

Christmas in Jerusalem

I. Slide1 Intro:

- A. We are at the mid-point of the 7 year tribulation. *Ch.10-14 takes place in the mid of trib.*
1. Ch.11 is still parenthetical...all literal.
- B. **John**, after dining on *filet-of-Scroll* from ch.10, **now** grabs his *measuring tape*.

II. Slide2 THE TEMPLE (1,2)

- A. **Measuring Rod** – A **reed**, a species of **cane** that grows in the Jordan valley from **15-20' high**. [like bamboo they grow long & straight]
1. **Used frequently in that day for measuring**. They were *cut to different lengths*.
 2. Ezekiel's measuring rod was approx. **9'** (40:5)
 3. John measured the **naos** (the inner temple, the holy of Holies)
 4. **Measuring** = the act of *knowing, claiming, or staking out*.
 - a) Often it meant claiming it for yourself, like a homesteader marking off their parcel.
- B. **Slide3 Explain Asher Kaufman's theory** of the location of **the Dome of the Spirits**, 300 yards north of the Dome of the Rock.
- C. **6 temples: 1st Solomon's. 2nd Zerubabel's. 3rd Herod** rebuilt. **4th** temple will be the **tribulation** temple. **5th** temple the **millennium** temple. **6th** Temple in **heaven**.
- D. (2) **Tread the holy city underfoot** - It may *seem like* God *lose battles* **but** He will ultimately win the war.
- E. **42 months, a times time & a 1/2 a time, 1260 days** - These are **3 ways of saying the last 3½ yrs of the trib** (AKA, the great Trib) [remember Jewish calendar 30 day months].
1. This points us back to **Daniel** where this wording is used.
 2. **If you only had 1260 days of ministry what would you do or try to accomplish?**

III. Slide4 THE TWO WITNESSES (3-14)

- A. **Slide5a WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM** (3-6)

- B. (3) **My two witnesses** - We don't have a positive ID on these guys [2 witnesses validate truth]
- C. They at **1st** have *supernatural immunity* dressed in *Kevlar sackcloth*.
1. Supernatural **power & protection**.
- D. **Witnesses** – in *legal terms* it's concerning what has been **seen & heard**.
In *biblical terms* the witness proclaims what he **knows**.
- E. **Slide5b** (4) **2 Olive Trees & 2 Lampstands** - comes from Zech.4:1-14.
1. In Zechariah, the 2 olive trees, **Joshua & Zerubbabel** received the empowering Spirit of God (**oil**), & kept the light of Israel's work/witness burning (**lampstand**).
 2. **Olive Oil** was a common fuel of the time, **so** the association w/the lampstand/ menorah was a logical one.
 3. **Before olives yielded their oil**, they were **beaten** off the trees with long sticks, **& then crushed** beneath a heavy stone wheel.
 - a) Perhaps this imagery of what happens to the **olives** to produce **oil**, was *symbolic* of what would happen to **these 2 olive trees**.
- F. (5,6) **Fire comes out of their mouth** – What a wonderful gift...if this is *Dragon like*.
1. **Buuuut** most likely *like Elijah* when he *spoke it forth from heaven* upon his waterlogged altar.
 2. **Slide5c** Jer.5:14 *I will make my words in your mouth a fire and these people the wood it consumes.*
- G. **They have power over:** **FIRE** (to consume their enemies). **RAIN** (to keep it from raining). **WATER** (to change it to blood). **PLAGUES** (as often as they desire)
1. 1st two remind us of **Elijah**. The last 2 remind us of **Moses**.
 2. They met w/Jesus on the mnt of Trans to talk about His exodus.
 3. Mal.4:5 *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.*
- H. **Other Ideas:**
1. **Enoch** (w/Elijah) because he didn't die either – Heb.9:27 *appointed for man once to die & then the judgment so can't die twice.*

a) This is a **general rule** for mankind, **not** an absolute, because at the rapture it wouldn't be a true statement then either (nor true in Lazarus' life/dbl death).

I. **Slide6a WITNESS REJECTION PROGRAM** (7-14)

J. This is the 1st of 36 references to **the beast** in this book.

1. Martyrdom of these witnesses will doubtless give him the support of many people.

K. **Slide6b** (8) **Their dead bodies** - on public display for 3 ½ days in the streets of Jer.

1. Not only dead **but** then denied burial. [Even *criminals* got a burial the day of their death]

a) Deut.12:22,23 *If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, "his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.*

L. **Why not put their bodies in the grave...afraid of another Empty Tomb? :)**

M. What a *hardened spiritual condition* of the people.

1. **Sodom** (was polluted & worldly). **Egypt** (was rebellious & proud)

a) **Both** speak of *sin, slavery, & judgment.*

N. These 2 witnesses encourage us to be **faithful** to the Lord *in difficult times.*

1. God **protects them & then permits them** to be slain.

2. I've heard very often by Christians, *they are a good christian surely God won't let them die. Oh no, barring the rapture, He positively will.*

a) But their ministry will only be terminated *when* they have finished their testimony.

b) **Slide6c** George Whitefield, *You are immortal until your work is done.*

O. (9) I remember in the **early 80's** we said film crews could show up & beam television all over the world. **Now** we can click on aish.com & watch the wailing wall livestream 24/7.

1. Maybe then it will be www.2deadwitnesses.com

P. (10) Here is a bleak window into the *spiritual/emotional state* of most people during this time.

Q. **Slide6d A Devil's Christmas** - If this display of their dead bodies weren't enough.

R. The people make *a Jolly Holiday* of this occasion & **send gifts** to each other.

1. A global holiday is spawned, complete with gloating & gifting.
 2. **Ps:** always be careful of context. This verse was cited on a *Christmas card* *They exchanged gifts & made merry.*
 3. **Note:** This is the only mention of **rejoicing** on the earth during the entire Tribulation period...& it is over *the death* of Gods **true** messengers.
 4. **Is this a peek into the future, what happened to *Tolerance for all people, acceptance, open-mindedness?***
- S. (10b) Reminds me of 1 Kings 18:17,18 when Ahab said to Elijah, *Is that you, O troubler of Israel?*
- T. (11,12) **They'rrre baaaack** – here is *the world's biggest comeback* since the res of Jesus.
1. Everyone watching on their large *16k flat screens*, **or** on their new *Apple 4 watches*...*they rise from the dead*. (know what a body looks/smells like on hot pavement for 3 ½ days **ie.** no rain) **eeww** [as *Martha to Jesus, Lord, by this time there is a stench.* Jn.11:39]
 2. God Intervenes, raises them up, & brings them to heaven *in a cloud* (*shekinah?*) [**see** 10:1; 1 Thes.4:17 *caught up together w/them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air*]
 3. **Satan's victory** is *cut short*, as **God** takes the 2 men to **Heaven**.
- U. **Come Up Here** - In due time EVERY believer will hear Him say, *Come Up Here*.
1. **Slide6 Remember** this at your next memorial you attend...we as believers are **not** called **down to the grave** **but UP to the skies**.
 2. **Also**, whether He says, *Stay or Go*, let us be *equally well pleased*, **so** long as He indulges us **w/His presence**.
 - a) 2 Cor.5:9, *Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.*
- V. (13) **From Joy to Fear** - Maybe they realize for a moment there is **a power** greater than **the Beast**.
- W. **Big day for the Media** as they turn from *the cloud shot to a Killer Quake*. **Epicenter?** Jer. **Damage done?** 1/10th of Jerusalem fell. **Death Toll?** 7000 Dead. **The Rest?** were **scared & Glorified God**.
1. That'll put a damper on a good party.

- X. From **Joy** to **fear**, from **fear** to giving God **Glory** – **probably not** a *permanent* change of heart though, by what follows.
- Y. (14) Two **woes**/terrors down, one to go.

IV. Slide7 **THE 7th TRUMPET (15-19)**

- A. (15) The parenthetical between the 6th & 7th Trumpet is over.
1. Slide8 Explain: **The Seal - Trumpet - Bowl** Telescopic View (the 6th seal encompasses the 7 trumpets. The 7th trumpet encompasses the 7 bowls)
 2. This 7th trumpet takes us to the end then (when Jesus reigns/kingdom set up).
- B. A **kingdom** is a sphere or realm, over which *a ruler exercises his authority*.
1. This realm can be *physical, spiritual, or both*.
 2. Israel often forgot the **spiritual realm** & thought *politically*. [eg. *give us a king like the rest of the nations*]
 - a) The bible opens our minds to the spiritual realm also, otherwise we would be totally ignorant if God hadn't revealed it to us.
 - b) Jesus faced Satan off & **won** at the cross & **now** we just have the *mopping up operation*. [**Acquired** at the *cross*. **Applied** at His *coronation*]
 - c) **Remember**, the major message of Revelation is the triumph of **God** over **evil** in this world.
- C. (16-18) **Worship** - in **ch.4**, they worshiped God as **Creator**. In **ch.5**, they worshiped the **Redeemer**. **Now here**, the emphasis is on the **Conqueror & King**.
- D. **Thanks** is given for **3 things**:
1. **He Reigns Supremely** (17) - Mt.18:18 *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*
 2. **He Judges Righteously** (18a) - They were angry, they wanted to do their own thing, cast off all restraints, & God permitted it for a time...Their result **Babylon**. Mans last attempt at Utopia.
 3. **He Rewards Graciously** (18b) - Amen.

E. (19) On earth, no ordinary man could see...now, the Glory of God fully displayed.
[Temple Opened....Wow]

1. The enemy can touch the Temple on earth, but never *the Temple in Heaven*.
2. The Ark of the Covenant speaks of the presence of God, & it's a reminder of His Faithfulness.
3. Let us encourage each other with *the Glory to come*.