

# THE REVELATION

JUNE 30, 2024

---

Chapter 11:13 - 19

**(i) The Earthquake (11:13a)**

*Rev 11:13a And in that hour there was a great earthquake,*

During the hour that the two witnesses rise into the air and into heaven, a “great earthquake” occurred in Jerusalem. This earthquake was different from the others mentioned in the REVELATION. This earthquake was strong enough to do great harm in the beloved *holy city*.

**(ii) The City (11:13b)**

*Rev 11:13b and a tenth of the city fell;*

The earthquake caused “a tenth of the city” to fall. That means that 10% of the buildings and homes in the city were destroyed.

**(iii) The Dead (11:13c)**

*Rev 11:13c seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake,*

In the earthquake that destroyed 10% of the structures, “seven thousand people were killed.” Some have interpreted 10% of the city to equal 7,000 people, but that would mean only 70,000 people were in the city of Jerusalem. Today, in 2024, the population of Jerusalem is about 898,617. Ten percent of that population would be 89,867 people, far more than the 7,000 mentioned in the verse. There is no reason to believe that the population in Jerusalem will decrease to 70,000 at this point in the story of the REVELATION. Therefore, it is best to interpret that the 10% of the destruction of the building structures in verse 11:13b and the 7,000 in verse 11:13c, will represent actual people killed out of the population, which should be more than a million at that time. For years, the city has been growing at a rate of almost 11% per year.

In 2018, the division of the population in Jerusalem is interesting. Of the population of 898,617 people, only 516,808 are Jewish, and about 381,809 are Muslim. However, at the time of the REVELATION story, the Jews will be in total control of the city and the entire state of Israel. The Dome of the Rock, Islam’s mosque, will no longer be there; a new temple will replace it; however, that is not part of the story in the REVELATION. We will come back to that point in the last lessons in this series after we have mastered all the details found directly in the REVELATION. Then we can gather other *End Time* information from all the Bible passages and insert them into the story where they belong with much greater clarity and understanding of all the *End Times* story from all the biblical sources. Remember, in this REVELATION, the LORD was using John in the same way He used him in the writing of his Gospel and the three small letters – to fill in final details that were not covered in all the rest of the Scripture.

## (iv) The Salvation (11:13d)

*Rev 11:13d and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.*

In the 1980 Jerusalem Law document, the city was finally recognized as Israel's undivided capital. Because the Nation of Israel is both a bloodline (heritage) and a belief (religion), Jerusalem is also the capital of the faith of the Jews. Here we must tread on sacred but important ground that may be unpopular but has already been addressed by the LORD in the seven letters to the seven churches found in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. We mean no disrespect to the Jewish faith of today; however, one of the main purposes of the Second Coming of the LORD is to change the hearts and beliefs of the Nation of Israel to accept Him as their Savior, their Messiah whom they rejected upon His first appearance on earth but will accept before His second.

To understand the text "and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven," we must review the history leading to John's writing of this vision and secure in our minds the place of Israel then and now. We begin by asking the question, "*What did John know about the history of Israel leading up to 95 AD?*" The answer is *everything*! He was a Jew of the Jews anyway you want to add it up. He was of the bloodline of Jacob, the same as Judah, David, Solomon, Rehoboam and Jesus. He knew all the history back to Moses and what Moses had written in the book of Genesis and everything else by the other authors through 65 books of the Bible. He understood the kings, the exiles, the Temples and the struggle with Rome. He followed John the Baptist first and then switched his loyalty to Jesus, his first cousin, following the LORD's baptism. He was chosen to be an Apostle; he saw the miracles of the boy raised from the dead and the lunatic healed as well as the man who was once blind but then could see. He had been with Jesus when he was privileged to see Moses, Elijah and Jesus speaking together at the transfiguration. He was in the boat when the storm threatened to capsize it and he saw Jesus calm the storm. He was there when the woman threw two pennies into the treasury as her gift to the LORD. He was in the upper room. He was at the crucifixion, right by the side of Jesus' mother. He was at the tomb. He was at the ascension. He knew the greatest enemy of Christianity, that radical Jewish Rabbi named Saul. He also knew him after he fell to his knees in front of Jesus on the Damascus Road and was changed from a hate filled Jew to a loving Christian and became one of the single greatest evangelists to the Gentile world on record. Furthermore, John knew the evil that had come over the Nation of Israel toward Jesus and His followers. He knew Israel had rejected its Savior and turned on those who were believers who carried the name Christian. He had seen the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem and the radical change that the rabbis of the Jewish faith installed on the Nation of Israel that made it look very little like the faith of Judaism designed by the LORD. He had, at his fingertips, all 65 books of the Holy Writ. He was the last Apostle to head the Church. He knew that the faith of the Jews was no longer viable; he knew the hatred of the Jewish Synagogues directed at the Christian Churches. Three of the special Churches in this REVELATION were especially persecuted by Satan's Synagogues. He understood why the LORD call the Jewish worship houses Synagogues of Satan, and all the synagogues of all the world are still such in the LORD's eyes today! Why? Because they do not believe in Jesus, because Satan won the battle to blind the eyes of the Jewish leadership and therefore lead all of Judaism away from the belief in the true Messiah! That remains unto this day and will until the death and resurrections of the two anointed witnesses of the LORD.

How will the LORD change the hearts and minds of the religious leaders in the Nation of Israel and put their belief and trust in the Messiah they missed? We have it in this passage. It will occur with the tribulation that the two witnesses will bring on the Nation of Israel in the 1260 days of their ministry coupled with their deaths, resurrections and ascensions. When John says, “and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven,” he is speaking about all the rest of the Jews in the capital of Israel, every religious Jewish leader, every political Jewish leader, every man, woman, boy and girl living in Jerusalem, all in one accord will “give glory to the God of heaven,” the true God, the true Messiah, the Christian Savior, the One they had missed but will have found! Because of their change of heart, the whole of Judaism will return to the LORD, blinded eyes healed so they can see and hardened hearts healed so they can feel.

Here, in verse 14, we have the salvation of the Nation of Israel. It cannot mean anything else! If John says they are giving glory to the God of heaven, it is the true God of heaven, not the imaginary version created by the Rabbis in 70 AD. Israel finally will believe in Him and all its people will belong to Him because of their new-found faith in Jesus Christ.

**(j) Their Purpose (11:14)**

*Rev 11:14 The second woe is past; behold, the third woe is coming quickly.*

The second woe began with the sixth trumpet’s freeing of the four evil angels held at the Euphrates River since the early days of creation. They brought along their terrifying army of 200 million creatures who killed one-third of humanity on earth, a terrible affliction on all the nations of the world. The first woe was pointedly a threat to the nations of the world.

After their destruction of human lives was in progress, the sixth trumpet sounded, the second woe, and John was told to prophesy about the two witnesses who would come in the future in the prophecy. Their purpose would be to reclaim the hearts of the bloodline of Jews and lead them back to the Messiah. The second woe would purposefully be a threat to the established sinful Nation of Israel.

Now, the third woe will be a precise threat to the evil empire totally controlled by Satan.

With the second woe in the past, the story of the purpose of the two anointed witnesses has been told.

A pattern has emerged in these last few chapters. With the end of the *Sixth Seal*, the “great multitude” that no one could number armed with palm branches had arrived in heaven – the Church. All church members, from the Day of Pentecost to the breaking of the Seal Six, were together with the LORD forever and ever. No believers were left on earth. Then, with the end of the *Sixth Trumpet*, the people of the Nation of Israel, with its headquarters in Jerusalem, gave “glory to the God of heaven.” Israel had put away her rabbinic Judaism and finally acknowledged the LORD as God thanks to the ministry of the two witnesses. Those two events will take care of the Church and Israel the two most precious things that belong to the LORD. When we get to the *Sixth Bowl of Wrath*, Satan will have called for all his forces to gather in the Valley of Megiddo. From all over the world, the evil, rebellious, God-hating people would gather in one accord to do away with the LORD at His Second Coming. Little did they know, although they should have known because of the presence of the Holy Scripture in the world, that they would be doomed. Proverbially, they were *sitting ducks* in

the valley. They were the one thing in the world the LORD hated – idolaters. But their story would have to wait. For now, with the *Seventh Trumpet*, the LORD has antagonized tribulation participants to introduce along with their long histories and rebellions in the world.

## 7. Trump Seven – Woe Three (11:15-15:4)

### a) The Sound in Heaven (11:15)

*Rev 11:15* Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

What a grand announcement from heaven! It was not from just one loud voice, but it was from the "voices." The creatures in heaven knew what the world did not. It was an announcement of fact, not fiction. The plan of God was in process, and the day was quickly approaching when the LORD would sit on His throne in Jerusalem and rule the world as one kingdom, His kingdom. Throughout the ages, the world has been divided into kingdoms, some large and some small, none of them powerful enough to rule every square inch of the earth. But that will be different with the LORD. He is powerful enough! The world under His rule will be one kingdom. John heard the voices speak, "The kingdom of the world has become *the kingdom* of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." Once the LORD is King, no other king will ever reign again on earth.

### b) The Reaction in Heaven (11:16-17)

*Rev 11:16* And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, <sup>17</sup>saying, "We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign."

Of course, upon the announcement that the LORD would soon reign as King of the world, the twenty-four elders fell on their knees and worshiped God just as they had done since they were created. Their words of worship were, "We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. ..." It was God the Father who symbolically gave the LORD God (God the Son), all the power needed to reign over the world. He has had it all along; He could have come at any time to be the King, but a plan was in place for the world and that included allowing Satan time to do his thwarted will. But his time in office was soon coming to a close. Satan had never really been in control and soon he would be removed from his office completely.

### c) The Decision in Heaven (11:18)

*Rev 11:18* "And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time ~~came~~ for the dead to be judged, and ~~the time~~ to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth."