

Back to the Future: Two Witnesses and a Temple

Measuring the Temple

Which temple?

The Tribulation Temple

What does it mean?

See and compare Zech 2

Ezekiel 40

Rev 21:15-17

How do you "measure up?"

It is an evaluation

Both this temple and its Jewish worshippers are found to have fallen short.

What about 42 months?

Gentiles will dominate and desecrate that which is Jewish

70 weeks have to do with God's dealings with Jewish people

In the light of Jesus' words in Matthew 24:15ff; 2 Thess 2:4; Dan 9:27, it appears this trampling of Jewish things must be the second half of the tribulation, see also Luke 21:24

What about the two witnesses?

Along with the 144,000¹, they fulfill the words of Jesus in Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

They are given "power," authority to do miracles, v 3, v 6.

They will prophesy for 1260 days, 3.5, 360 day years.

¹ See Revelation 7:1-5; Rev 14:1ff

They wear sackcloth, a symbol of doom, Isa 37:1; Dan 9:3

They are two olive trees and two lampstands

This is a likely reference to Zechariah 4:1-6

The olive oil from the trees provided fuel for the lamps, probably both symbolic of the Holy Spirit's enabling ministry.

"...not by might nor by power, but by my spirit..."

Who are they?

They perform Moses-like and Elijah-like miracles

Moses and Elijah were part of the transfiguration, Matt 17:3

Enoch and Elijah?

Ultimately, we don't know...

What do they do?

They have powers of invincibility, 11:5

They have apostolic powers...

What will happen to them?

The beast from the abyss will kill them, 7

First of 36 references to a "beast"

But only when their ministry is over, v 7

They will suffer public disgrace, v 8

Everybody will see, 9

Everybody will be happy, v 10

Everybody will be terrorized, v 11-12

The city of Jerusalem will suffer an earthquake, 13a

People will acknowledge God did something, 13b.

It is crystal clear that God did something

With them out of the way, the beast has "unopposed" power.

So what?

God uses people to proclaim his message in dark times

God gives people what they need to accomplish his work

God keeps his promises to his servants

God wants you to see that success is not always measured by large responses

Power evangelism does not always work

Luke 16:27-31

God is an awesome God