- Guesstimate: 2 Billion People cutting the population on Earth to half



Those who survived didn’t repent (rethink their thinking)... and chose to continue in their sin of Sexual immorality, thefts, murders, sorceries and Idolatry (considered demon worship).

I know these chapters may be scary and you may think...

“whew, I’m glad I don’t have to go through that!”

this may propel you to evangelize or live more intentionally

you may think, “Why?! How dumb! Why are you so foolish?”

because it doesn’t add up... I wanna push you... and make this impact where you’re at
we know we’re works in progress too... **LET’S EXAMINE OUR HEARTS.**

Since we’re approaching this study to focus on Jesus

Because it is the Revelation of Jesus Christ... It not only reveals Jesus’ plan

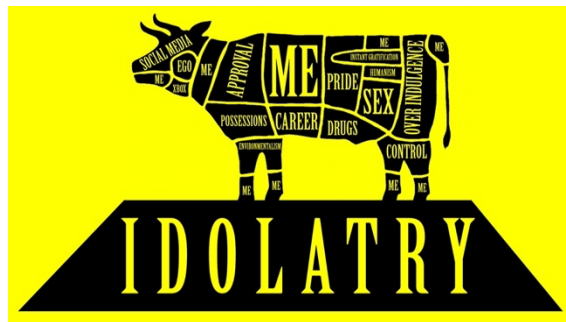
But as we have noticed, it reveals more of the heart of Jesus

Which is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

The same 5-acts of rebellion are not new or activities that we haven't heard of maybe the Lord saved you from living an unrepentant state where you were sexually immoral, stealing, murdering in your heart, dabbling in witchcraft (astrology, etc.) maybe you have a sense of security... "nope... the Lord delivered me from those things!" Praise the Lord!... Here's where I'm gonna push... **WHAT ABOUT IDOLATRY?**



Now before you scoff and say, "That's easy! Of course I don't worship demons..." Good... You may not have an alter to a deity, or make sacrifices to statues... But what about **THE IDOLS IN YOUR HEART?**



These idols may not be demonic, but could have demonic influence... Which are keeping you from **TRUSTING** or **EXPERIENCING** the Presence of God.

Believed to have written Revelation and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John - **WROTE TO BELIEVERS...**

1 John 5:21 (ESV), "21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols."

1 John 5:21 (NLT), "21 Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts."

Simply, an idol is anything (a person, place, thing, or even mindset) That takes God off His rightful throne in your life and placed there instead. This is why we need to slow down here and reflect because idols in one's heart Can hide right in the open and go unnoticed for so long because those idols could be good Things in one's life like: your spouse, your kids, your house, your church, your hobbies, etc.

"An idol can be family and children, or career and making money, or achievement or popularity. An idol can be a romantic relationship, friendship, peer approval, competence and skill, secure and comfortable circumstances, your beauty or your brains, a great political or social cause, your morality and virtue, or even success in the Christian ministry. An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart, "If I have that, then I'll feel my life has meaning, then I'll know I have value, then I'll feel significant and secure."¹

Colossians 3:5 (NLT), ⁴⁵ So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world."

For primitive pagan worshippers, what was the cost of their idolatry? **WHAT WAS SACRIFICED?**

It may have been crops, land, money, or extreme cases a human sacrifice
these worshippers believed that if they worshipped, sacrificed, purchased totems, etc.
that false god would protect, bless, show favor, give them what they wanted...

What is the cost/ SACRIFICE of a believer who has idols in their hearts?

- Their relationship with God! (**ARMS DISTANCE/ NOT FULLY TRUSTED**)
- their health... work to burn out to get
- relationships... people seen as expendable
- integrity, morality, honesty...
- their witness (if one's pride is bruised...)

"We may not actually burn incense to Artemis (goddess of fertility and wealth), but when money and career are raised to cosmic proportions, we perform a kind of child sacrifice, neglecting family and community to achieve a higher place in business and gain more wealth and prestige."²

Here is a simple test to see if you have any idols in your life

1. What or who occupies your mind the most?
Obsession, I want to be this... I need this... I want this..
2. Where do you spend your money?
"Where your treasure is, there is your heart also" (Matthew 6:21)
3. Who or what is the first thing you run to when you are angry, sad, frustrated?
4. What or who do you compromise obeying Christ for?
5. Will you get angry if you can't do it/ don't get it?
6. Do you value it over people?
7. Does it push you closer to God or pull you further away?

¹ Timothy Keller, *Counterfeit gods*

² Ibid.

This isn't a salvation issue, more of an issue of what may be hindering your walk with God. There may be a myriad of reasons why you have those idols built in your heart
Rejection, protection, ignorance, comfort, and so much

The same Jesus in Revelation, desires for you to respond the same way as those in Revelation 9
Repent (Rethink your thinking)... Team with the Holy Spirit and seek Him to expose those areas

Psalm 139: 23-24 (NLT), ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life."

RECOGNIZE the idols/ **REMOVE** the idols/ and **REPLACE** it's spot with Jesus.

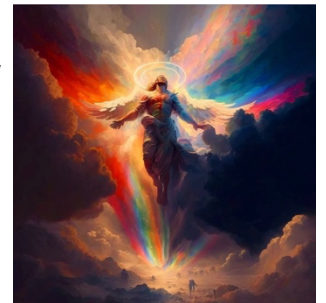
*"Jesus must become more beautiful to your imagination, more attractive to your heart, than your idol. That is what will replace your counterfeit gods. If you uproot the idol and fail to "plant" the love of Christ in its place, the idol will grow back"*³

Colossians 3:1-4, "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

Where we last left John was eating a Scroll in Revelation 10... ready to prophecy

Revelation 11

From taking a scroll from this massive angel
Now transported to what many believe to be Jerusalem
Is instructed to measure the temple in **Revelation 11:1-2...**

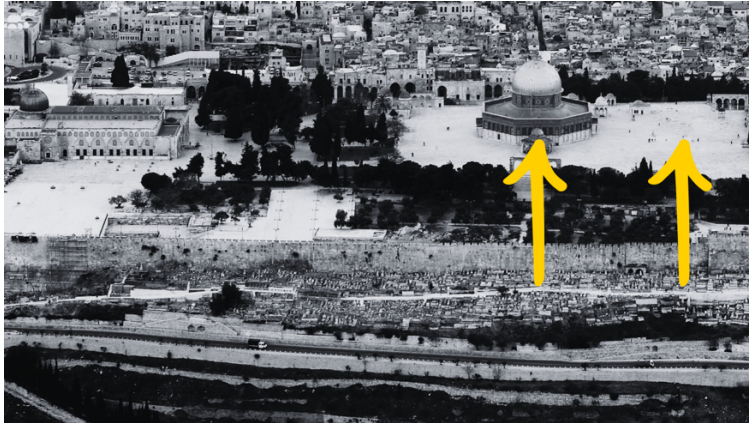


Current Day Temple Mount:



³ <https://seanisloved.wordpress.com/2021/03/15/dealing-with-the-idols-of-our-hearts-ezekiel-141-8/>

Where the Temple May be Placed:⁴



Commentators point out several points

1. This points that the Anti-Christ will bring a false peace- negotiating temple mount
2. Animal sacrifices are restored
3. John doesn't report his findings from measuring. **(WHY MEASURE?)**
4. This is a symbolic addition to show what belongs to God
 - a. As he states, the boundaries
 - b. Israel, His chosen people are still his
 - c. But those that will come and follow Satan and the best are not.
 - d. At this time the third temple is built... gentiles come to worship

Revelation 11:3-4 (ESV), ³ And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." ⁴ These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth."



Before this temple in Jerusalem will be two witnesses
Anointed and empowered to preach for 3 ½ years.
Why two? The Bible says two people are required to confirm a fact or verify truth
Who are they? My favorite answer... I don't know.

⁴ <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-temple-mount>

Three possible answers:⁵

1. Moses and Elijah

- a. They were with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration
- b. Several of the events to follow are similar to their ministries
- c. Jewish tradition
 - i. Moses would return based on Deuteronomy 18:15
 - ii. Elijah was prophesied to come back
Malachi 4:5, “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.”

2. Enoch and Elijah

- a. Both prophets who communicated God’s judgements
- b. Because they never died
- c. Hebrews 9:27, “And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,”

3. Two People we Never Heard of...

1260 days... We currently use the Gregorian calendar that has 365 days.

It is believed that John was using a Babylonian calendar

- 1. Because he references the book of Daniel
- 2. Because 1260 comes out to be 3 ½ years.

Sackcloth... worn symbolizing mourning and grieving

it indicated their own brokenness over the message of doom and judgment they themselves were delivering.

What’s up with the Olive Oil and Lampstands?...

Oil was symbolic of the power of the Holy Spirit

And the lampstands were symbolic of the witness of God

So these two were prophesying (proclaiming God’s word)

Witnessing with the power of the Holy Spirit.

While in a hostile world... that was adamantly against God

Possibly devoted and committed to the Anti-Christ

Since he brought a false sense of security, prosperity, even hope

Let’s see the people’s response to the 3.5 year witness...

Revelation 11:5-6 (ESV), ⁵ And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. ⁶ They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying,

⁵ <https://www.gotquestions.org/two-witnesses.html>

and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire.”

Even though this verse includes the word, “if”

We will see in a few verses ahead that people did not welcome their message

Their presence, their divine protection, and even their judgements to initiate a plague

I know what you might be thinking... fire from their mouths? Literal or Symbolic? **Yes...**

If it is **SYMBOLIC**, it could refer to the words they speak against their enemies.

Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have slain them by the words of My mouth; and your judgments are like light that goes forth. (Hos. 6:5)

Therefore thus says the LORD God of hosts: “Because you speak this word, behold I will make My words in your mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.” (Jer. 5:14)

“Is not My word like a fire?” says the LORD, “And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?” (Jer. 23:29)

If it is **LITERAL**, we never seen that anywhere else, where a prophet speaks fire...

It may be “new” similar to how God judged Korah’s household while following Moses.

“And Moses said: “By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will. If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the LORD has not sent me. But if the LORD creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the LORD.” Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly.” (Num. 16:28-33)

If it is literal and newly experienced, it will serve a purpose

1. To get your attention
2. To reinforce the message
3. To communicate authority
4. Reinforce the source of the testimony

We knew that people will still rebel... and still not listen... some will get saved

But many will still wage a war against God... **WHY?**

Especially after the angels, the judgements, and now the fire balls!

Remember... In Revelation 9, the demonic powers are at an all time high...
Completely **UNDER THE CONTROL OF GOD...**

While the Anti-Christ may be politicking his way into power

2nd Thessalonians 2:9-10 (AMP), ⁹ The coming of the [Antichrist, the lawless] one is through the activity of Satan, [attended] with great power [all kinds of counterfeit miracles] and [deceptive] signs and false wonders [all of them lies], ¹⁰ and by unlimited seduction to evil and with all the deception of wickedness for those who are perishing, because they did not welcome the love of the truth [of the gospel] so as to be saved [they were spiritually blind, and rejected the truth that would have saved them]."

And as we will read in a few chapters...

A false prophet will arise as well, to validate the authority of the false Christ.
He will not only perform miracles as well but...

Revelation 13:13 (ESV), ¹³ It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people,"

Let me give you some behind the scenes here...

as I am studying this... I once again get caught up in the frustration
not only with people's rebellion, but the ongoing deception of the enemy.
Intellectually, I believe and understand that God is in control...
Even when it means that he allows counterfeit miracles to aide the enemy.

There are two questions that came up...

"WHAT IS FAIR?" – These people may be duped by the counterfeit miracles!

The question isn't from our perspective, we are biased and relative...

The question must come from the perspective of God.

The fair thing for God is judge unrighteousness- Period

But He extends Grace... to the point of sending His Son to die on the cross

God goes above and beyond consistently- even with stubborn people

Disillusioned by their sin.

"WHAT DOES THIS REVEAL ABOUT JESUS?"

1. He is at work... and still pursues.
2. His Grace and Mercy are STILL extended
3. Jesus invites everyone- no restrictions- it's the only way to escape God's wrath
4. Even though the counterfeit is present, people's hearts who are closed to God will be duped by it.

Paul wrote of the Romans...

Romans 1:18 (ESV), ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth."

Righteousness means a right standing / innocent before God
to be unrighteous means to be in wrong standing / rebellion to God = sin
To simplify...

By their choice to sin... love their sin... the truth is suppressed.

John Piper wrote that **unrighteousness** is...

"Loving sin more than loving God and His truth. So you see that the issue of truth is an issue of the heart before it is an issue of the head. When the heart is in love with self-exaltation and independence and the pleasures of sin, the mind will inevitably distort the truth or suppress the truth in order to protect the idols of the heart. What is needed is not just new ideas or more information, but a new heart. And a new set of passions and desires and pleasures." ([The Wrath of God Against Holding Down the Truth](#))

Even though... for Paul's audience... He continues

Romans 1:19-23 (ESV), ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Romans 1:20-23 (AMP), ²¹ For even though they knew God [as the Creator], they did not honor Him as God or give thanks [for His wondrous creation]. On the contrary, they became worthless in their thinking [godless, with pointless reasonings, and silly speculations], and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory and majesty and excellence of the immortal God for an image [worthless idols] in the shape of mortal man and birds and four-footed animals and reptiles.

For Paul's audience, the people who rebelled knew God (Vs. 21)

In Paul's argument, even though they lived in His creation... witnessing His eternal power

They still chose their sin, their way of thinking, their rebellion

And they considered themselves wise... open minded... enlightened

Paul's letter was written thousands of years ago

And we can still see that humanity still struggles with this TODAY

And John writes that in the Last Days, humanity will still wrestle with this.

Remember...

Revelation 6:16 (ESV), “¹⁶ calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,”

Revelation 9:20 (ESV), “²⁰ The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk,”

They have seen Jesus...

They may have heard the witness of the 144,000

They see these catastrophic things occur

And yet they choose to buckle down on their sin.

Let's return to the ministry of the two witnesses

they are able to show signs, defend themselves, pronounce a plague for 3.5 years...

Revelation 11:7-11 (ESV), “⁷ And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, ⁸ and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. ⁹ For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, ¹⁰ and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth.”

It was after they finished their testimony, God allowed them to be killed

It will be by the beast, understood and believed to be the Anti-Christ.

and he'll be successful as the whole world will be able to see their bodies lie in the streets.

The Great City... believed to be Jerusalem, new headquarters of the Anti-Christ

Sodom- speaking of immorality

Egypt- speaking of slavery

When they see these two witnesses shut up and decaying in the streets

They will rejoice! Evoking a sense of generosity

Why? Because these witnesses spoke the truth of God day and night

“The preaching of these two witnesses and their call to repentance was a torment for many, because they could not stand to hear the truth while they loved their lie.”⁶

Many of you can remember the day when we couldn't explain the possibility

Of how the world would be able to see their dead bodies lying in the streets

Until 30 years ago, when the invention of live stream was created.

⁶ <https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/revelation-11/>

Revelation 11:12-14 (ESV), *“¹¹ But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. ¹² Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here!” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them. ¹³ And at that hour 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. ¹⁴ The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.”*

After seeing the two witnesses resurrect and ascend
And escaping a catastrophic earthquake
People started to get it and gave God glory.

Revelation 11:15-19 (ESV), *“¹⁵ Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, 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 shall 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 thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
who is and who was,
for you have taken your great power
and begun to reign.*

*¹⁸ The nations raged,
but your wrath came,
and the time for the dead to be judged,
and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints,
and those who fear your name,
both small and great,
and for destroying the destroyers of the earth.”*

¹⁹ Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.



I want to focus the remaining time on vs. 19.

what is interesting is that God's temple in heaven is seen...

and what is clearly seen is the ark of the covenant.

The ark of the covenant was also known as the mercy seat.

What is interesting is that only the High Priest was allowed

Be before the presence of God...

Now John records, the access, the heart, the mercy of God... STILL extended