

Revelation Lesson 7

Reading: Revelation 10-11

Memory Verse: Revelation 11:17

Definitions:

Outer Court of the Temple – Outside court area that was open to all people – both Jews and Gentiles – and where animals were sold for sacrifices and Roman money was exchanged for Hebrew coins for offerings to God.

After reading the lesson, answer the questions using the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfWDDoDDZK2Q7iFO-9Q1xGWspBmMbejitiYvClOybKp_mkaXQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Eat Any Good Books Lately/

The following accounts are supposedly true, but we don't guarantee it.

In Michigan, a man came up with a clever way to find out why his truck was making strange noises. He had a friend drive the vehicle down the highway while he held on to the underside. Oops! His clothing got wound up in some moving parts and so did he. When the buddy pulled over and stopped the truck, he discovered that his friend was dead. There's no word on whether the source of the noise was discovered.

When his phone's incessant ring woke him up late one night, a North Carolina man reached over to the bedside table and grabbed a handgun he kept for security. Thinking it was the receiver, he held it to his head and shot himself to death.

A Canadian lawyer was showing some clients how strong and safe the windows in his office were. They were not as strong and safe as he thought. He butted up against them with his shoulder. The windowpane broke, and the lawyer fell out. We should mention that his office was 24 floors above the street. He never tried that - or anything else - again.

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What does this have to do with Revelation? Revelation gives us another example, one that is absolutely true, of people acting stupidly and dying suddenly. When God's witnesses are killed, the people of Jerusalem throw a party. Three and one-half days later, 7,000 of them are killed in an earthquake.

Most of this section, Revelation 10:1-11:14, does not advance the future timeline. It is a parenthetical portion that gives facts to help us understand the prophetic scene.

New Food (10:1-11)

As this section opens, a mighty angel appears with a little book. He is dressed in an unusual way: in a cloud with a rainbow above his head. His face looks like the sun, and his feet like fiery pillars. Some Bible scholars think this is not an angel, but Christ Himself.

The book he holds could not be the same seven-sealed book mentioned earlier. It is the message John will deliver in the rest of the book of Revelation.

After the angel gives a loud shout, seven thunders sound. A voice from heaven tells John to *seal up* (keep secret) what the thunders said instead of writing it down. This is the opposite of the advice John received later (Revelation 22:10). Then the voice gives him some strange directions: eat the book. Just like our relationship to God's Word today, John has to do more than see or know the contents of the book. He has to make it part of his life. When he ate it, it tasted sweet in his mouth but then turned sour in his stomach.

Much of God's word to us is sweet and encouraging. But parts of it are sour warnings and judgments, like those in the book of Revelation.

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New Celebration (11:1-14)

Next, John is given a reed to measure the temple, altar, and those who worship there. His action symbolizes God's claiming ownership of the temple rebuilt under the Antichrist during the tribulation. The Gentiles, however, will possess the outer court and the rest of Jerusalem for 3 1/2 years, or the second half of the tribulation period.

But before that happens, two witnesses prophesy for 1,260 days (3 1/2 years), the first half of the tribulation. We do not know who these men are, although they remind us of Moses and Elijah. Like those two Old Testament men, they possess special God-given power. They can stop rain, turn water into blood, and send plagues. They can even spit fire to kill their enemies. But their message will not be popular.

At the end of their witnessing time, the beast that comes up from the Abyss kills them in Jerusalem. Notice that the two witnesses stay alive until they complete their mission – indestructible until God is finished with them.

Instead of someone burying these dead witnesses, their bodies are left lying in the street. And instead of mourning their deaths, the people have a party. They even send gifts to one another to celebrate the occasion. Some commentators have called this a Satanic Christmas.

After 3 1/2 days, God raises the witnesses from the dead and calls them up to heaven. They ascend while their enemies watch. About the same time, a great earthquake destroys 10% of the city, killing 7,000 people.

These events end the second woe. At this point, the chronology begins again with the seventh trumpet.

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New Praise (11:15-18)

This trumpet is the preparation in heaven for the bowl judgments to come (described in chapters 15 and 16). Those in heaven rejoice and praise God because He is about to accomplish his plan: *“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever”* (v. 15). Christ will soon reign physically forever over the earth. First, he will pour out his wrath and judge nonbelievers. But those who serve and know God will receive their rewards.