

Triumph Through Tragedy

Long Beach Alliance Church • May 12th, 2013 • Pastor Chris Lankford

We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

~Revelation 11:17 (ESV)

1) The Spiritual Significance Of Protection From God

- A) Despite the sometimes “bitter” cost of following Christ, God’s people are called to spread the message of the Gospel (Revelation 10:9-10).
- B) This expands our view of “blessing” and “curse” from simple “happiness” or “sadness,” to a more developed concept of God’s ultimate ownership & rulership (sovereignty) of our lives (cf. Genesis 50:20).
- C) God’s measuring/identifying of His people (cf. Ezekiel 40-43), along with separation from the outside courtyard/nations (Revelation 11:1-2), is a symbol of God’s protection of His people. This protection is not always physical, but is spiritual protection. God protects from contamination.

2) The 13th Chapter Of Daniel

- A) Despite the 42-month trampling of the outside courtyard of the temple, two powerful witnesses minister for a similar 42-month period of time (11:2-3). It is very difficult to determine if these represent the same time period (42-months), or consecutive time periods (84-months).

- B) The 42-month time period (3.5 years), and the 1,260 days (30-days/month x 42 months) is a parallel to the 1,290 days of Daniel 12:11-12 (also called “time, times, and half a time” in Revelation 12:14 & Daniel 9:27, 12:7, 12).
- C) All these references regard the “Tribulation Week,” also known as the “70th week of Daniel” (9:24-27). The specificity of these prophecies and dates probably represent one of the more literal references in Revelation.

3) Two Witnesses/Olive Trees/Golden Lampstands

- A) The two witnesses are symbolically clothed in sackcloth (mourning loss) and represented by two olive trees (Israel) and two lampstands (the church) (Revelation 11:3-4).
- B) In other words, rather than identifying these as two singular individuals (which is possible, but not probable), this represents all the people of God (Israel & the Church).
- C) Predicting the final destruction of those who persecute God’s people (11:5-6), intense plagues and the very Moses/Elijah-like power of God are displayed through His people.

4) The End Of A Time And Times And Half A Time

- A) Finally, as the end of the Tribulation nears, “the beast” (Antichrist) “overcomes” the witnesses and kills them, exposing their death very publicly (paralleling Christ’s death), as the world celebrates their deaths (11:7-10).
- B) But, like Christ their King, the witnesses are resurrected at the end of the Tribulation to God (11:11-12, the collection of the martyrs?), which initiates the final earthquake (cf. 6:12-17), and the initiation of the third and final woe (11:13-14).
- C) Similar to the end of the seal judgments, the earthquake occurs and is followed by the seventh trumpet, marking the beginning of the bowl judgments (11:15, cf. 16:1).
- D) This brings tremendous worship for the realized Kingdom of God and further universal cataclysmic events (11:15-19).



*“Triumph Through Tragedy” (Revelation 11)
Week of May 12th – May 17th, 2013*

Growth Group Homework



Powering Up

1. What observations from this weekend’s message, “Triumph Through Tragedy,” did you find the most interesting or challenging? Do you have questions? Share with your group.
2. **What Would You Like For Christmas?** Do you remember making a Christmas list when you were a child? Remembering back to Christmas’ gone by, what was the most thoughtful gift you recall receiving? Why was it significant? Share with your group.



Digging In

3. We’ve already seen that the “interlude” sections of Revelation (like chapters 2-5, 7, & 10) focus on God’s plans for redemption, while the “judgment” sections focus on God’s plan for wrath. Take a look at Revelation 11 and answer the following questions in your GG to determine the primary focus of the chapter (redemption or wrath?).

Read Revelation 11:1-2. Why is the temple being measured? What does the temple represent? Does this represent redemption or wrath?

Read Revelation 11:3-13. Who are the two witnesses? What is the “job” of the witnesses, and how well/poorly do they accomplish their task? Does this represent redemption or wrath?



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What do you find notable about the kind of protection God is providing in this chapter?
How does God protect His people? From what does God protect His people?

4. Read Revelation 6:9-11, 7:9-14, and 11:1-13. What are the similarities between these sections? In the midst of the End Times, why doesn't God simply whisk each new follower of His instantly into Heaven once they respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

When you personally received the Gospel news and became God's adopted child, why didn't He immediately swoop you up into Heaven? What is God's purpose for leaving Christians on the earth?



Connecting To Life

5. **Can I Get A Witness?** If God's people are personified in the example of the “two witnesses,” it begs some deeper questions. Are you a witness for Christ? In what way(s) do you “show and tell” Jesus? What are the advantages you already have for living as a witness? What are the obstacles you are facing which prevent living as a witness?