



REVELATION 11.1-19 GOD'S WITNESSES

6th to 7th Trumpet Parenthesis

- 5 Chapter parenthesis
 - Chapters 10-14
- **Alford** calls this chapter “**one of the most difficult in the whole Apocalypse**” (*The Greek Testament*, 4:655). ¹
- The best guideline to follow in interpreting this section is to take each fact literally. ²

Golden Rule of Interpretation

- “When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense, therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise.”
The Golden Rule of Interpretation, D.L. Cooper”. ³

In line with this principle:

1. A literal temple will be in existence during the Great Tribulation in Jerusalem.
 - a. Likely not the grand Temple that Ezekiel envisioned (**Ezk. 40-48**), that will come once Jesus occupies Jerusalem personally and bodily.
2. **“the holy city”**; **“the great city”**: should be considered the literal city of Jerusalem in keeping with its identification in **11:8**.
3. The time periods of 42 months (v. 2) and three and one-half days (vv. 9, 11) should be considered literally.
4. The earthquake will kill literally 7,000 individuals
5. The two witnesses should be considered as two individual men. ⁴

1 And a measuring rod similar in appearance to a staff was given to me, saying,
“Get up and measure
the temple of God
and the altar
and those who worship in it.”

¹ John F. Walvoord, “Revelation,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 955.

² John F. Walvoord, “Revelation,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 955.

³ J. Dwight Pentecost, *Things to Come: A Study in Biblical Eschatology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1958), 44.

⁴ Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

2 And leave out the courtyard outside of the temple, and do not measure it, because it has been given to the **Gentiles** ⁵, and they will **trample** the holy city for **forty two months**.

- Literally the correct text reads, “there was given me a reed, saying.” ⁶
 - Measure these three things:
 - The Temple of God
 - The Altar
 - The Worshipers – how do you do that?
 - Measure those that worship? Numbers?
- **“Reed”** is **κάλαμος [kalamos]**, the same word which described the mock scepter given to Jesus along with His crown of thorns (Mat. 27:29).
- The soldiers used this “scepter” to beat Him on the head (Mat. 27:30; Mark 15:19).
 - Kalamos (measuring rod) refers to a reedlike plant that grew in the Jordan Valley to a height of fifteen to twenty feet. It had a stalk that was hollow and lightweight, yet rigid enough to be used as a walking staff (cf. Eze. 29:6) or to be shaved down into a pen (3Jn. 1:13). The stalks, because they were long and lightweight, were ideal for use as measuring rods. ⁷
- Later, one of the seven angels (having one of the seven bowls of the seven last plagues) talks with John and uses a golden reed to measure the heavenly Jerusalem (Rev. 21:15).
- Measuring rod is **ῥάβδος [hrabdō]** which is translated elsewhere by “rod,” “staff,” or “scepter.” ⁸
 - **This is the word used for the rod of iron by which the rule of Jesus is asserted** (Rev. 2:27; 12:5; 19:15).

⁵ The Times of the Gentiles can best be defined as that long period of time from the Babylonian Empire to the Second Coming of the Messiah during which time the Gentiles have dominion over the City of Jerusalem. This does not rule out temporary Jewish control of the city, but all such Jewish control will be temporary until the Second Coming. Such temporary control was exercised during the Maccabean Period (164-63 B.C.), the First Jewish Revolt against Rome (A.D. 66-70), the Second Jewish Revolt (the Bar Cochba Revolt) against Rome (A.D. 132-135), and since 1967 as a result of the Six Day War. This too, is temporary, as Gentiles will yet trod Jerusalem down for at least another 3 1/2 years (Rev. 11:1-2). Any Jewish takeover of the City of Jerusalem before the Second Coming must therefore be viewed as a temporary one and does not mean that the Times of the Gentiles have ended. The Times of the Gentiles can only end when the Gentiles can no longer tread down the City of Jerusalem.

(Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *The Footsteps of Messiah*, rev ed (Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries, 2003), 21).

⁶ Marvin Richardson Vincent, *Word Studies in the New Testament*, vol. 2 (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1887), 517.

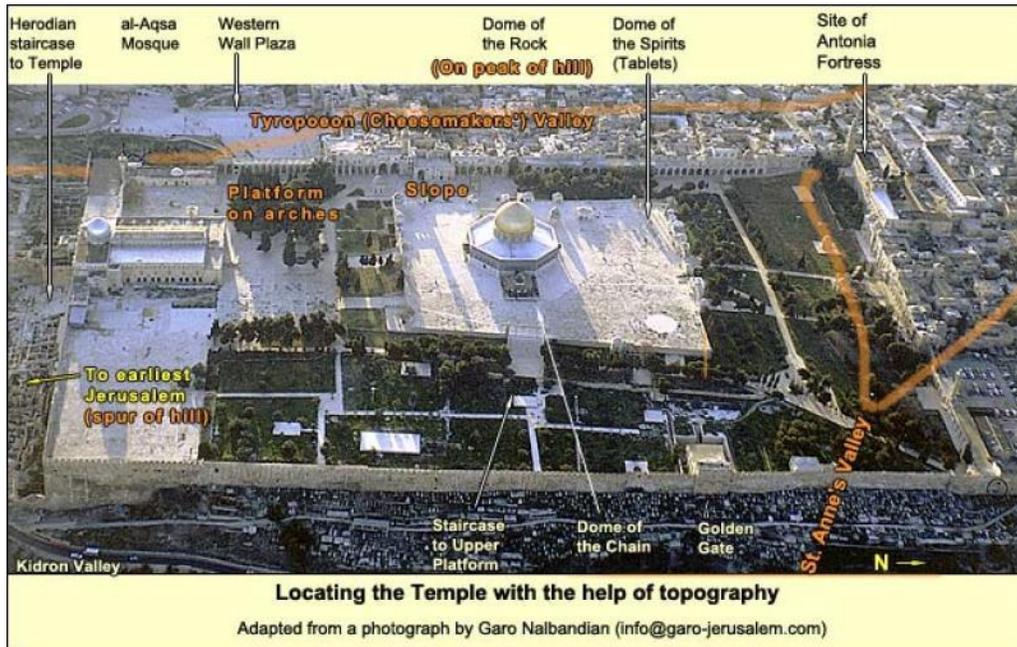
⁷ John MacArthur, *Revelation 1-11 : The MacArthur New Testament Commentary* (Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1999), Rev. 11:1.

⁸ James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996), G4464.



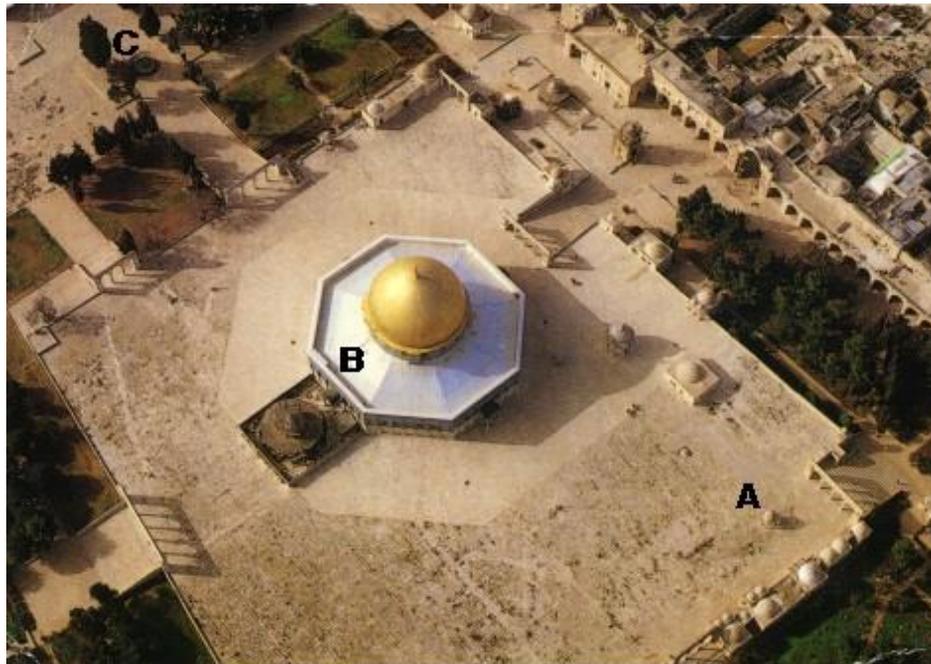
"As the navel is set in the centre of the human body,
 so is the land of Israel the navel of the world...
 situated in the centre of the world,
 and Jerusalem in the centre of the land of Israel,
 and the sanctuary in the centre of Jerusalem,
 and the holy place in the centre of the sanctuary,
 and the ark in the centre of the holy place,
 and the foundation stone before the holy place,
 because from it the world was founded."

Midrash Tanchuma, Qedoshim.



Three Theories Concerning the Temple Summarized and Compared:

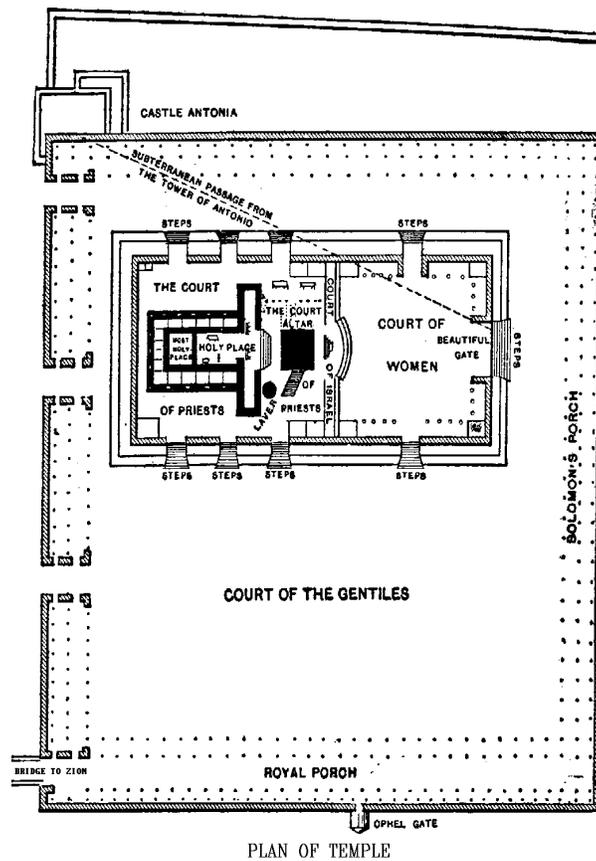
1. **The Temple Mount at the Dome of the Rock** (Dr. Leen Ritmeyer; Dr. Dan Bahat)
 - o Temple must replace the Dome of the Rock to be restored
2. **The Temple Mount to the North** (Dr. Asher Kaufman)
 - o Temple situated over the "**Gazebo of the Winds**" directly in line with the Eastern Gate and the Mount of Olives.

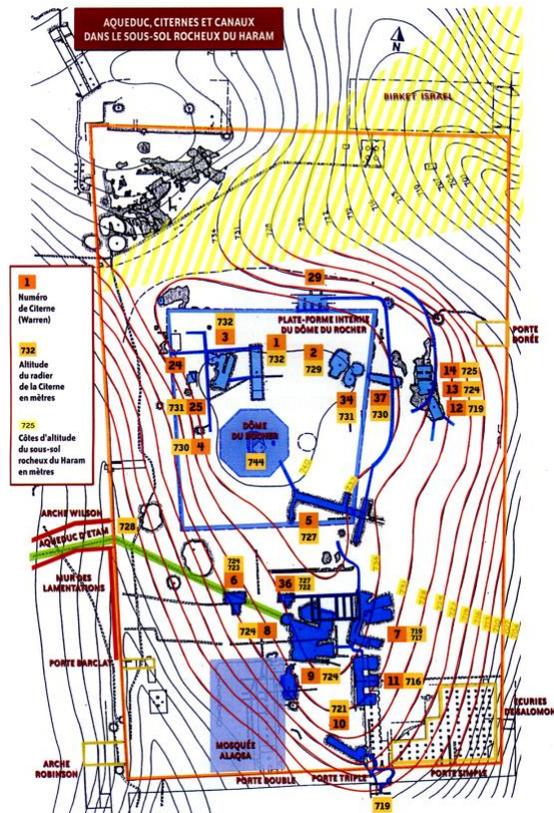




3. The Southern Hypothesis (Tuvia Sagiv)

- o Temple to be situated among pine trees currently in southern area in front of Al Aqsa Mosque. Aerial radiography pinpoints previous foundations.





42 months:

- A period which appears in three forms in the Apocalypse:
 - forty-two months (ch. 13:5);
 - twelve-hundred and sixty days (ver. 3, ch. 12:6);
 - a time, times, and half a time,
 - three years and a half (12, 14, compare Dan. 7:25; 12:7). 9

Daniel 7:25 And he will speak words against the Most High, and he will wear out the holy ones of the Most High, and he will attempt to change times and law, and they will be given into his hand for **a time and two times and half a time.**

Daniel 12:7 And I heard the man who was clothed in linen who was above the water of the stream, and he raised his right hand and his left hand to heaven and he swore by the one who lives forever that an **appointed time, appointed times, and half an appointed time** would pass when the shattering of the power of the holy people would be completed; then all these things will be accomplished.

- **Walvoord:** “The tendency of some is to spiritualize the 42-month length of the Great Tribulation, but **this should be taken as a literal period, as confirmed by the 1,260 days of 11:3 which are 42 months of 30 days each.** From this it is also clear that “the times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24) will not end until the second coming of Christ to the earth to set up His kingdom. Though Jews may possess Jerusalem temporarily, as they have in this century, they will lose possession in the Great Tribulation.” 10

9 Marvin Richardson Vincent, *Word Studies in the New Testament*, vol. 2 (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1887), 517.

10 John F. Walvoord, “Revelation,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 955.

3 And I will grant authority to my two witnesses ¹¹,
and they will prophesy for **one thousand two hundred sixty days**,
dressed in sackcloth."

4 These are the two olive trees
and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

- **2 witnesses: do more in 1260 days than millions of Christians in hundreds of generations.**
- **Empowered for 1260 days = 42 months (of 30 days) = 3½ years.**
 - The most repeated time span in Scripture – each reference speaking of the 7 years of Tribulation.
 - Daniel's 70th week of years.
 - 1260 Days – 42 months – 3 ½ years!
 - 30 Day "Prophetic" months
- Who are these guys?
 - Most say Elijah and Moses:

Malachi 4:5-6 **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet**
Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.
6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children,
And the hearts of the children to their fathers,
Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."
 - And both Moses and Elijah were involved in the transfiguration (Matt. 17:3), which anticipated the Second Coming. 12
- What's their message?
 - **Repentance**
 - **They are clothed in sackcloth**, the garment worn by the prophets of God who preached repentance.
 - It is the garment that suggests the need to mourn and lament over our sins and to get right with God.
 - John the Baptist and Jesus Himself preached a message of repentance saying, **"repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"**
 - **Zechariah 4:2-14 – speaks of these two olive trees**

Zechariah 4:11-14
11 Then I answered and said to him, **"What are these two olive trees—at the right of the lampstand and at its left?"**
12 And I further answered and said to him, **"What are these two olive branches** that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?"
13 Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?"
And I said, "No, my lord."

11The reader may profitably consult on this point the lectures of Professor Milligan on the Revelation of St. John. He maintains that the conception of the Apocalypse is powerfully molded by John's recollections of the life of Jesus; that there is a close parallelism between the Apocalypse and the delineation of the life of Christ contained in the fourth Gospel; and that the Apocalypse is, in the deeper conceptions which pervade it, a repetition of the Gospel. (Marvin Richardson Vincent, *Word Studies in the New Testament*, vol. 2 (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1887), 518.)

12 Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

14 So he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."

5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of their mouth and consumes their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, in this way he must be killed.

6 These have the authority to shut the sky, so that it does not rain during the days of their prophecy. And they have authority over the waters, to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with every plague as often as they wish.

- These are powers that Elijah and Moses were known for:
 - Holding back the rain in Jezebel's time.
 - Moses turning the waters into blood with plagues, etc. – as with Egypt.

7 And when they have completed their testimony, the beast that comes up from the abyss will make war with them and will conquer them and will kill them.

8 And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which is called symbolically Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

- The "Beast" seems invincible at this time – he has killed the two witnesses of Christ!
 - First mention of "the Beast" in Scripture.
- These are the guys no one could even touch earlier! (11:5-6)



Revelation 13:4 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?"

- God allows the BEAST to overcome them – previously to this moment NO MAN could overcome them – an appointed and anointed time of their death.

9 And those from peoples and tribes and languages and nations will see their dead bodies three and a half days, and they will not allow their dead bodies to be placed in a tomb.

10 And those who live on the earth will rejoice over them, and will celebrate and will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who live on the earth.

- "Merry Anti-Christmas!" – giving gifts in celebration of the Antichrist's apparent victory over God's witnesses.
- 3 ½ days of world-wide gawking at the slain witnesses laying in the streets of Jerusalem.
 - Putrefying, swollen, maggot infested, smelly bodies thrown onto the street to be mocked by all who go by.
 - No different than the public humiliation of those crucified.

Psalms 79:1-3

1 O God, the nations have come into Your inheritance;

Your holy temple they have defiled;
They have laid Jerusalem in heaps.

2 The dead bodies of Your servants—

They have given as food for the birds of the heavens,
The flesh of Your saints to the beasts of the earth.

3 Their blood they have shed like water all around Jerusalem,
And there was no one to bury them.

“tormented those who live on then earth”

- **Evangelism is a torment to the Devil** – and those who follow him.
- Speaking the Word publicly is a torment to darkness and spiritual decay.
 - No wonder the “world” hates you in their darkness.
 - They love to murder their babies – they celebrate when babies can be eradicated after their birth.
 - They’ve successfully marginalized almost every form of Christian expression in America.
 - Christmas is all about Santa
 - Easter is all about fertility, the bunny, and Easter egg hunts.
- **SO MANY CHURCHES HAVE SWALLOWED THIS PILL AS WELL!**

11 And **after the three and a half days**,
the breath of life from God entered into them,
and they stood on their feet,

and great fear fell on those who saw them.

12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them,
“Come up here,”

and they went up into heaven in a cloud,
and their enemies watched them.

Revelation 4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, **“Come up here**, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”

- The Lord’s call to us to “come up here” is not as a result of our death
 - They don’t rise as a result of death – a result of resurrected life!
 - Now the rapture is repeated, at least for the two witnesses. Like Christ at the ascension (Acts 1:9), and like believers at the rapture, they will ascend in a cloud (1 Thessalonians 4:9) to meet their Lord in the air. This time, however, it will not be done in the twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthians 15:52); instead, every eye will watch them as they rise—first to their feet, then to the skies. ¹³
 - “the breath of life” – only Jesus possesses this.

Matthew 16:15–16

15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

16 And Simon Peter answered and said,

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!”

¹³ Henry M. Morris, *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1983), 204.

It is interesting to note that each of the three gospels has its own version of the saying of Peter.

- Matthew has **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**
 - Mark is briefest of all (Mark 8:29): **“You are the Christ.”**
 - Luke is clearest of all (Luke 9:20): **“You are the Christ of God.”**
- 14

Peter had called Jesus the Messiah earlier:

John 6:69 Also we have come to believe and know that **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

The Christ:

- *The Christ* (so also NJB, NIV) is no more than a transliteration of the Greek, concerning which one commentator observes: **“The transliteration of the Gr. Christos by Christ in various English versions is inexcusable ... In its original context the question posed by Jesus and answered by Peter as spokesman demanded commitment to Jesus as Messiah.”** 15
 - **The KING, the one and only Messiah**

The Son of the Living God:

- Used only here in the Bible.
- Speaks of Jesus deity and eternal life.
- **The confession that Jesus is *the Son of the living God* means that in a unique way Jesus shares in that life, and that he himself has power to impart life to others.** 16

13 And at that hour a great earthquake took place, and a tenth of the city (Jerusalem) collapsed, and seven thousand people were killed by the earthquake, and the rest became terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

- So there could be no question as to cause-and-effect; while the people were still staring into the heavens in awe, the earth began to quake terribly, just as it had at the resurrection of Christ (Matthew 28:2). 17

Matthew 28:2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came up and rolled away the stone and sat down on it.
- The same voice that spoke to the 2 witnesses to “come up here” is now speaking through a huge earthquake in Jerusalem.
 - **1/10th of the city collapses**

¹⁴ *The Gospel of Matthew: Volume 2*, ed. William Barclay, The Daily Study Bible, 137 (Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster John Knox Press, 1976).

¹⁵ Barclay Moon Newman and Philip C. Stine, *A Handbook on the Gospel of Matthew*, UBS Handbook Series, 520 (New York: United Bible Societies, 1992).

¹⁶ Barclay Moon Newman and Philip C. Stine, *A Handbook on the Gospel of Matthew*, UBS Handbook Series, 521 (New York: United Bible Societies, 1992).

¹⁷ Henry M. Morris, *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1983), 204.

- **7000 people die!**
 - The rest – being terrified – “give glory to God” – but it is short lived!
 - Can a person “give glory to God” and still not be saved?

Matthew 7:21–23

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many miracles in your name?’

23 And then I will say to them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you who practice lawlessness!’
 - They all turn back against God as soon as this woe is past.

Revelation 16:11 And they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pain and because of their sores, and they did not repent of their deeds.

14 The second woe has passed.
Behold, the third woe is coming quickly!
15 And the seventh angel blew the trumpet,
and there was a loud voice in heaven saying,
**“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,
and he will reign forever and ever.”**

- Finally the initial answer to our prayer – the Lord's Prayer
 - **Thy Kingdom come!**
 - We WANT the Lord's Kingdom to come – BUT, we know it is impossible without Jesus on the throne in Jerusalem.

16 And the twenty-four elders who are seated on their thrones before God fell down on their faces and worshiped God,
17 saying, “We give thanks to You, Lord God All-Powerful, the One who is and the One who was, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.

7th Trumpet blows!

- **“the days”** – plural number of days of the 7th Trumpet sounding
 - We don't know how long the trumpet will be sounding – could be weeks, years, could be the remainder of the Tribulation!

Revelation 10:7 **But in the days of the sound of the seventh angel,** whenever he is about to blow the trumpet, then the mystery of God is completed, as he announced to his own slaves the prophets.”
- **THIS IS NOT THE “LAST TRUMP” OF 1 COR 15**
 - Not a woe – a celebration in 1 Cor 15!

- This seventh trumpet is the last of this series of seven, but not the last absolutely, and is not to be confused with the “last trump” of 1 Co 15:52n. ¹⁸
- In the book of Revelation the seventh trumpet is never called “last” (Re 1:11, 17. 2:8, 19. 15:1. 21:9. 22:13). Re 8:+2–6, 12. 9:1, 13. +*10:7. ¹⁹

18 And the nations were angry,
and your wrath has come,
and the time for the dead to be judged,
and to give their reward to your slaves the prophets
and to the saints
and to the ones who fear your name, the small and the great,
and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”

Psalms 2:1–4

- 1** Why are nations in tumult, and countries plotting in vain?
- 2** The kings of the earth establish themselves,
and the rulers conspire together against Yahweh and his anointed:
- 3** “Let us tear off their bonds, and cast their cords from us!”
- 4** He who sits enthroned in the heavens laughs.
The Lord derides them.

19 And the temple of God in heaven was opened,
and the ark of his covenant appeared in his temple,
and there were lightnings and sounds
and thunders
and an earthquake
and large hail.

Open Heaven:

- People on earth could suddenly see Heaven opened and the great Tabernacle of God in all its glory.
 - Holy of Holies
 - Ark of His Covenant
 - Past the outer courts – into the Holy Place
Take me past the outer courts,
Into the holy place,
Past the brazen altar.
Lord I want to see Your face.
Pass me by the crowds of people
And the priests who sing Your praise.
I hunger and thirst for Your righteousness,
But it's only found in one place.

Take me in to the holy of holies.
Take me in by the blood of the lamb.

¹⁸ Jerome H. Smith, *The New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge: The Most Complete Listing of Cross References Available Anywhere-Every Verse, Every Theme, Every Important Word* (Nashville TN: Thomas Nelson, 1992), 1521.

¹⁹ Jerome H. Smith, *The New Treasury of Scripture Knowledge: The Most Complete Listing of Cross References Available Anywhere-Every Verse, Every Theme, Every Important Word* (Nashville TN: Thomas Nelson, 1992), 1521.

Take me in to the holy of holies.
Take the coal, touch my lips, here I am.