

Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church
Bible Sharing Program 2023-24
Session #10: The 2nd Revelation, the Temple, the Two
Witnesses, and the Seventh Trumpet (Rev 11)

CSB = Ignatius Catholic Study Bible
 CCSS = Cath Commentary on Sacred Scriptures
 BSP04 = 2004-05 BSP notes SN = Special notes
 NAB = New American Bible
 CSSN = Catholic Scripture Study notes
 LS = Dr. Hahn's Lamb's Supper

<p>A</p>	<p><u>Overview</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is one of the most challenging chapters to interpret; therefore, scholars must take a holistic approach by considering historical context, Jewish traditions and Scripture in order to deduce a more accurate interpretation of the text. • V1–13: a prophecy about the Church. V1-2 foreshadows her destruction by foreign nations. • V3-13: the challenges and persecutions that will befall the Church, “the Two Witnesses” will be killed by “the beasts that comes up from the abyss”. “The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over [their corpses] and be glad and exchange gifts”. God will vindicate them by lifting them up “to heaven in a cloud as their enemies looked on”. • V14-19: “the seventh angel blew his trumpet”, all of heaven celebrates Christ the King who will judge the dead, reward God’s servants; the time when the Devil will be obliterated is near. At this time, the legendary nature of OT and the disappeared Ark of the Covenant will be seen in the Heavenly Temple. 	<p>11:1-9</p> <p>CCSS p 185</p>	
<p>B</p>	<p><u>The Vision of Measuring God’s Temple</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding God’s Temple in Scripture. • The instruction here recalls another of Ezekiel’s visions, in which an angel uses a measuring rod to measure all the dimensions of the new temple. The temple in John’s vision; though it was understood to be in communion with God’s temple in heaven, refers to the destruction of the Church on earth just as the “outer court” has been trampled by the Gentiles. The act of measuring signifies that the temple is a work in progress, therefore, “exclude the outer court of the temple” which will be handed over to the Gentiles. This counters the argument that the Church must tolerate everything; this is not part of the teachings in Scripture. This trampling is temporary, “for 	<p>11:1-2</p> <p>SN1</p> <p>CCSS</p> <p>8:3-5, Heb 12:22-24; 1Cor 3:9-17</p>	<p>Ezk 40:3 – 43:5</p> <p>Dan 8:10, 13</p>

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	<p>forty-two months”, or three and a half years, or 1260 days, representing the period when the Church will be persecuted by the world. When everything is fulfilled, the angel will re-measure the temple.</p>	<p>CCSS p 146-147, 189, Lk 21:24, CCC 675; 21:15-16</p>	<p>Dan 7:25</p>
C	<p><u>The Testimony of the Two Witnesses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among the various interpretations of this vision, the interpretation of the Church of the Old and New Testaments bearing witness throughout history and the end times is the more plausible one (1260 days – a period when the Church is being tested). The purpose of witnessing is to urge for repentance (wearing sackcloth). • Just as the Governor Zerubbabel and the High Priest Joshua were commissioned to rebuild the temple by God, the two witnesses are sent to prepare the way for the eschatological temple, the New Jerusalem. The “lampstand” is the means by which the light of Christ shines in the world. Zechariah’s vision reveals only one lampstand, while two are mentioned in Revelation – OT/NT; Jews and Gentiles; the two witnesses to the law. • The witnesses possess similar qualities as the OT prophets; they are sent and protected by God, yet, rejected by the world. • The witnesses “will wage war against them and conquer them and kill them” => the fourth beast that “made war with the holy ones and was prevailing over them” portrayed in Dan 7. • “Their corpses will lie in the main street of the great city, ... will gaze on their corpses for three days, and they will not allow their corpses to be buried ... The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and be glad and exchange gifts” => signifies the Church that upholds the truth will be hated, despised, and persecuted to the extreme. • “But after three and a half days, a breath of life from God entered them, ... , they went up to heaven in a cloud” => echoes Ezekiel’s vision of New Jerusalem fulfilled in the 	<p>11:3-13</p> <p>CCSS p 190 11:3</p> <p>11:4 CSS</p> <p>Mk 6:7</p> <p>11:5-6 CCSS</p> <p>11:7 CCSS</p> <p>11:8-10 CCSS</p> <p>11:11-12</p>	<p>Zc 4</p> <p>Ex 7:14-21, 12:12, 1K 18; 2K 1:10-12, Jer 5:14; 1K 17-18</p> <p>Daniel 7:3, 21</p> <p>Ezk 37:10-14</p>

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	Church. The finale of Jesus' ascension recalls the vision of the assumption of Enoch, Elijah, and Moses.		Gen 5:24, 2K 2:11-12
D	<p><u>The Seventh Trumpet – The Appearance of the Ark of the Covenant</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The fifth and sixth trumpets consist of horrible demonic torments for those who did not receive the seal of God, as well as swallowing of the small scroll, and the vision of the two witnesses measuring the temple. The seventh trumpet brings the third disaster, fulfilling the prophecy of the three types of disaster. As promised by the angel, “when you hear the seventh angel blow his trumpet, the mysterious plan of God shall be fulfilled”. This mystery is not about Christ’s returning but the “loud voices in heaven” following the seventh trumpet that celebrates “the kingdom of the world now belongs to our Lord and to his Anointed, and he will reign forever and ever”. In other words, all authority of all dominions of the earth will be transferred from “those who destroyed the earth” to Christ; as prophesied by Daniel. As the seventh trumpet brings the destruction of Jericho in the OT, the seventh trumpet of the angel brings disasters to Satan and all evil powers: “Go and pour out the seven bowls of God’s fury upon the earth”; bringing upon them true and just punishment. In addition, “the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple”, and the omen of the woman and the red dragon. Why would the ark reappear after being lost for many years? What is its relationship with the women in the omen? This will be the focus of the next chapter. 	<p>11:14-19</p> <p>9:4</p> <p>10:11</p> <p>8:13</p> <p>10:7 CCSS</p> <p>15-20, 16:1</p> <p>11:19</p>	<p>Dan 7:13-14</p> <p>Joshua 6</p> <p>2 Maccabees 2:7-8</p>

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Special Notes:

1. God's true dwelling is in heaven; the temple on earth is the place of God's presence; it is portrayed through various ways through the OT and NT:
 - Genesis – God created the world as a temple in which to dwell with the human race
 - The Tabernacle, the inner room – God is present “on the ark of the covenant from between the two cherubim” (Ex 25:8-9, Nb 7:89).
 - Solomon's temple (1Kg 8:10-13,22-61).
 - When the Babylonians destroyed the temple in 586 BC, God promised through the prophets a new, more glorious temple where He would live with His people forever (Ezek 40-47)
 - The rebuilding of the second temple (520-515 BC).
 - The true fulfilment of His promise began with the Incarnation: “The word was made flesh and made His dwelling place among us” (Jn 1:14).
 - The human body of Christ is the true temple where God is present (Jn 2:19-21, 14:7-11).
 - In the Spirit, the Church is the mystical body of Christ, God's temple (Ep 2:19-22, 1Pt 2:6), the body of a Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor 6:19).
 - Finally, when the heavenly Jerusalem descends on earth, God's people will dwell with Him forever: “ and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads”. There is no temple in the heavenly city “for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb” (Rev 21:2-3, 22:3-4, 21:22). (CCSS p 186-187)