



REVELATION CHAPTER 11 part 1

THE TWO END TIME WITNESSES!

Basic and General Study of Revelation

compiled by Gaetan

The 11th chapter, like previous chapters, outlines from a different perspective the era of the Great Tribulation. Like the 6th Chapter it goes right up to the very End with the Wrath of God and the great earthquake. But it covers a different aspect of the Tribulation era.

The book of Revelation reaches the End several times, so don't get confused! It's not all in exact chronological order. It's in a very nice order, but just like you've seen in many movies, the director, in this case the Lord, gives a general overall view, then He zooms in for a closer look at this and that period, and then that other event, etc., and keeps giving flashbacks. We call them flashbacks, that's what they are called in the movies.



It's a very common literary and movie technique for telling a story, to give you the whole story in a nutshell in a way, or a preview of it, and then to go back over the details. And that's exactly what Revelation does. So, in the 11th Chapter we read again about the Tribulation and the Wrath of God. Then in the 12th Chapter there again there are more detailed flashbacks.

REV.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.**

REV.11:2 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.

In many places in the Bible, we find that the real temple is composed of people, not buildings. His true temple consists of those who love Him - as expressed, for example, in

1Corinthians 2:16-17 “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.”





Regarding the act of measuring, a typical device used in that era was taken from the reeds of cane that grew along rivers, such as the Jordan River. This act of measuring speaks of God's regard for His people, for it was well known at the time that to publicly measure the temple was a way of praising its magnificence. God really delights in His people and He KNOWS them. The act of measuring indicates a separation between a portion which God recognizes, His true children and worshipers, "***them that worship***" in the temple's inner court, versus a portion he doesn't recognize, the unbelievers, represented by "***the court which is without***". It seems to parallel the sealing of God's people in ***Rev.7:3***, illustrating the difference between those who follow the Light of Christ and those who turn away.

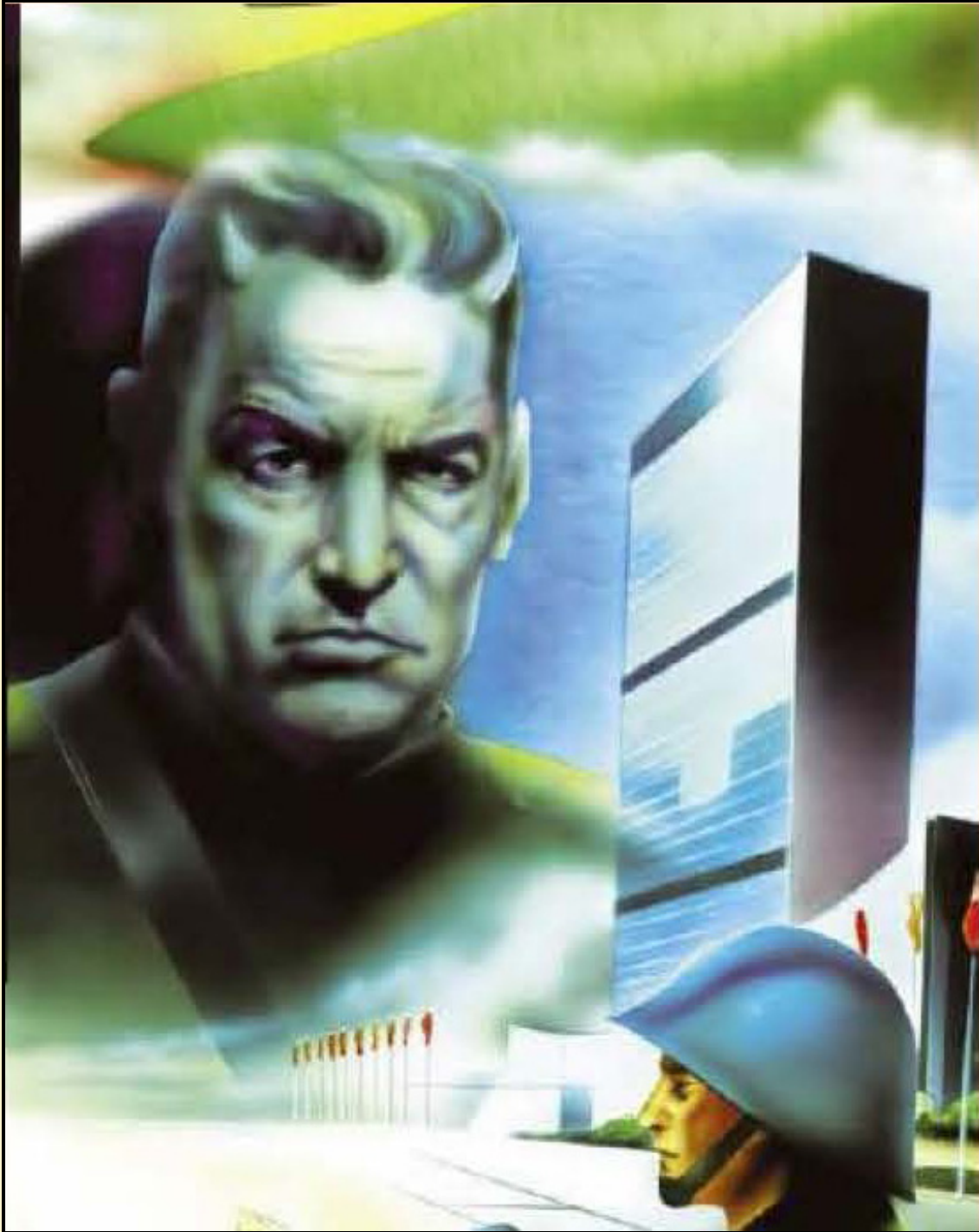
The "***altar***" could represent the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for you and me.



A literal Jewish temple made of stone may well get built before the Great Tribulation that is to come upon this world. However, as stated, such a place often symbolized in the sight of God a much larger dimension – namely, that of His chosen people, meaning those who have given their hearts, minds and lives to the Lord.

The Gentiles will tread the holy city of Jerusalem under foot for forty and two months, three-and-a-half years during the Tribulation period in which the Antichrist rules supreme. Here's a likely scenario: during the first half of this last seven

years period--the Antichrist has made a deal or a holy Covenant (*Dan.9:27*), a pact with the religions of the World to make Jerusalem an open city, an international city --at least the holy places internationalized--probably under the UN or his World Government, so that they're supposed to have equal access and equal representation of temples and so on. The Jews have rebuilt their temple, re-instituted sacrificial worship and the Pact seems to be going well, except it doesn't solve all the problems.



The religionists still bicker and argue and fight amongst each other until finally the Antichrist gets fed up with it all and decides to just have one World religion as well as one World government. Their squabbling and non-adherence to the covenant terms provide the excuse that he's been waiting for all the time! So, he abolishes all other religions and demands that the whole World worship him as God as he sits in the temple of God, pretending to be God! (2Th.2:4) And this will go on for “*forty and two months*” as written in this second verse. But here comes some good news:

REV.11:3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

When the “*abomination of desolation*” enters the temple at Jerusalem, in the midst of that seven-year covenant period, then will begin the Great Tribulation period. The Scriptures give us the exact time span several times and in different ways so that you cannot *possibly misunderstand it*:

3-1/2 years (Dan.7:25; 9:27; 12:7; Rev.12:14),
42 months (Rev.11:2; 13:5), **1,260 days**
(Rev.11:3; 12:6).

It is repeated so often --days, months and years--to make sure you will know exactly how long it's going to last!



Why do you think the Lord was so clear on that? --Because it's going to be such a terrible time that we're going to be counting the days! That's one thing that will help keep you going, to know that it is not going to last much longer! The fact that you're able to count the days is going to encourage you tremendously! *"Just one more day, one more day, one more day!"*

counting the days



If you were lost on a desert isle and didn't know whether you were ever going to get rescued, it would be pretty hard to endure. But if you knew exactly what day, or at least mighty close to it, that you were going to be rescued, you'd fight to live and survive until that day! Well, those last days of the Antichrist's reign during the Great Tribulation are going to be so rough, the Lord wanted us to know the exact times so that we wouldn't give up. ***"Look up!"*** He says, ***"For your redemption draweth nigh!"*** (Lk.21:28.) What a wonderful encouragement!

REV.11:4. These are the **two olive trees**, and the **two candlesticks** standing before the **God** of the earth.

These final two great witnesses are pictured as two olive trees-- because they're fruitful, and as two candlesticks because they give light. There is an obvious reference here to an Old Testament prophecy in the book of Zechariah:

ZEC.4:11 ...What are these **two olive trees** upon the right side of **the candlestick** and upon the left side thereof? Then said he, these are **the two anointed ones that stand by the LORD** of the whole earth.





And of course, there is **MAT.5:14-16** “Ye are the **light of the world**. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a **candlestick**; for it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let **your light so shine before men**, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father...”

Throughout scripture, the term “**anointed one**” referred to the prophets and kings whom God anointed with His Spirit to lead His people. But what is a candlestick? **Revelation 1:20** states, “**The seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches!**” So, it could mean that those two prophets won’t be alone witnessing but that the churches, or bodies of believers, will also be involved. Like Moses and Aaron long ago, they will be ordained to lead and protect the body of believers in Israel, and throughout the world.

REV.11:5 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.

REV.11:6 These have **power to shut heaven, that it rains 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.

**This reminds us
of a passage in the
Old Testament: 1st
KI.17:1**

*“And Elijah... said
unto Ahab, As the
LORD God of Israel
liveth, before whom I
stand, **there shall
not be dew nor rain
these years, but
according to my
word.**”*

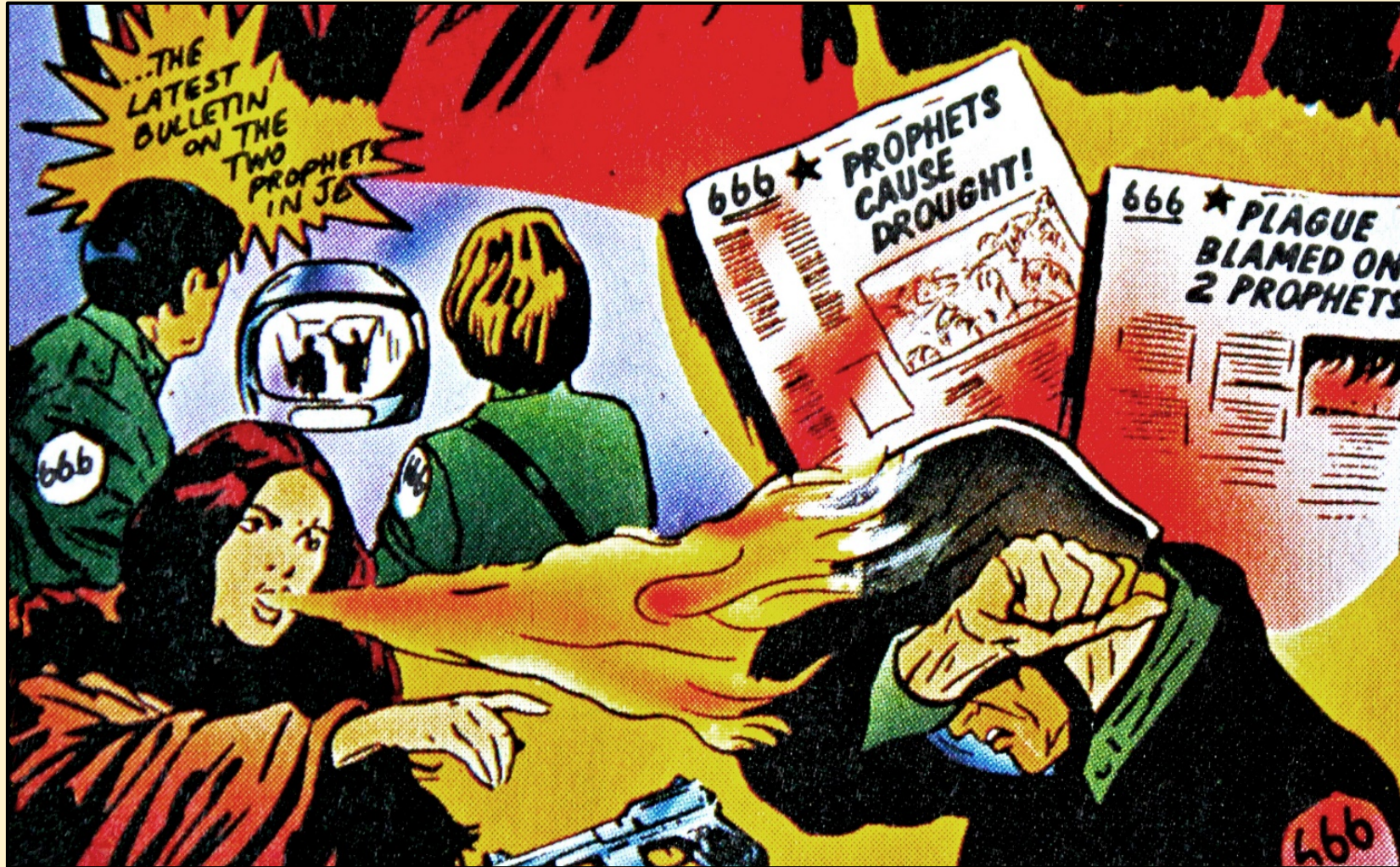


No one will be able to stop them until they have finished their witness for the full three-and-a-half years of that great terrible Tribulation period in which we're all going to be witnessing right to the End! These two greatest witnesses, right there in the Holy City, will be witnessing against the Antichrist, the Beast, against his image and against his claims to be God, his blasphemy against God! But nobody will be able to stop them, not the Antichrist himself nor all his forces until they're finished!



Because if anybody tries to even approach them to stop them, fire comes out of their mouth and devours their enemies--like as it did in the days of Elijah when the king sent soldiers in bands of fifty to try and capture him! Elijah called down fire from God out of Heaven and devoured each two bands of soldiers as they came to arrest him! (The third band was spared because the captain had enough sense to plead for mercy)

**** 2KI.1:10** And Elijah answered and said **to the captain of fifty**, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And **there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.**



Some say the fire here is symbolic, that it symbolises their fiery words, as the Lord said of Jeremiah, "***I will make My Words in thy mouth fire.***"

**** JER.5:14** ...thus saith the LORD God of hosts, because ye speak this word, behold, I will ***make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.***

They'll be able to keep right on going and witness to the very End! They not only have power to bring fire down from God out of Heaven and fire out of their mouths to devour their enemies, but also to turn the waters into blood and to smite the Earth with all kinds of plagues like in the time of Moses and the Exodus from Egypt!



**** EXO.7:20** *And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and **smote the waters** that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in **the river were turned to blood.***

Anything they want to do against their enemies, God will give it to them, and no one will be able to stop them during those days! They will preach and prophesy the Word of God with such mighty power of God that it will be the greatest witness the World has ever seen! Not only the Antichrist will see it, not only the Jews, the Christians and the Muslims will see it, but the whole World will be watching on television, beamed by satellite, the internet, YouTube, Instagram, or whatever new means of communication will exist then! It will be a witness to the whole World against them, the wicked World!

REV.11:7 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.** (Dan.7:21, Rev.13:1, 7)

When they have finished their testimony, not a moment before! They will be able to testify and witness the full 1,260 days, forty-two months, three-and-a-half years of the total Tribulation period and nobody will be able to stop them.

No matter what the Devil, all his henchman, all his cohorts, conspirators and cruel wicked followers of the Beast, of Satan--no matter what they try to do they cannot even touch them until they've finished their testimony! They will have tremendous God-given power over the elements and tremendous protection from their enemies, but finally they are killed.



This beast that kills them is the Antichrist and his forces, his bestial government. In Revelation it doesn't call the beast the Antichrist; that terminology is mentioned only in one of the epistles of John (see 1Jn.2:18, 22). Daniel refers to him as the *"little horn"*, *"fierce king"*, *"vile person"* (Dan.7:8; 8:23; 11:21); Ezekiel calls him *"Gog"* (Ezk.38:2); Paul calls him the *"son of perdition"* and *"that Wicked"* (2Thes.2:3, 8). And John simply refers to him throughout Revelation as *"the beast."* But whatever title is used, they all describe one person who is to appear at the End of the Age to



rule the earth and persecute the saints just before the coming of Christ.

REV.11:8 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.

This is not the only occasion when God referred to Jerusalem in such terms:

**** Jer. 23:14** But in the prophets of **Jerusalem** I have seen a horrible thing: they commit adultery and walk in lies; they strengthen the hands of evildoers, so that no one turns from his evil; **all of them have become like Sodom to me, and its inhabitants like Gomorrah.**”

**** ISA.1:9-10** Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as **Sodom**, and we should have been like unto **Gomorrah**. Hear the word of the LORD, **ye rulers of Sodom**; give ear unto the law of our God, **ye people of Gomorrah**.

**** LUK.13:33-34** ...for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!

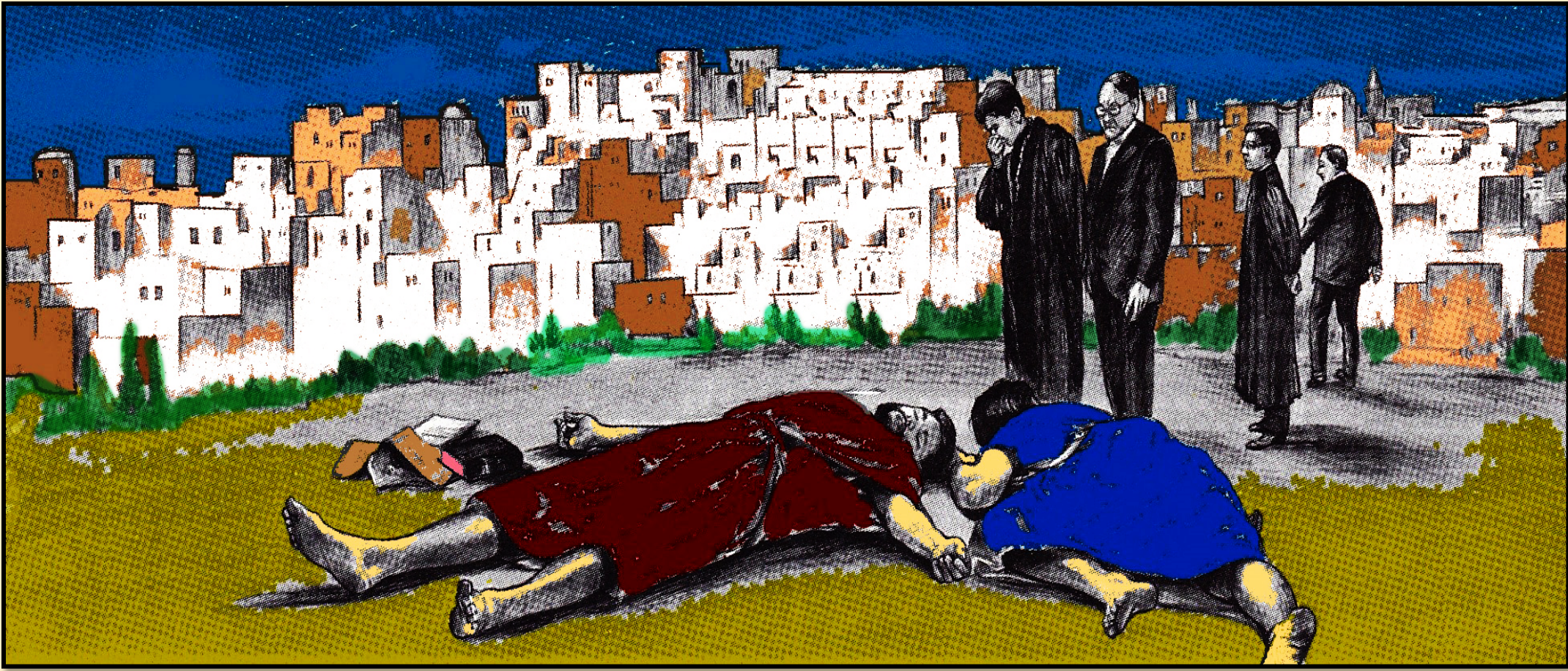


Daniel 11: 45 tells us, "He shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the Glorious Holy Mountain." The Antichrist is the false messiah and he makes Jerusalem his capital. That Jerusalem is not the Holy City, it is not the Heavenly Jerusalem; it is not the Bride of Christ! We know what the Holy City is and who the Bride of Christ is: John describes it in the last couple of chapters of Revelation, he describes her and the City.



That city of old Jerusalem, the Lord Himself describes it as Sodom and Gomorrah and the place where all the prophets were killed, including Jesus! He makes old Jerusalem virtually symbolic of all the most ungodly cities in the World! That's not the Holy City! But according to Jewish beliefs, their messiah is to take over Jerusalem, rule and reign from Jerusalem, which also happens to be the second most holy city to the Arabs. So, he tries to unite them all by actually moving down there, putting his palace in Jerusalem, ruling and reigning over the World from Jerusalem itself, imitating the Messiah and trying to unite again the Arabs, the Jews, the East, the West, North and South. But does he make it? What does it say?

***"He shall come to his end and none shall help him!"
(Dan.11:45)***



REV.11:9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and a half, and **shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.**

REV.11:10 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.

We find a foreshadowing of this event in PSA.79:2-3 “...*the dead bodies of thy servants have they given to be meat unto the fowls of the heaven, the flesh of thy saints unto the beasts of the earth. Their blood have they shed like water round about Jerusalem; and there was none to bury them.*”

**** MIC.7:8 ...rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.**

They are going to be so happy that they are dead and no longer convicting them of their sins, preaching the Gospel to them constantly in the news, on radio, on television and the newspapers, their pictures plastered all over the World and on the web! These two miracle-workers will be top headlines, top news and their message, the top message to the World! How could the whole world see their dead bodies? Not many years ago it was impossible to fulfill that prophecy, but today it could happen at any moment. Only in recent history has human society had that capacity to communicate through television, to broadcast through cable TV, the internet, YouTube, etc., all that transmission technology! The world is going to be so happy they are dead that they're going to give presents to each other like they do on Christmas!



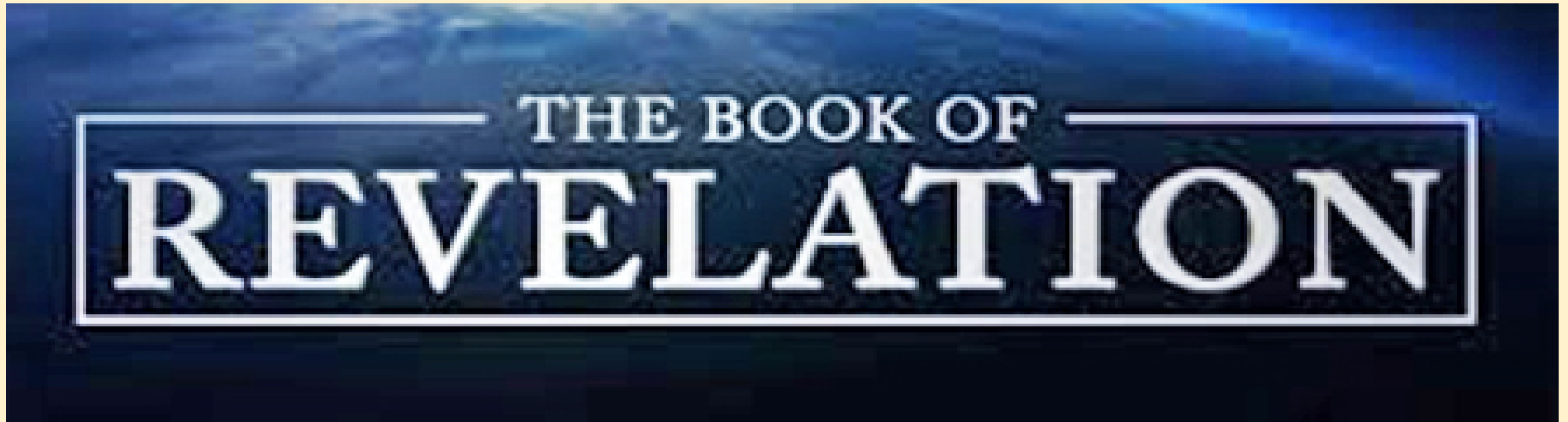


REV.11:11 And after three days and a half **the spirit of life from God entered into them**, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

REV.11:12 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.

REV.11:13 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.

This happens at the very end of the Tribulation, obviously, because they prophesy, it says specifically in the third verse, 3½ years. What's happening?! They're being resurrected! Suddenly those bodies come to life before they've been buried! Why? Jesus is coming in the sky and all the dead in Christ are rising to meet Him in the air! Including these Two Witnesses! So, it seems that their resurrection and rapture occur at the same time as everybody else's: at the end of the Great Tribulation when Jesus returns!



THE BOOK OF REVELATION

There are many allusions to the Rapture in Revelation dealing with the End Time period: in the sixth Chapter, tenth Chapter, here in the eleventh Chapter, and finally it is described again in the fourteenth Chapter. However, it is only one great Resurrection and Rapture; there are just many facets of it. Revelation follows a definite, orderly sequence of events, but it frequently takes one aspect and gives us the entire history of the subject from beginning to end, then jumps back into the main flow and continues with the story. This is what it has done here with the two witnesses and here the story gets back into the mainstream in the fifteenth verse.

To be continued in part 2 when the seventh angel sounds his trumpet, which brings on the Rapture and Resurrection of the entire Church.

Designed, compiled and edited by Gaetan from multiple sources.

gaetan.goye@gmail.com