

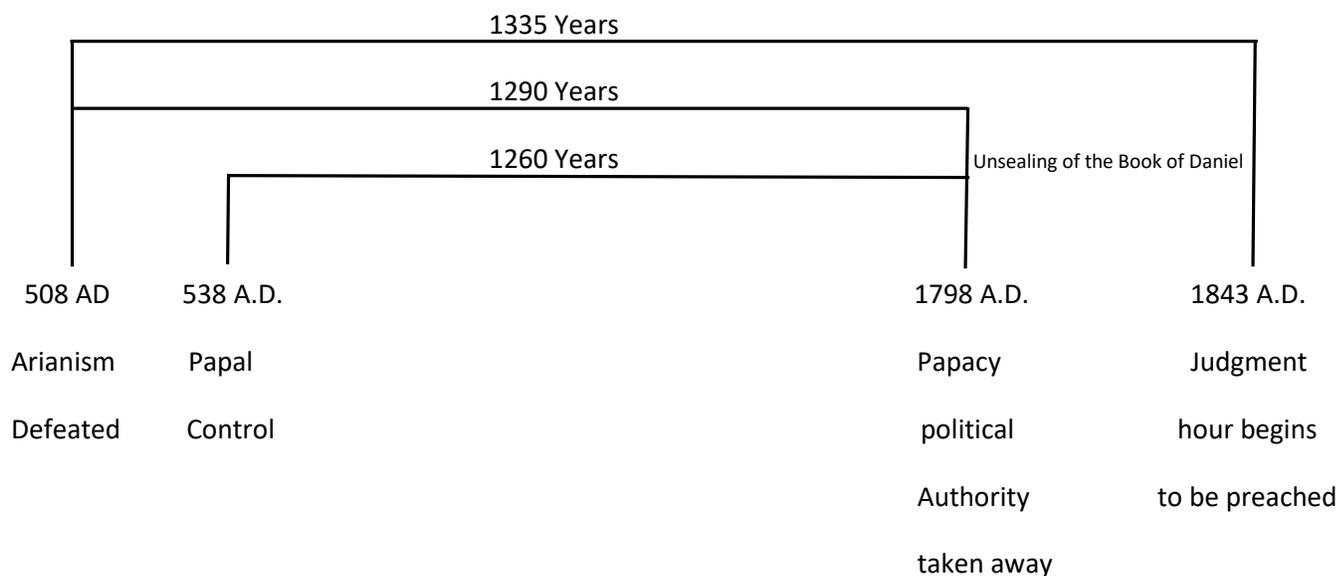
The Study of the Book of Revelation

Revelation's Two Witnesses

Chapter 11

Review: In our last lesson, we looked at Daniel chapter 12 and Revelation chapter 10. We saw how the book of Daniel ended with the heavenly messenger swearing unto heaven that the “*Little Book*” (the book of Daniel) would be sealed until the “*Time of the End*” (ref. Dan. 12:4, 9). From the description given, we came to the conclusion that this messenger, “Man clothed in linen,” most likely was Jesus (Michael). In Revelation 10, we saw another heavenly messenger, again with a little book, swearing unto heaven. This time, the “*Little Book*” is open. Again, based upon the symbolic description given, we saw this messenger as Jesus. From the study, we determined that the scene in Revelation 10 was the “Unsealing of the book of Daniel” at “The time of the end.” The time period around the end of the 1260 years. We also saw that the 1290 day (years) and the 1335 day (years) periods in Daniel 12:11-12 correspond to the end of the 1260 year period, in 1798, and the 2300 year prophecy, in 1844. Finally we learned that the symbolic prophecies of Revelation 11 pointed to the development of a world-wide prophetic movement of believers arising following a Great Disappointment of 1844.

Time Line:



In this study, we will see additional prophetic revelations regarding what would happen in and around the 1798 judgment period.

Revelation 10:10-11

*“And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was **in my mouth sweet as honey**; and as soon as I had eaten it, **my belly was bitter**. And he said unto me, **Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.**”*

The Bible predicted that, following the bitter disappointment of 1844, a global prophetic movement would occur that would “*Prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.*”

The characteristics of this Global Prophetic Movement are identified in key places in the books of Daniel and Revelation.

Daniel 7:13-14 “...*that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him.*” The entire world, people of every nation, will be brought into Jesus’ kingdom.

Revelation 12:17 “...*the remnant...which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*” Which commandments? All 10, including the 4th dealing with the Sabbath. We will come back at a later time to define “The testimony of Jesus Christ.”

Revelation 14:6-7 “*Having the everlasting gospel to preach...to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people...worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*”

Again, we see the idea of the global nature, taking the “Gospel to every nation.” The wording from verse 7, “Worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and sea, and the fountains of waters” draws our attention to the Creator God of Genesis chapter 1. Thus, the people of this movement would again begin to recognize and preach the Genesis account of Creation, with God as our Creator.

Revelation 11:1

“*And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.*”

The word “Measure” here means “To judge.”

Matthew 7:1-2 “*Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.*”

The context of Revelation chapters 10 and 11 indicate that the prophetic movement arises at the time of the measuring or judgment of God’s Temple. We have already discussed the location of this true Temple that is in heaven (Heb. 8:1-2).

Revelation 11:1 “*Measure the temple*”

Revelation 11:18 “*The time of the dead, that they should be judged.*” The time in which those who are already dead are being judged.

Key Point:

The Measuring and Judgment in the temple coincides with the “Cleansing of the sanctuary,” known as “The Day of Atonement.”

Ezekiel 40:1-5 *“In the beginning of the year, in the tenth day of the month...a measuring reed...so he measured.”*

Leviticus 23:27-28 *“On the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement”*

The phrase in Ezekiel 40:1, “*Beginning of the year,*” is “**Rosh Hashanah**” in Hebrew. Rosh Hashanah fell on the first day of the seventh month of the sacred festival calendar. It marked the beginning of the civil year. **The 10th day from Rosh Hashanah is the Day of Atonement.**

Key Point:

The measuring of the temple in Ezekiel 40 occurs on the “Day of Atonement” when the Sanctuary was cleansed.

Leviticus 23:27

“Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.”

The “*Cleansing of the Sanctuary*” is the Biblical term for the “*Day of Atonement*.” On this day the high priest entered the Most Holy Place to perform the work of judgment against sin.

Leviticus 16:10-34 (focus on verses 16, 29-30, 33)

*“But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness. And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself: And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail: And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not: And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times. Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: **And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins:** and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness. And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel. **And he shall go out unto the altar that is before the LORD, and make an atonement for it; and shall take of the blood of the***

*bullock, and of the blood of the goat, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about. And he shall sprinkle of the blood upon it with his finger seven times, and cleanse it, and hallow it from the uncleanness of the children of Israel. And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat: And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness. And Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall put off the linen garments, which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there: And he shall wash his flesh with water in the holy place, and put on his garments, and come forth, and offer his burnt offering, and the burnt offering of the people, and make an atonement for himself, and for the people. And the fat of the sin offering shall he burn upon the altar. And he that let go the goat for the scapegoat shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward come into the camp. And the bullock for the sin offering, and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall one carry forth without the camp; and they shall burn in the fire their skins, and their flesh, and their dung. And he that burneth them shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp. And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that **in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month**, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD. It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever. And the priest, whom he shall anoint, and whom he shall consecrate to minister in the priest's office in his father's stead, shall make the atonement, and shall put on the linen clothes, even the holy garments: And he shall make an atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation. And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.”*

Key Point:

The heavenly “Day of Atonement” began in the Heavenly Sanctuary at the end of the 2300 years of Daniel 8:14, in the year 1844.

Four comparisons between the Measuring of the Temple in Revelation 11 and the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16.

Comparison Number 1

In Leviticus 16 the Sanctuary is Cleansed. – *Leviticus 16:16*

In Revelation 11 the Temple is Measured. – *Revelation 11:1*

Comparison Number 2

In Leviticus 16 the Altar was Cleansed. – *Leviticus 16:18, 33*

In Revelation 11 the Altar is Measured. – *Revelation 11:1*

Comparison Number 3

In Leviticus 16 the People were Cleansed. – *Leviticus 16:17, 33*

In Revelation 11 the Worshipers are Measured. – *Revelation 11:1*

Comparison Number 4

In Leviticus 16 the Judgment occurs in behalf of the Assembly of Israel. – *Lev. 16:16, 21, 33*

In Revelation 11 the Measuring only involves God's People. – *Revelation 11:1-2*

Revelation 11:2-4

“But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.”

These verses continue the judgment scene from verse one. Verse one indicates that the “Spiritual” (Heavenly) Temple, and the “Spiritual” People of God, are part of this initial measurement. Just as we saw in Leviticus, the Literal (earthly) Temple and the literal people of Israel were judged and atonement was made for them, here we see the Heavenly Temple and the Spiritual people of God being measured. In verse 2 we see that the Court or “Court Yard” (the outer court of the Gentiles in the literal temple) is not measured at this time. This is symbolic of those people in the world that are not within “Spiritual Israel.” Thus, we see the judgment starting with the Temple and God's people. We see in verse two the reference to the **42 months** (1260 days/years) of persecution of God's people by the “Gentiles.” **This is the same 1260 days/years that we learned about in the book of Daniel.**

Key Point:

The Judgment of Revelation 11 is the same event as the Judgment of Daniel 7 which started in 1844. (Read Daniel 7:9-10, 14; Daniel 8:14; Revelation 11:15-19)

Reasons in Revelation 11 for the Judgment

Reason Number 1

God's people are persecuted by the Papacy for 42 months. – *Revelation 11:2*

Reason Number 2

The Two Witnesses prophecy in sackcloth for 1260 days. – *Revelation 11:3*

Sackcloth is a symbol of mourning.

Revelation 11:4

“These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.”

The Two Witnesses are the Two Lamp Stands or Olive Trees. – *Revelation 11:4*

The Two Lamp Stands or Olive Trees represent God's Word, the Old and New Testaments.

Psalms 119:105 *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”*

Zechariah 4:1-6 *“A candlestick...seven pipes to the seven lamps...and two olive trees...this is the word of the LORD...”*

Zechariah 4:11-14 *“What are these two olive trees...these are the two anointed ones...”*

The Two Lamps illumined the Scriptures in the Jewish Synagogue.

Revelation 11:5-6

*“And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that **it rain not** in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to **blood**, and to smite the earth with all **plagues**, as often as they will.”*

We know that during the 1260 days/years of persecution of God’s people by the Papacy, that the Word of God was kept from the people. The Church of Rome rejected the Word of God.

The consequences felt by the Roman Church for the rejection of the Bible.

1. **“No Rain” for 1260 days/years.** – *Revelation 11:6*

Rain here, is not referring to precipitation (water from the sky). Instead, in Revelation, the symbol refers to the rain of God’s Word, of His prophetic enlightenment. (See Isaiah 55:10-11, linking rain with Word.)

2. **“Blood” and “Plagues”** – *Revelation 11:6*

Jezebel led Israel to worship idols, and Elijah prophesied that **no rain would fall for 3 ½ literal years**. This corresponds to the 3 ½ symbolic years or 1260 prophetic days in which the showers of heaven would cease to fall because of the rejection of God’s Word.

Luke 4:25 *“But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias [Elijah], when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;”* (The story of Elijah and Jezebel is recorded in 1 Kings chapters 16-19; and 2 Kings chapter 9)

Key Points:

Number 1 – Before the Papacy’s Judgment in 1798, God allowed the Two Witnesses of the Old and New Testaments to rebuke the Roman Church for its denial of God’s Truth.

Number 2 – Before God’s Judgment on the Roman Papacy in 1798, God provided the Two Witnesses of Revelation 11 as the prelude to the death penalty, as a prelude to the judgment.

Deuteronomy 17:2-7 “...at the mouth of two witnesses...” The testimony of one witness was not sufficient. God provided for TWO, He followed His own rules!

Revelation 11:7-10

“And **when they shall have finished their testimony**, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit **shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them**. And their **dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt**, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies **three days and an half**, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.”

“...when they shall finish their testimony...” In the context of what we read in Deuteronomy 17:2-6, we can see that when the testimony of the two witnesses was over, the guilty party was judged. Thus, when the judgment was meted out, the witnesses had “finished their testimony.”

The Attack on the Old and New Testaments around the year 1798

“**Shall overcome them**” –v.7 Once the “Witness” is complete the witnesses (The Word of God) shall be overcome and “Killed.”

“**Great city, which is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt**” – v. 8 Reference to a great city, around 1798, that is both morally and spiritually bankrupt.

Observation Number 1 – A Beast is symbolic of a kingdom. – Daniel 7:23

Thus the Bible warns of a kingdom that would arise near the end of the 1260 years, around the year 1798. This kingdom would attack the two witnesses of the Old and New Testaments.

Observation Number 2 – This kingdom is called Sodom and Egypt.

Sodom represents immorality. – Genesis 19:4-5

Egypt represents godlessness. – Exodus 5:2

Observation Number 3 – The attack against God’s Word would start in a Great City. – Rev. 11:8

Observation Number 4 – The Bible would suffer an attack for 3 ½ symbolic days or 3 ½ literal years. Revelation 11:9

Observation Number 5 – Celebrations would occur in the streets of the great city around the year 1798. Revelation 11:10

Conclusion:

From History, we know that the only kingdom that matches all these characteristics is the atheistic secular state that arose in the French Revolution around the year 1798. Therefore, the great city is Paris.

History:

At the time of the French Revolution, the people of France revolted against the “Roman Church.” The French people had been repressed and tortured by the church for so long, that when they revolted, they rejected all “Christianity,” and the “Word of God.” At this time, there was a tremendous rise in secular humanism, a viewpoint that placed human reason, and not faith in God or His Word as supreme.

The beginning of the 3 ½ years

November 24, 1793 – The churches of Paris were closed and the public reading of the Bible forbidden.

The Commune of Paris was thus emboldened to kick over the traces, if one may say so, and on the 3rd frimaire of the year II (24th November, 1793), on the request of Chaumette, it decreed *“That all the churches and chapels of every religion and sect which exist in Paris shall be closed forthwith, and anyone who asked for their reopening should be arrested as a suspicious person.”*

A. Aulard, Christianity and the French Revolution, p. 109

“The movement of dechristianization quickly became general in Paris. Almost all parts of the town renounced religion, closed the parish churches, and then reopened them as Temples of Reason.”

A. Aulard, Christianity and the French Revolution, p. 108

“Taken as a whole, the tendency of the movement was to substitute what was called natural religion for Christianity in any form.”

A. Aulard, Christianity and the French Revolution, p. 110

“The popular gatherings for worship in Paris were joyful, full of childish playfulness, in spite of the pedantry of a few learned people.”

A. Aulard, Christianity and the French Revolution, p. 111

Speaking of a prostitute paraded through the streets of Paris and hailed as the goddess of reason.

“The goddess, after being embraced by the president, was mounted on a magnificent car, and conducted, amid an immense crowd, to the cathedral Notre Dame, to take the place of Deity. There she was elevated on the high altar, and received the adoration of all present.”

Alison, vol. 1, chapter 10

Revelation 11:11-14

“And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.”

Observation Number 6 – At the end of the 3 ½ symbolic days or literal years the Bible would be restored. Revelation 11:10-12

At the end of the 3 ½ days (years), the Word would be restored. We would see the “Word” being drawn to Heaven, “and their enemies beheld them.” Men’s attention would be drawn toward Heaven and God, by His Word.

History Continued:

The end of the 3 ½ years

April 1797, the churches in Paris are reopened. That public reading of the Bible is encouraged amongst Protestants.

“At the Easter Festival of April 1797 (Germinal, Year V), if we may rely on one of its minister, the Abbe de Boulogne, services were held in fifty chapels or churches in Paris...[the] clergy had full liberty to celebrate their worship, with large congregations...both Protestants and Jews submitted to the laws and silently enjoyed the liberty accorded them after centuries of persecution.”

A. Aulard, Christianity and the French Revolution, p. 150-151

In a letter written to Napoleon after the 3 ½ years of suppressed religion in Paris, the Directory of France appealed for the destruction of the Papacy. “*The Roman religion would always be the irreconcilable enemy of the Republic.*” It must be struck in France. It must be struck in Rome. “*That is to destroy, if possible, the center of the unity of the Roman Church; and it is for you, who unite in your person the most distinguished qualities of the general... to realize this aim.*”

A. Aulard, Christianity and the French Revolution, p. 151

Key Point:

Satan wanted people everywhere to ignore the book of Daniel so they would be deceived.

At the very time the book of Daniel was unsealed, in 1798, the Bible predicted the rise of atheistic secularism and its attack on God’s Word.

The Remnant, who understand the book of Daniel appear after 1798.

“And the Remnant were affrighted.” – Revelation 11:13

Literally this is “*And the remnant became FEARERS, and gave glory to the God of Heaven.*”

What does it mean to “*Fear God*” and “*Give Him Glory?*”

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 “*And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?*”

2 Timothy 1:7 *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*

Proverbs 2:3-6 *“Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.”*

Psalms 111:10 *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.”*

From the above verses, we can see that to “Fear” the Lord does not mean to be frightened or afraid of Him. The Greek (New Testament) and Hebrew (Old Testament) words used for “Fear” in these verses also is interpreted as “Reverence, Respect, Awe.” To “Fear the Lord” means to recognize who He is, both the powerful Creator God of everything, and the loving personal God that desires a personal, loving relationship with each of us.

What was the result of “The Remnant becoming FEARERS?” As a reaction to the fall of the Papacy and in counter-reaction to the French Revolution’s immorality, the Word of God spread throughout the world. Revelation 14:6-7 provides prophetic prediction of this reaction.

Revelation 14:6-7

*“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, **Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.**”*

We see the Gospel Message being preached globally to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, by people who “Fear God” (The Remnant people). A people who recognize that the “Hour” or time of “Judgment is come,” and who recognize the Creator God who “Made” the heavens, the earth and the seas.

What was or is Satan’s response?

Revelation 12:17

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

He was and still is, wroth or angry with the “Woman,” the true church, and went to make war with the remnant.

The Papal Persecution

Beginning

538 AD

Terms

42 Months, 1260 days/years, 3 ½ years

Ending

God's Judgment on the Papacy-1798 AD

Revelation 11:15-18

*“And **the seventh angel sounded**; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.”*

v. 15-18 From our prior studies, we have seen that these verses correspond to the Judgment scenes that we saw in our studies of Daniel. – *Daniel 7:13-14, 27-28*

Revelation 11:19

*“And **the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament**: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.”*

As we saw in the last study, around the time of the judgment, we see the Heavenly Temple being opened to the view of man. Man's attention was again drawn to the Ark of the Testimony, and to what it held- The Ten Commandments. All ten including the 4th, **“Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.”**