

The History of the Witnessing Church Rev. 11:1-10

Rev. 11:1 John is called to judge the visible church

1. God's temple and those who worship at the altar =
 1. God's temple: 1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:21
 2. Those who worship at the altar: Rom. 12:1; Heb. 12:28-29
2. What is the purpose of measurement?

Rev. 11:2 John is to distinguish between the true worshippers and the unclean worshippers.

1. The temple = =
2. The outside court = =
3. The holy city = = (Gal. 4:25-27; Heb. 12:22-23)
4. The visible church is mixed with unbelievers. Matt. 13:24-30; 36-40; 47-51
5. How long is this to occur? 42 months, 1260 days, 3.5 times = The NT period from the apostles until the end.
 1. Dan. 7:25
 2. Rev. 11:3
 3. Rev. 12:6
 4. Rev. 13:5
6. The point: The time that unbelievers will occupy a large part of the church and tread believers under foot is limited and under God's control.

Rev. 11:3-4 The witness of the church will be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

1. How long will the two witnesses serve?
2. The two olive trees = (Zech. 4:2-6)
3. The two lampstands = (Rev. 1:10; Rev. 2-3)
4. Why the number 2?
5. Clothed in sackcloth =
6. The gospel must be preached to the whole world. Matt. 24:14

Rev. 11:5-6 During the time of the church's witness, it will be empowered and protected.

1. The church is empowered by the Word and the Spirit, the power of the gospel just as God's prophets of old.
 1. The fire =
2. The church is protected by that gospel just as God's prophets of old were protected.
 1. Devours =
 2. Must be killed = (1 Cor. 1:18; 2 Cor. 2:15-16)
3. When will the church have finished its witness?
 1. When the gospel has been preached to the nations. Matt. 24:14 (That began at Pentecost - Acts 1:7-8; 2:5)
 2. When the last person God has loved in Christ comes to repentance. 2 Pet. 3:9
 3. When the number of martyrs is complete. Rev. 6:11

Rev. 11:7-10 Satan's final attempt to silence the church completes the martyrs number.

1. Satan is given authority to overcome the church. Their protection is removed just as God removed Jesus' protection. Matt. 10:25, Luke 23:31, John 15:20
2. The demonically blinded world will display great disdain and hatred for the church.
 1. The Greek: "body" not "bodies" - indicates the witnesses represent the corporate "body" of Christ.
 2. The body of the church is treated in typical middle eastern contempt for their enemies.
 3. Sodom = Egypt = _____ = _____.
3. The wicked world will rejoice over the apparent end of the witnessing church. (John 6:16-20)
4. The history of the witnessing church is patterned after the Lord's life and death.

What was John telling the early church?

1. From Jesus' coming until the end, the believing church will suffer _____.
2. From Jesus' coming until the end, God will _____ the witnessing church.
3. There is a day coming when the door for preaching the gospel will _____ (John 9:4).