"Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there."

Revelation 11:1

Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu Adonai Echad Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto, I'olam va'ed

Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God.
The LORD is One.
Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom for ever and ever.



Chapter 11 = 3 scenes: (3 parts)

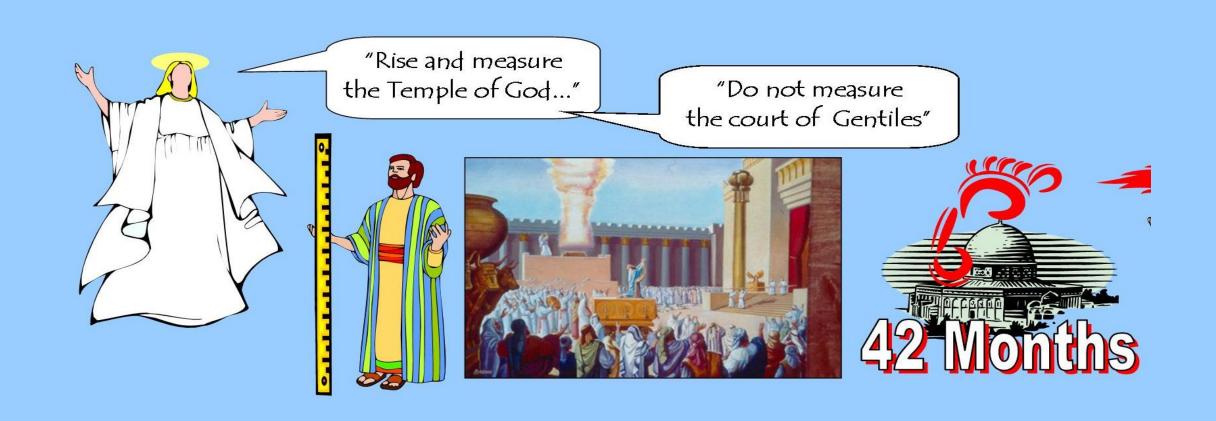
Temple on earth (v.1-2)

Two Witnesses (v. 3-14)

• Temple opened in <u>heaven</u> (7th Trumpet blows) (v.15-19)



¹ Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. ² But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.



Revelation 11:1-2

- Still in <u>interlude</u> between blowing of 6th and 7th Trumpets.
- Still experiencing "2nd woe."
- **Timing unclear.** Includes specified 3½ year period (may be beginning, middle, or end).
- Prophetically one year always = 360 days, not our standard 365
- John given errand at **Temple** (a vision?, or rebuilt?)

- Focus solidly on Israel
- Helpful to <u>refresh understanding of Temple</u> before beginning these verses.
- Tabernacle/Temple reveals God's desire for fellowship with us.



- Always <u>God' desire to fellowship</u>, dwell among His people. *GREAT lengths to enable this*.
- Began Garden of Eden, Adam walked with God.
- Sin separated us. God is holy. We are not. He still desired to be with His created beings.
- Throughout HIS-story, Elohim has made a way to dwell among us, even into eternity.
- Tabernacle and Temple symbols/lessons of God's presence with us, now and forever.

- Tabernacle/Temple = Physical representation of God's Presence with His people (God's heart!!)
- Expresses character, nature and PLAN of God
- Countless lessons in construction, dimensions, materials/furnishings (symbols of spiritual truths)
- Points to ultimate sacrifice of Yeshua, so we may have eternal fellowship with Him.

Tabernacle/Temple = Symbol of history of Hebrew people.

Condition of the Tabernacle/Temple <u>always indicator of condition of people's</u> <u>hearts</u>. Their history is Temple's history.

Greatest lesson:

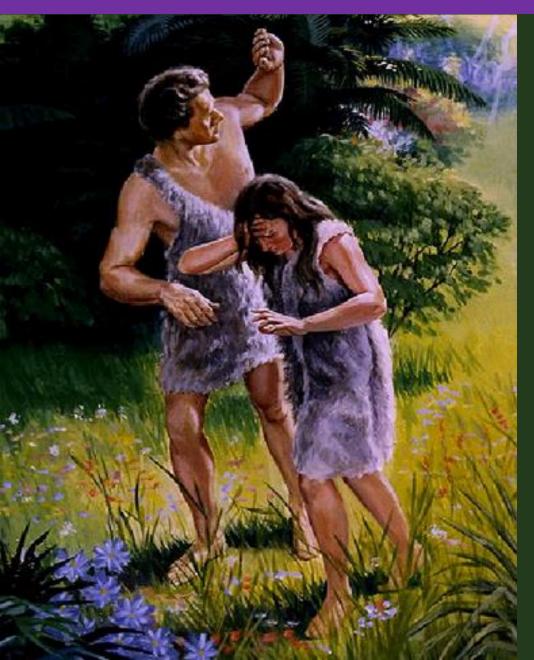
We were created for fellowship with Elohim.

He created us for His pleasure and fellowship (Revelation 4:11)



Has always been God's desire to dwell with us. (still is!)





But man broke this communion with God through disobedience.

- Mankind banned, not abandoned
- Cannot dwell together (with God) any longer
- Sin separates us



God still has a plan to dwell with His people. He...

- knew in advance of man's rebellion
- always had a plan
- made provision for us to dwell with Him
- That plan still in motion.

Elohim made one people an example to world about His desire for fellowship with us.

- Abrahamic Covenant
- Israel to be light to Gentiles, revealing God
- Deliverance TO Egypt
- Deliverance FROM Egypt



God delivered His people into wilderness to teach them.

- Presence ("tabernacling")
 pillar of cloud by day, pillar
 of fire by night (fellowship!)
- In Egypt, forgotten
 Covenants, forgotten God





YHVH enters covenant relationship with them.

- Mosaic Covenant/Law
- Promise: fellowship
- Expectation: holiness
- **Expectation:** they would reveal YHVH to entire world

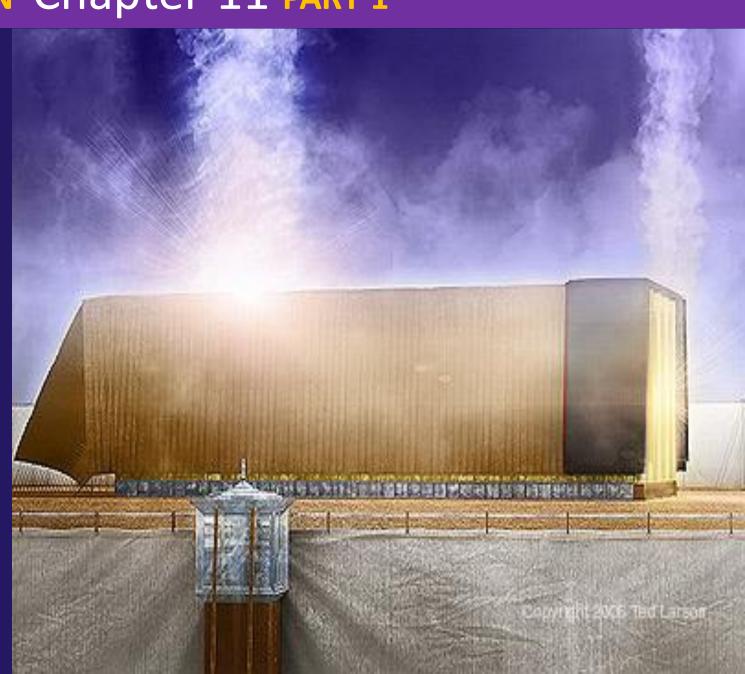


He still wants to dwell with His people. Tells them to build Him a "tent home" among them.

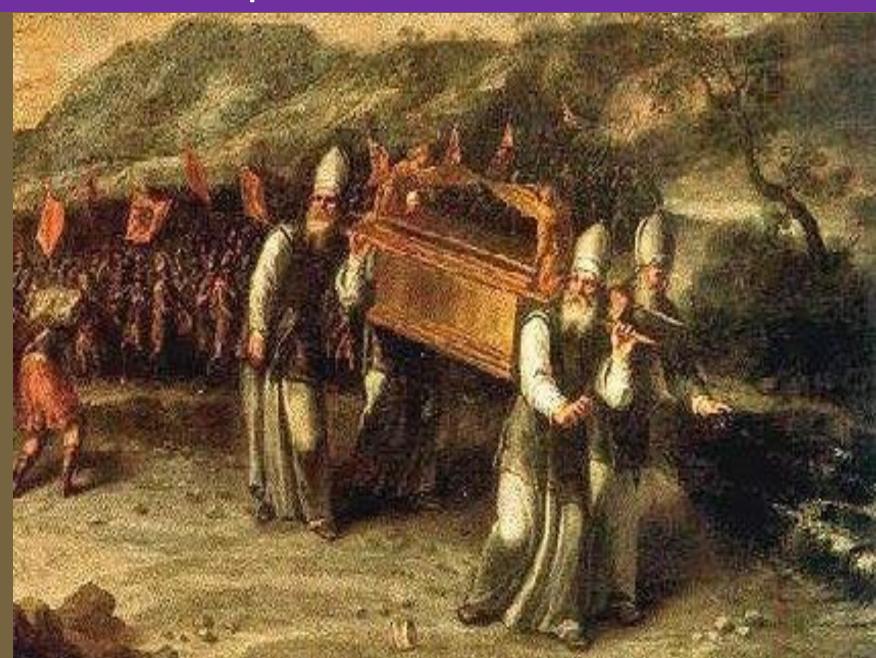
- YHVH cannot be confined!
- Would meet them there (Mercy Seat)
- Visual aid, reminder of His
 Presence, desire for fellowship

"If you build it, I will come." God's glory filled tabernacle.

- Visible sign of His Presence
- YHVH's dwelling place on earth
- Fellowship!



God moved Israel into **Promised** Land and the tabernacle went also.



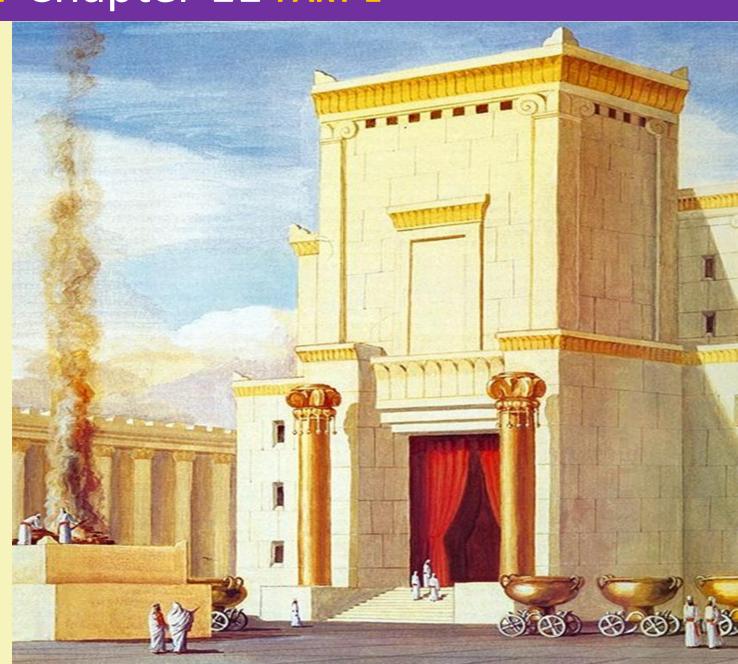
As people built permanent houses, also wanted God's House to be permanent.

- After Judges, during Monarchy
- Brought Tabernacle to Jerusalem, remained 'til Temple built



Solomon builds first Temple.

- same as Tabernacle, but "permanent"
- Same materials used, but <u>dimensions</u> doubled.



"Glory Days" of Israel didn't last long.

DIVIDED KINGDOM

Solomon's son, Rehoboam = division of Kingdom

10 tribes of North (northern Kingdom of <u>Israel</u>),
 2 tribes in South (southern Kingdom of <u>Judah</u>)

- Israel conquered by Assyria 722 BC.
- Judah conquered by Babylon (606 BC), led into <u>captivity</u> 70 years.



Dan



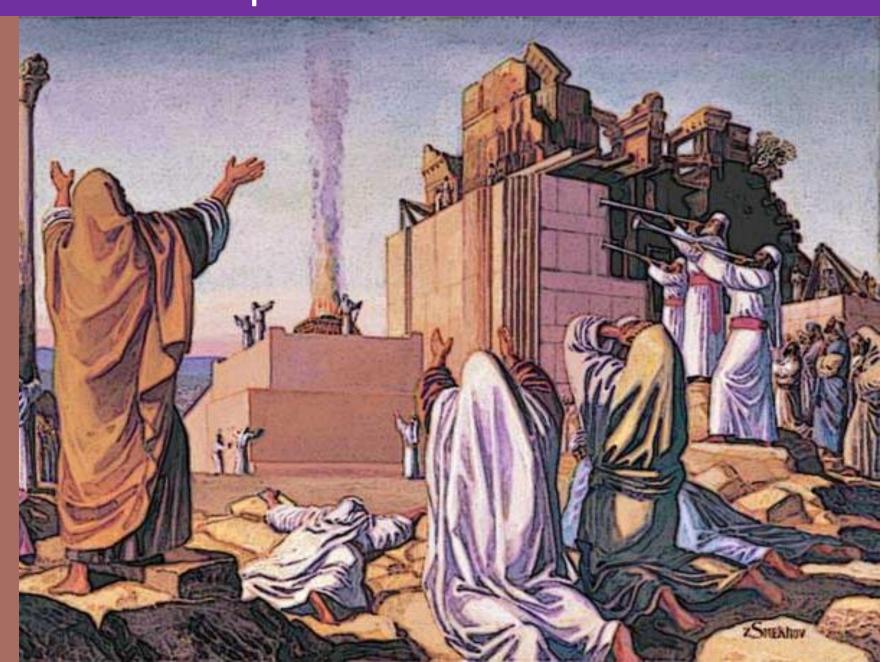
Southern kingdom of Judah falls (606 BC), Temple destroyed 19 years later (587 BC).



The Temple is gone. The people are gone.

- People removed, captive in Babylon for 70 years
- No Temple = no worship, no sacrifices
- Synagogues began in Babylon

People (remnant) return from captivity, Temple rebuilt (2nd Temple, "Ezra's Temple")



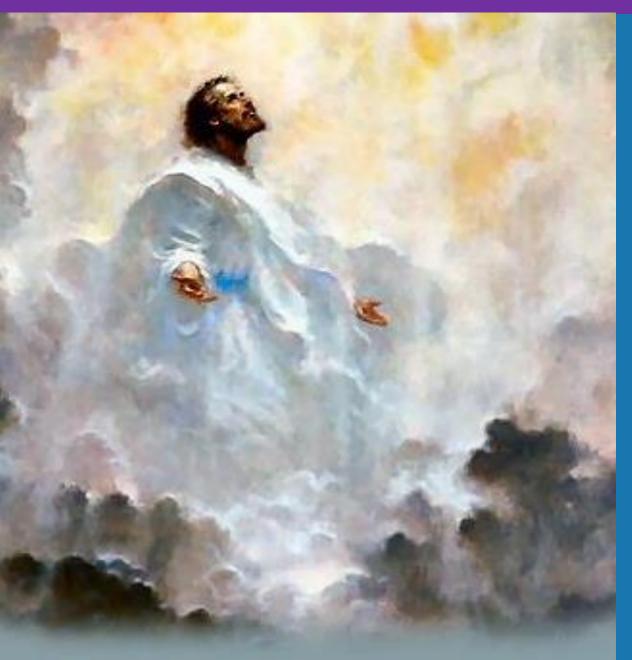
BUT, we do not hear of God's glory filling this Temple.

He will not reside in a stone Temple any longer.

Prior to first (Solomon's) temple destruction, Ezekiel saw God's glory leave the Temple and return to heaven (Ezekiel 10-12)
It did not return until over 600 years later when the...

Shekinah ("Glory in the tent")

Walked in the flesh.

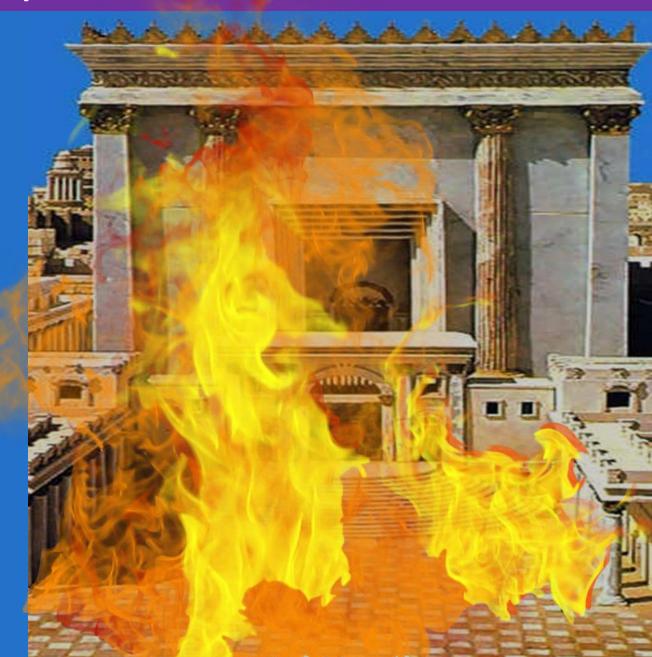


Herod enhances 2nd Temple (Ezra's/Herod's Temple)

- Massive renovation
- Messiah here, <u>dwelling of</u> <u>God</u> in their midst, not Temple made of stone
- IMMANUEL here but rejected

Second (Ezra's/Herod's) Temple Destroyed

- Yeshua dies, rises, returns to heaven
- Jews not "quiet" under Roman rule
- Continued uprising
- 70 AD, Titus/Roman army
- "Diaspora"





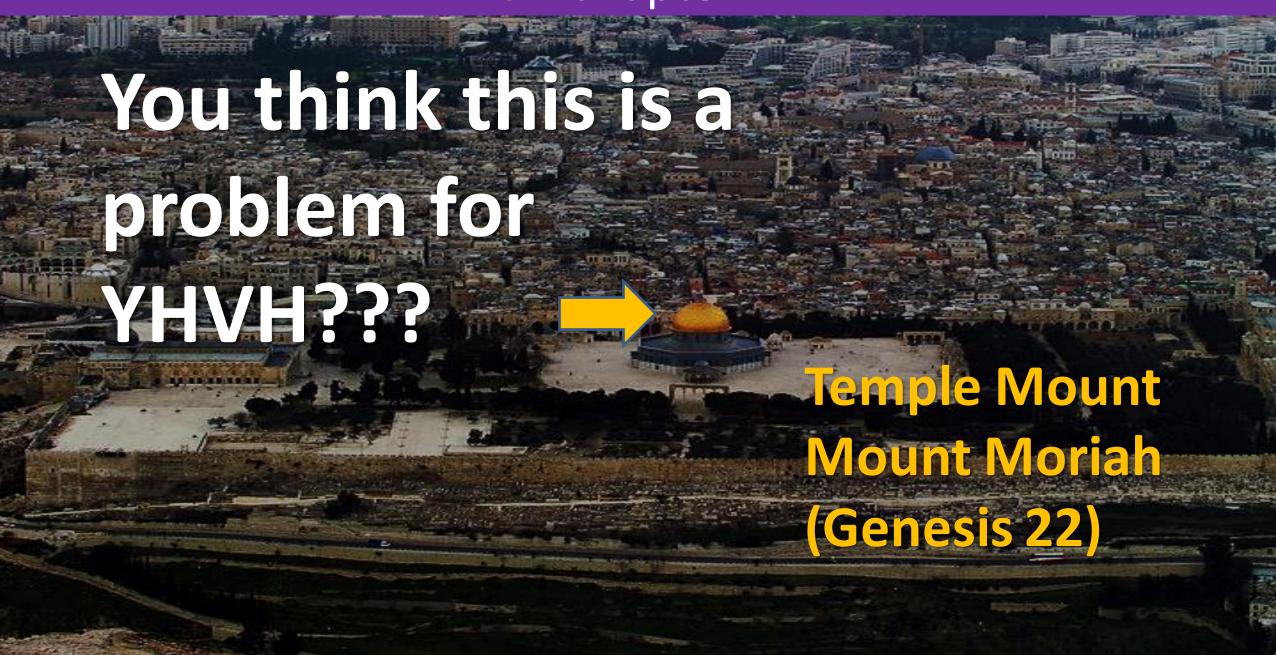
New Temple, not made of stone.

- ~ 40 years before 2nd Temple destroyed, new Temple created. Not built with hands of men.
- SHAVUOT, Holy Spirit came to not just dwell <u>WITH</u> men, but to dwell <u>IN</u> believers.
- WE are Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19)



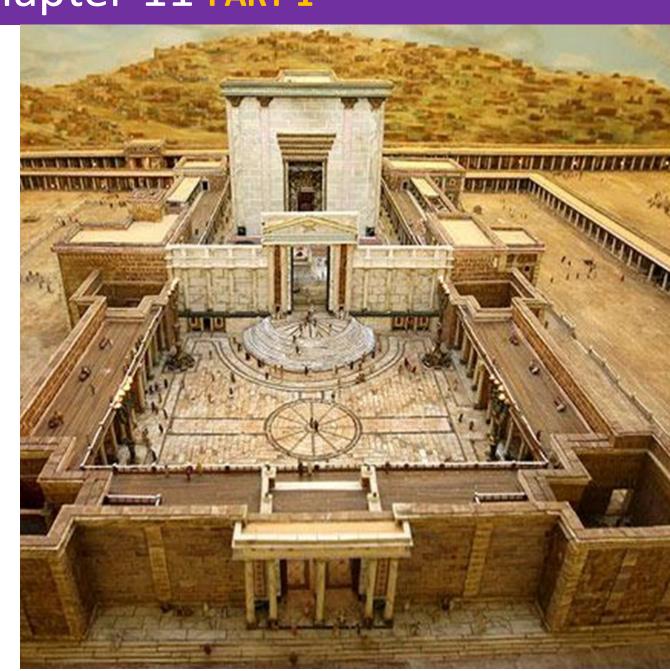
The people return...another Temple?

- God restoring "dispersed" of Israel. Homeland 1948, Jerusalem in Jewish control 1967.
- Another temple built? Daniel/2 Thessalonians: final world ruler to abolish sacrifices, set himself up as God in Temple, cause ultimate "abomination that causes desolation."
- Seems Temple must exist. Current prep for coming "Third Temple" ("Tribulation Temple?")
- Dome of the Rock, Al Aqsa Mosque



Current Temple Plans

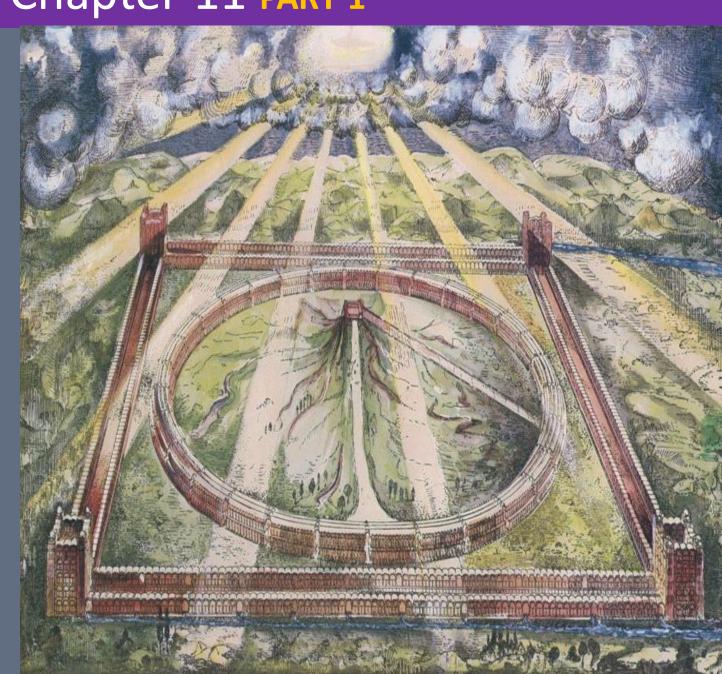
- Plans well underway
- Problem: Jews today using Ezekiel 40-48 Temple *as a model*. Something missing in these plans!
- **Unlikely** a "Tribulation" Temple.
- Description fits Millennial Temple.





Fourth (Ezekiel's) Temple

- Chapters 40-48 (never built).
- To Jews = 3rd Temple, others 4th (after Tribulation Temple, destroyed)
- Most think built during Millennium



The Real Temple

- Tabernacle/temples only patterns/visual aids/object lessons to illustrate one true Temple.
- Hebrews/Revelation =
 Temple in heaven, God's
 dwelling place. Even this
 Temple will disappear.

Not needed any longer.

- After Millennium one more human rebellion, quickly ended.
- After this "eternal state" (eternity). No temple.

Revelation 21:22

"But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The new city, the New Jerusalem is the dwelling place of God and Lamb, among His people."



TABERNACLE/TEMPLE HISTORY RECAP

- History of tabernacle/temple = history of God's plan of redemption, and His <u>ultimate plan of dwelling with the</u> people He loves.
- Key to spiritual condition of Hebrews/Jews, key to spiritual condition of believers today. (Referenced in Revelation 11 for this purpose.)
 - Began in the Garden, as Adam fellowshipped with God (will also end in the garden!)

- Illustrated in wilderness = large tent that moved with the people (and pillar of fire that stayed with them)
- Given "<u>permanent</u>" home in Jerusalem (1st Temple, Solomon)
- **Destroyed by Babylon** due to Judah's disobedience 586/587 BC (*Tisha b'Av, "Glory" departed prior*)
- Rebuilt, much smaller (Ezra's or Nehemiah's Temple, 2nd Temple)

- Enhanced/renovated by Herod over 60 years
- Destroyed by Rome in 70 AD (Tisha b'Av!)
- Exists now in <u>hearts of believers</u> (indwelt by Holy Spirit)
- Possibly rebuilt for end time prophecies (3rd Temple)
- Likely <u>newly constructed in Millennium</u> per Ezekiel's vision (4th Temple)

- Will end in garden. Not needed in eternity. God will dwell permanently with His people made holy by blood of His Son.
- Until then, reminds us of His incredible plan and great desire to fellowship with us. This desire fuels the entire plan of redemption.

IT IS THE PLACE HE MEETS WITH US!

¹ Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there.

- Which Temple? A vision, or rebuilt? A symbol of God's relationship with us?
- Some think <u>Temple must be restored in Israel</u> to fulfill scriptures.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

- Many scriptures seem to call for literal, physical Temple in Jerusalem in end times.
- Restoration of Temple underway for years. Have finances, plans, temple furnishings, priest vestments/training
 even red heifer?
 - Not sure which altar, brazen altar (courtyard), or altar of incense inside.
 - "Thusiasterion" = place of sacrifice —probably altar of sacrifice in courtyard.

- "Temple" = naos, <u>always inner sanctuary</u>, Holy of Holies (where God met with His people, priest as representative) [note: perfect cube]. Entire Temple complex = <u>heiron</u>.
- Speculation this does **not** imply actual physical Temple, but <u>vision/symbolic meaning</u>:
 - 1) Condition of Temple related to spiritual condition of Israel. If Temple in <u>disrepair</u>, <u>hearts of people far from God</u>. Temple in good condition, people right with God.

This temple may = Israel's current relationship/God.

2) May also = "temple of Holy Spirit" = believers. About measuring <u>hearts</u> of believers, Jew or Gentile.

(But in this time, most think HS will not reside within believers! Removed with removal of church)

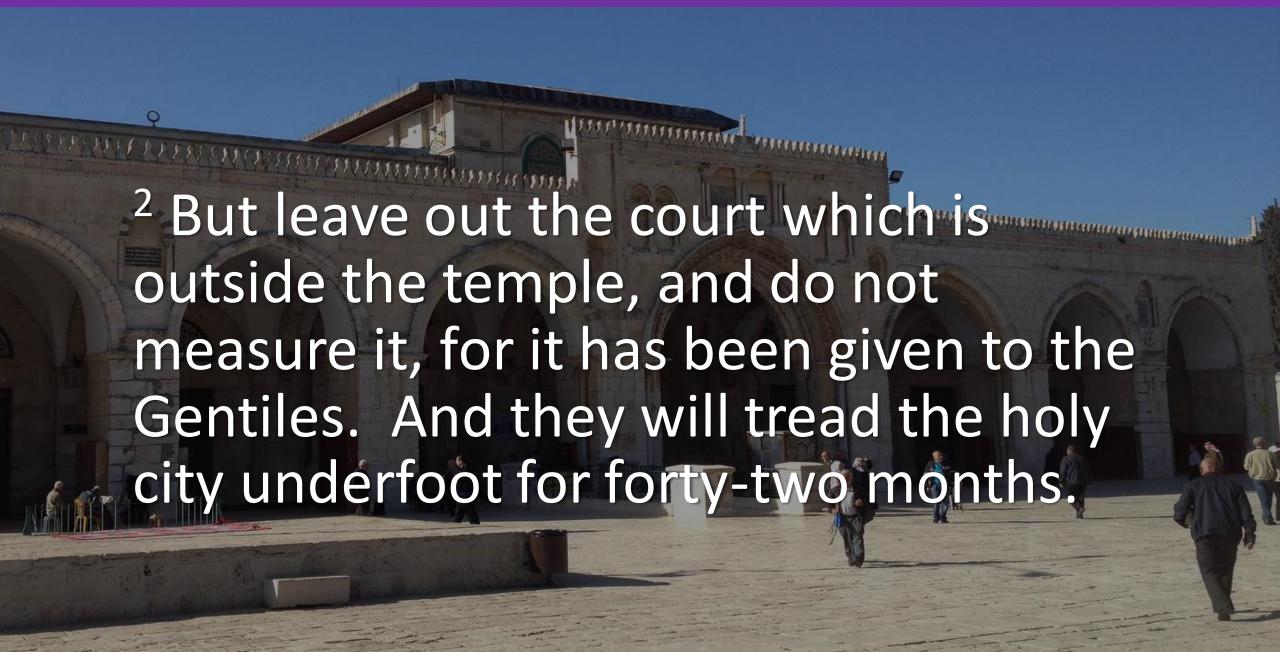
Speculation this Temple, therefore, not literal, but symbol of God's presence and relationship with His people. John was to "measure" this relationship.

- <u>However</u>, other things make it difficult to take passage <u>completely</u> symbolic/spiritual. (2 Thessalonians passage)
- Always <u>best to take things literally</u> unless impossible to do that. (often both!)

- Notice WHAT is being measured: 1) <u>Temple</u>, 2) <u>altar</u>, and 3) <u>those who worship</u> there.
- Physical dimensions of "worshippers" not the point.
 Whether physical or spiritual temple, Measuring spiritual "worth" hearts before God.

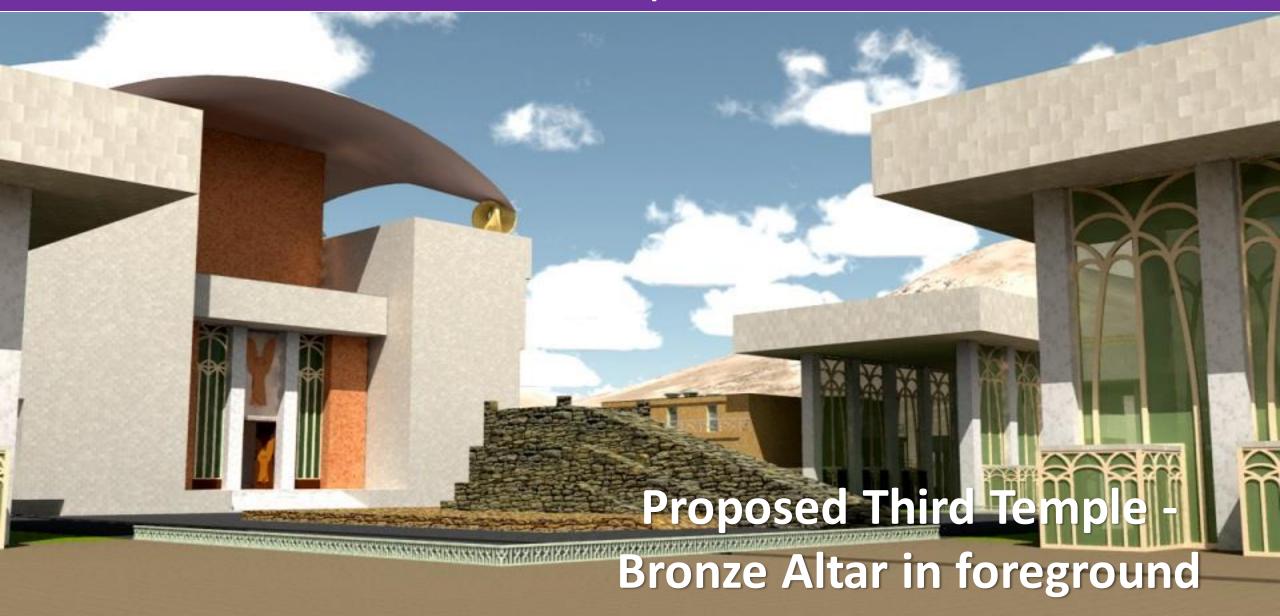
- If literal Temple in Jerusalem, those worshipping there Jews would not be worshipping Messiah.
- Rebuilding physical Temple physical <u>demonstration of</u> rejection of <u>Jesus</u> as Messiah.
- "Measuring" worshippers, likely those who rejected Yeshua, = precursor to judgment/discipline. Found "wanting." (Daniel 5)
- Measuring altar would represent who or what their salvation/atonement is based on. Thousands of animals,....or the blood of the Lamb of God?

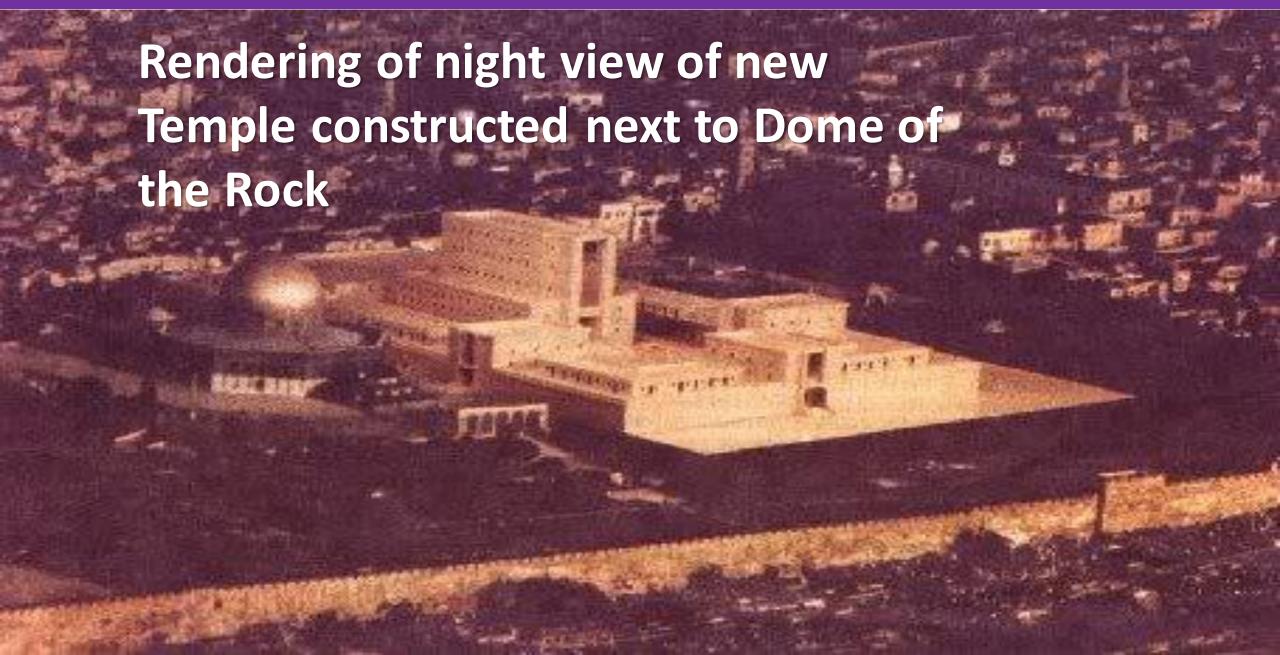
- Seems to be focus on Jewish people here.
- Mention of Temple (where God fellowships with His people) In Israel, symbol of Judaism, Jews, Israel, and presence of God with them.
- Measuring <u>altar</u>, basis/foundation of salvation
- Measuring worshippers (their hearts with God/Messiah)
- About Israel, Jews who do not know God.

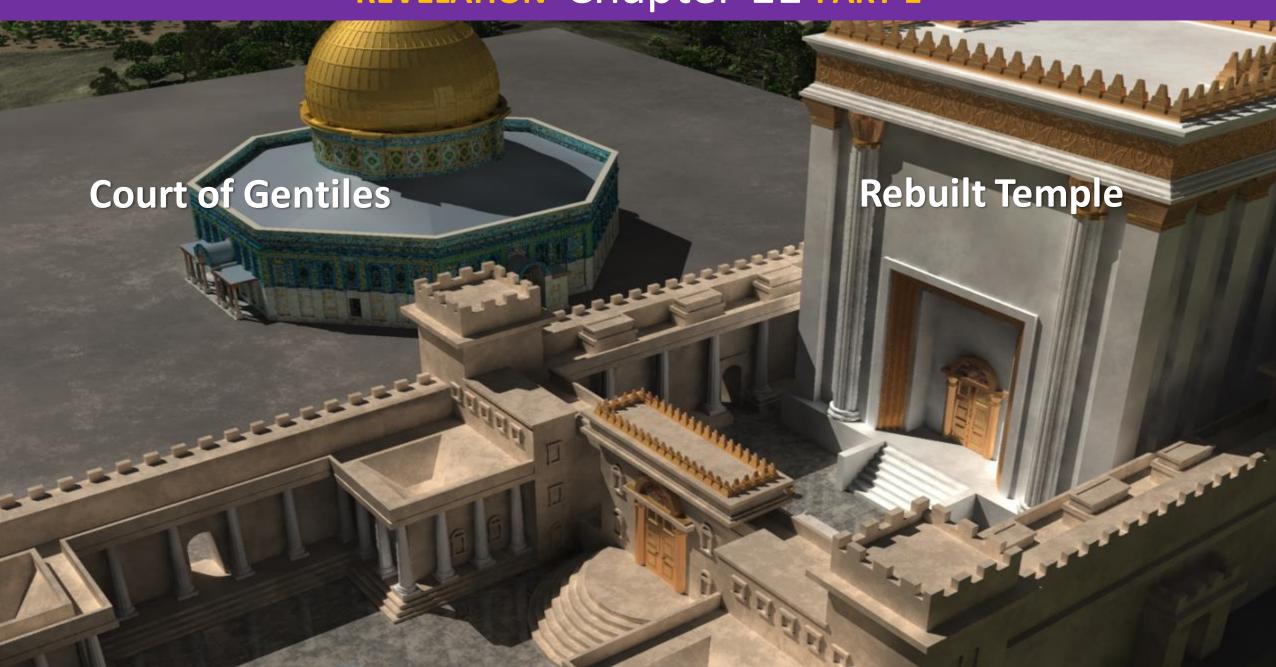


- "Court which is outside the Temple" = court of Gentiles.
- Interesting note: New GPS
 technology (+ archeological finds)
 may reveal DOR (and Al Aksa Mosque)
 <u>do not sit on actual place where original</u>
 <u>Temple stood</u>, but rather occupy what
 would have been court of the Gentiles.
- Here it gets interesting! Much speculation over precise placement of Temple today...(literally!)



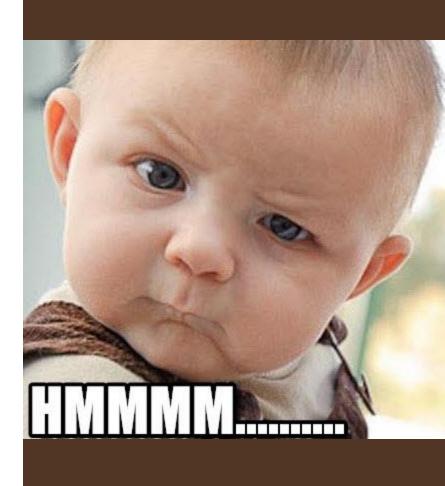






Current Temple Mount

- If 3rd ("Tribulation") Temple rebuilt, and IF positioned next to Dome of the Rock as some suggest, puts this GENTILE structure (DOR) smack in the COURT OF THE GENTILES, referenced in Revelation 11.
- Makes this passage VERY interesting!
- As always, beware of speculation!



- "given to the Gentiles" Possibly = Gentile domination of area, or actual Mosque in Court of Gentiles.
- God's Word always precise. <u>Another reason to think</u> this is literal, not symbolic/allegorical only.
- Current move to divide Jerusalem possible reference here, or merely *Gentile structures* here.
- Time span = **forty-two (42) months**, exactly 3½ years, half 7-year tribulation period.

- "Time of the Gentiles" did not end in 1967 when Israel reclaimed Jerusalem. Continues today, and through tribulation. (Nebuchadnezzar forward, 606BC >)
- Jerusalem already trodden underfoot by Gentiles –will get worse. Growing anti-Semitism.
- Passage helps show strictly <u>allegorical approach to</u> <u>Revelation doesn't work</u>. Specific time references – not <u>symbolic</u>, but <u>literal</u>.

- In next verse, two witnesses will "prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days."
- "Time, times and half a time" (Dan 7:25, 12:7, Revelation 12:14) = 3½ years = 1,260 days = 42 mos.
- Daniel 9, "70 weeks" refers to "middle of the week" (the 70th week, or 3½ year mark) "Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week. He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering." (Daniel 9:27a) ("week" = week of years, 7 years. "Middle of the week" = 3½ years)

- God <u>anticipating erroneous</u> <u>allegorical interpretation</u> by <u>using</u> <u>specific time references</u>.
- How many ways can you say three and one half years??? Purposeful effort to make sure we understand this = literal period of time.
- Remember "scriptural"/prophetic year = 360 days. People keeping track of time here will likely count days, not months and years.





- Throughout scripture God provides truths to <u>combat and deflate every worldly argument against</u> <u>Him</u> and His Truth.
- He anticipates them and counters them in His Word.
- Must know them well. No believer should be caught off-guard by erroneous human arguments.

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. (2 Timothy 4:2)

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and <u>always be ready to give a defense</u> to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; (1 Peter 3:15)

Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha

May the LORD bless you and keep you

Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka

May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem lekha shalom.

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

