

REVELATION 11

The amount of time between the six trumpets is not indicated, save for the reference in 9:5 and 10 where the locusts hurt people for five months. In the chapters that follow, we will see that many things happen during the last 3 ½ years, so it may very possibly be that the trumpets sound one right after the other covering a short time but at least five months. We already noted the first four seals happen simultaneously.

Revelation 11:1 - Both parts of this vision take place in Jerusalem “where their Lord was crucified” according to verse 8. The people involved, therefore, are not Christian, rather Israelites.

The city of Jerusalem is Yahweh’s chosen place. Deuteronomy 12:5, 11; 16:2; 26:2; 14:23; 15:20
Zion – Psalm 78:68 and 69; 87:2 and 3; 47:1-ff; and 14:7; Isaiah 4:5; 8:18; Jeremiah 31:6;
and Micah 4:7

New Jerusalem - Revelation 21:1 and 2

Temple - 2 Chronicles 7:12

Temples

Solomon’s Temple, destroyed by the Babylonians
 Rebuilt Temple with Ezra and Nehemiah, destroyed by Antiochus
 Herod’s Temple, destroyed by Titus in 70 AD
 Future Temple, built at the end of the age, destroyed by Antichrist
 Final Temple, from where Christ will reign in the millennial Kingdom

Revelation 11:2 - Most logically with the information that follows, the Temple here is a Temple that will be built at the end of the age where the Jews will once again return to offering sacrifices as they did starting with Moses. The Temple worship with the sacrifices reveals their belief in Yahweh but at the same time their rejection of His Messiah as the final sacrifice for the sins of all humanity. The Christian Church is the Temple of God today during the administration of grace. According to the book of Hebrews, the Temple and the old covenant are no longer the proper way to worship the true God, and their insistence on doing so indicates a serious rejection of Yahweh and His purpose of the ages through the Messiah.

The beast (also called the little horn, the Antichrist, the man of sin, and the Assyrian according to Daniel, Jesus, and Paul) must set up the abomination of desolation in the Temple. The Temple was destroyed in 70AD and has not yet been rebuilt. The abomination of desolation happens in the middle of the last seven years of this age (Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Daniel 9:25-27; 7:25; 11:36; and Revelation 13:6).

Revelation 11:3 - Before studying the two witnesses, we need to acknowledge the 42 months of verse 2 and the 1260 days of verse 3. Both are 3 ½ years.

Daniel 9:24 - The weeks or heptads literally mean units of seven, whether days or years. Seventy weeks equal 490 years that are broken down into two parts – 483 and 7. The 483 years were from then until the coming of Christ. The seven years refer to the last seven years of this age.

Daniel 9:24-27

1. To finish the transgression
2. To make an end of sin
3. To make atonement for iniquity
4. To bring everlasting righteousness
5. To seal up vision and prophecy
6. To anoint the most holy place

Jesus told Peter to forgive $70 \times 7 = 490$.

Daniel 9:25 - From the issuing of a decree to rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah will be 7 weeks (49 years) plus 62 weeks (434 years) equal 69 weeks (483 years) to the Messiah's first coming. The first seven weeks or 49 years were to rebuild Jerusalem.

Daniel 9:26 - The people of the prince who shall come will destroy both the city and the sanctuary.

Jerusalem and the Temple destroyed – three possibilities:

1. Antiochus IV Epiphanes, 145 BC
2. Roman General Titus Vespasian in 70AD
3. The Antichrist will do it again during the last 3 ½ years of this age.

Antiochus' destruction stands out since we have written documentation in the book of Macabees. Matthew 24:15-22

Daniel 9:27 - The ten-toes phrase from Daniel chapter two and the ten-horned beast phrase of chapter 7 are the same one involved in making this covenant with those in Jerusalem during the final seven years before Christ returns. The seven years begin with a peace treaty, and half way through (3 ½) he breaks it and sets up the abomination of desolation in the holy place. The ruler will conclude a treaty or make some kind of binding commitment to permit the Jewish people to carry on their religious practices in their newly built Temple, including the offering and sacrifices set forth in the Mosaic Law. He breaks the commitment attacks the people. The devil wants Jerusalem and the holy place.

THE LAST SEVEN YEARS

Revelation 11:2 - And leave out the court which is outside the Temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months.

Revelations 11:3 - "And I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

Revelations 12:6 - And the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she might be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Revelation 12:13 and 14 - And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male *child*.

And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, in order that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

Daniel 7:23-25 - "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast will be a fourth kingdom on the earth, which will be different from all the *other* kingdoms, and it will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.

As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise; and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones and will subdue three kings.

And he will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

Daniel 12:7 - And I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it

would be for a time, times, and half *a time*; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these *events* will be completed.

Revelation 11:2 - "They will tread under foot the holy city"- Jesus talked about this in Matthew 24:15-28 and Luke 21:20-24. The record in Luke could be a double prophecy referring to the Romans in 70AD and the end of the age. Daniel 8:13 and Isaiah 63:18

Revelation 11:3 and 4 - God has always provided His witnesses who have basically been treated the same by the world – hated and rejected. Yet, they have also reached some, and in this case, they will reach the remnant of Israel. As we move into other chapters, we will learn about the two beasts, one the world leader and the other a prophet. The witnesses are in direct opposition to them, and people will have a choice which to believe. Again Jesus tells us of this in Matthew 24:23-25.

"Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There *He is*,' do not believe *him*.
 "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.
 "Behold, I have told you in advance.

Revelation 11:4 - Zechariah 4:1-ff

Revelation 11:6 - Other men in the past had similar power, such as Moses, Elijah, and Elisha.

Revelation 11:10 - The world will hate them.

Revelation 11:15 - The last trumpet is when Christ returns and the dead are raised.

THE FIRST BOOK OF THE MACCABEES

NRSV

CHAPTER 1

1 After Alexander son of Philip, the Macedonian, who came from the land of Kittim, had defeated King Darius of the Persians and the Medes, he succeeded him as king. (He had previously become king of Greece.) 2 He fought many battles, conquered strongholds, and put to death the kings of the earth. 3 He advanced to the ends of the earth, and plundered many nations. When the earth became quiet before him, he was exalted, and his heart was lifted up. 4 He gathered a very strong army and ruled over countries, nations, and princes, and they became tributary to him.

5 After this he fell sick and perceived that he was dying. 6 So he summoned his most honored officers, who had been brought up with him from youth, and divided his kingdom among them while he was still alive. 7 And after Alexander had reigned twelve years, he died. 8 Then his officers began to rule, each in his own place. 9 They all put on crowns after his death, and so did their descendants after them for many years; and they caused many evils on the earth.

10 From them came forth a sinful root, Antiochus Epiphanes, son of King Antiochus; he had been a hostage in Rome. He began to reign in the one hundred thirty-seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks.

11 In those days certain renegades came out from Israel and misled many, saying, "Let us go and make a covenant with the Gentiles around us, for since we separated from them many disasters have come upon us." 12 This proposal pleased them, 13 and some of the people eagerly went to the king, who authorized them to observe the ordinances of the Gentiles. 14 So they built a gymnasium in Jerusalem, according to Gentile custom, 15 and removed the marks of circumcision, and abandoned the holy covenant. They joined with the Gentiles and sold themselves to do evil.

16 When Antiochus saw that his kingdom was established, he determined to become king of the land of Egypt, in order that he might reign over both kingdoms. 17 So he invaded Egypt with a strong force, with chariots and elephants and cavalry and with a large fleet. 18 He engaged King Ptolemy of Egypt in battle, and Ptolemy turned and fled before him, and many were wounded and fell. 19 They captured the fortified cities in the land of Egypt, and he plundered the land of Egypt.

20 After subduing Egypt, Antiochus returned in the one hundred forty-third year. He went up against Israel and came to Jerusalem with a strong force. 21 He arrogantly entered the sanctuary and took the golden altar, the lampstand for the light, and all its utensils. 22 He took also the table for the bread of the Presence, the cups for drink offerings, the bowls, the golden censers, the curtain, the crowns, and the gold decoration on the front of the temple; he stripped it all off. 23 He took the silver and the gold, and the costly vessels; he took also the hidden treasures that he found. 24 Taking them all, he went into his own land. He shed much blood, and spoke with great arrogance.

25 Israel mourned deeply in every community,
 26 rulers and elders groaned,
 young women and young men became faint,
 the beauty of the women faded.
 27 Every bridegroom took up the lament;
 she who sat in the bridal chamber was mourning.
 28 Even the land trembled for its inhabitants,
 and all the house of Jacob was clothed with shame.

29 Two years later the king sent to the cities of Judah a chief collector of tribute, and he came to Jerusalem with a large force. 30 Deceitfully he spoke peaceable words to them, and they believed him; but he suddenly fell upon the city, dealt it a severe blow, and destroyed many people of Israel. 31 He plundered the city, burned it with fire, and tore down its houses and its surrounding walls. 32 They took captive the women and children, and seized the livestock.

33 Then they fortified the city of David with a great strong wall and strong towers, and it became their citadel. 34 They stationed there a sinful people, men who were renegades. These strengthened their position; 35 they stored up arms and food, and collecting the spoils of Jerusalem they stored them there, and became a great menace, 36 for the citadel became an ambush against the sanctuary, an evil adversary of Israel at all times.

37 On every side of the sanctuary they shed innocent blood;
 they even defiled the sanctuary.
 38 Because of them the residents of Jerusalem fled;
 she became a dwelling of strangers;
 she became strange to her offspring,
 and her children forsook her.
 39 Her sanctuary became desolate like a desert;
 her feasts were turned into mourning,
 her sabbaths into a reproach,
 her honor into contempt.
 40 Her dishonor now grew as great as her glory;
 her exaltation was turned into mourning.

41 Then the king wrote to his whole kingdom that all should be one people, 42 and that all should give up their particular customs. 43 All the Gentiles accepted the command of the king. Many even from Israel gladly adopted his religion; they sacrificed to idols and profaned the sabbath. 44 And the king sent letters by messengers to Jerusalem and the towns of Judah; he directed them to follow customs strange to the land, 45 to forbid burnt offerings and sacrifices and drink offerings in the sanctuary, to profane sabbaths and festivals, 46 to defile the sanctuary and the priests, 47 to build altars and sacred precincts and shrines for idols, to sacrifice swine and other unclean animals, 48 and to leave their sons uncircumcised. They were to make themselves abominable by everything unclean and profane, 49 so

that they would forget the law and change all the ordinances. 50 He added, "And whoever does not obey the command of the king shall die."

51 In such words he wrote to his whole kingdom. He appointed inspectors over all the people and commanded the towns of Judah to offer sacrifice, town by town. 52 Many of the people, everyone who forsook the law, joined them, and they did evil in the land; 53 they drove Israel into hiding in every place of refuge they had.

54 Now on the fifteenth day of Chislev, in the one hundred forty-fifth year, they erected a desolating sacrilege on the altar of burnt offering. They also built altars in the surrounding towns of Judah, 55 and offered incense at the doors of the houses and in the streets. 56 The books of the law that they found they tore to pieces and burned with fire. 57 Anyone found possessing the book of the covenant, or anyone who adhered to the law, was condemned to death by decree of the king. 58 They kept using violence against Israel, against those who were found month after month in the towns.

59 On the twenty-fifth day of the month they offered sacrifice on the altar that was on top of the altar of burnt offering. 60 According to the decree, they put to death the women who had their children circumcised, 61 and their families and those who circumcised them; and they hung the infants from their mothers' necks. 62 But many in Israel stood firm and were resolved in their hearts not to eat unclean food. 63 They chose to die rather than to be defiled by food or to profane the holy covenant; and they did die. 64 Very great wrath came upon Israel.