

## Revelation 11

### Key things to keep in mind

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- Revelation 11 is thick with OT echoes, and they will help us make sense of it
- This is the church's story: three key questions to consider
  - Who are we?
  - Where are we?
  - What time is it?

### Remember where we are in the story of the book of Revelation

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- Sequence of seven trumpets running from 8:2
  - Sixth trumpet 9:14
  - Interval before seventh trumpet 10:1–11:13
  - Seventh trumpet sounds 11:14-19

### God guards his church vv 1-2

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- Ezekiel told to measure the temple Ezekiel 40:3
- Here, the temple is an image for God's people Revelation 3:12; 7:15
- God has his protective hand on his people

### God calls his church to witness to Jesus vv 3-14

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- What do the two witnesses do?
  - They are witnesses to the gospel v 3
  - They prophesy: speak God's word v 3
  - They call people to repent: turn from their present life and turn to follow Jesus—clothed in sackcloth v 3; note Jonah 3:6, 8
  - They are olive trees and lampstands v 4; note Zechariah 4:1-14 (especially 4, 6, 14); Revelation 1:12, 20
  - They speak powerfully v 5; note Jeremiah 5:14
  - They are modelled on Moses and Elijah v 6; note 1 Kings 17:1; Exodus 7:17
  - They will suffer and die, imitating the way of Jesus vv 7-10
  - They will rise as Jesus did and be taken to God vv 11-12; note Acts 1:9-11; Daniel 7:13-14
- Why two? Deuteronomy 19:15

- Where do they testify?—‘The great city’ v 8: but where?
  - Jerusalem? Sodom? Egypt? Rome?—the beast v 7; note Revelation 13
  - Their witness is universal v 9; note Revelation 5:9
- his is the church, this is you and me
  - The time is now: this is the last period of history before Jesus returns
  - There is encouragement that people will respond v 13; note Revelation 14:7 (glory to God and the lamb: 1:6; 4:9, 11; 5:12, 13; 7:12); contrast 9:20-21

### God will complete his work vv 15-19

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- Hear Psalm 2 in background here, and later in the book of Revelation
  - ‘our Lord and his Messiah’ v 15 from Psalm 2:2 ‘Messiah’ = ‘anointed one’
  - Opposition of nations to God and his people v 18 from Psalm 2:2-3
- God reclaims his world
  - universal and eternal reign v 15
  - universal judgement v 18
- The way into God’s presence is opened permanently v 19
  - stage effects of lightning, rumblings, peal of thunder, earthquake and hailstorm v 18, echoing similar things around God in Revelation 4:5; 8:5; 16:18; note Mark 15:38; Hebrews 6:19-20

### So what have we seen?

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- Who are we?
  - God’s people, held safe in God’s protection vv 1-2
- Where are we?
  - In the whole of God’s world, serving as his witnesses vv 3-14
- What time is it?
  - It’s the time between Jesus’ first and second comings
  - This is the time for witness
  - That will be the time for rejoicing and worshipping with angels, archangels and all the company of heaven