

Chapter Twenty

The Temple, Two Witnesses, And The Seventh Trumpet

(Revelation 11:1-19)

I. Measuring The Temple Of God. (11:1-2)

Revelation 11:1-2(NKJV) ¹Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. ²And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. ³But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot *for* forty-two months.

Throughout history God has been calling sinners to repentance. That is his love and grace. It was during a time of a dark and long rebellion that God called Israel and Judah to repentance. God warned them to repent through every prophet that He sent them. Look at what scripture say’s:

2 Kings 17:13-15(NKJV) ¹³Yet the Lord testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments *and* My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets.” ¹⁴Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the Lord their God. ¹⁵And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His testimonies which He had testified against them; they followed idols, became idolaters, and **went after the nations who were all around them**, concerning whom the Lord had charged them that they should not do like them.

2 Chronicles 36:15-16(NKJV) ¹⁵And the Lord God of their fathers sent *warnings* to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending *them*, because He had compassion on His people and on His dwelling place. ¹⁶But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, till *there was* no remedy.

Jeremiah 44:4-6(NKJV) ⁴However I have sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising early and sending *them*, saying, “Oh, do not do this abominable thing that I hate!” ⁵But they did not listen or incline their ear to turn from their wickedness, to burn no incense to other gods. ⁶So My fury and My anger were poured out and kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are wasted *and* desolate, as it is this day.’

The picture isn't totally dark because God has always preserved a believing remnant. Those that refused to defile themselves with the world. There have been faithful messengers who have proclaimed the true message of God, to the next generation and they in turn have preached it to the following generation.

“In the future, during Earth’s darkest hour, God will raise up two exceptional and powerful preachers. They will fearlessly proclaim the gospel during the last three and one-half years of the seven-year Tribulation, the period that Jesus called “the great tribulation” (Matt. 24:21; cf. Rev. 7:14). During that time of horrific divine judgments on the earth, of rampaging hordes of demons terrorizing and slaughtering millions of people, and wickedness rampaging unrestrained, their gospel preaching, along with that of the 144,000 Jewish evangelists (7:1–10), the “angel flying in midheaven” (14:6), and the testimonies of other believers alive during that time, will be a final expression of God’s grace offered to repentant and believing sinners.”¹

I. The Command To Measure The Temple, And It’s Occupants. (11:1)

A. John was told to measure the temple but it was obviously not for the purpose of knowing its dimensions because none were given.

B. There is a possibility that God was marking it off for destruction as noted in the following verses. **(2Kings 21:13; Isaiah 28:17; Lam 2:8)**

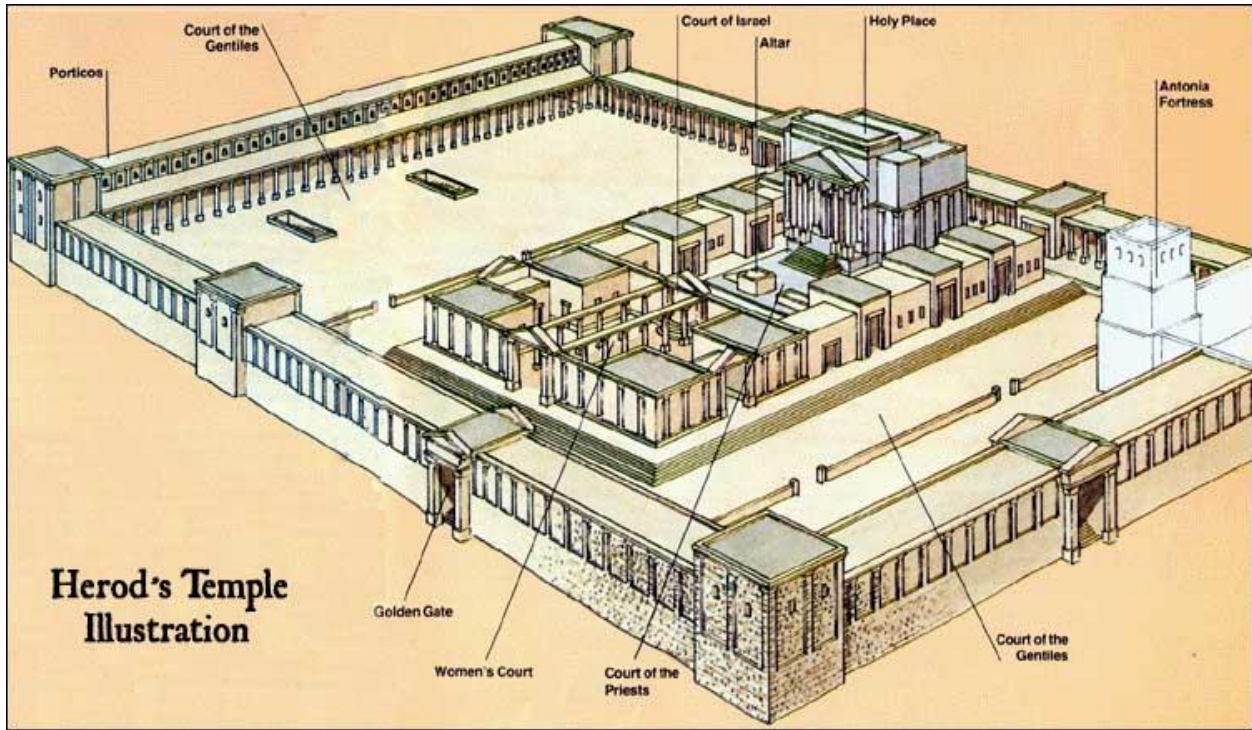
C. In this case the measuring is just the opposite. It is being measured for the purpose of showing God’s property in a sense. This is signifying ownership and he’s defining His parameters **(See Ezekiel 40:3-43:17)**. So the act of measuring seems to signify that the area belongs to God in some special way.

II. The Command Not To Measure The Outer Court. (11:2)

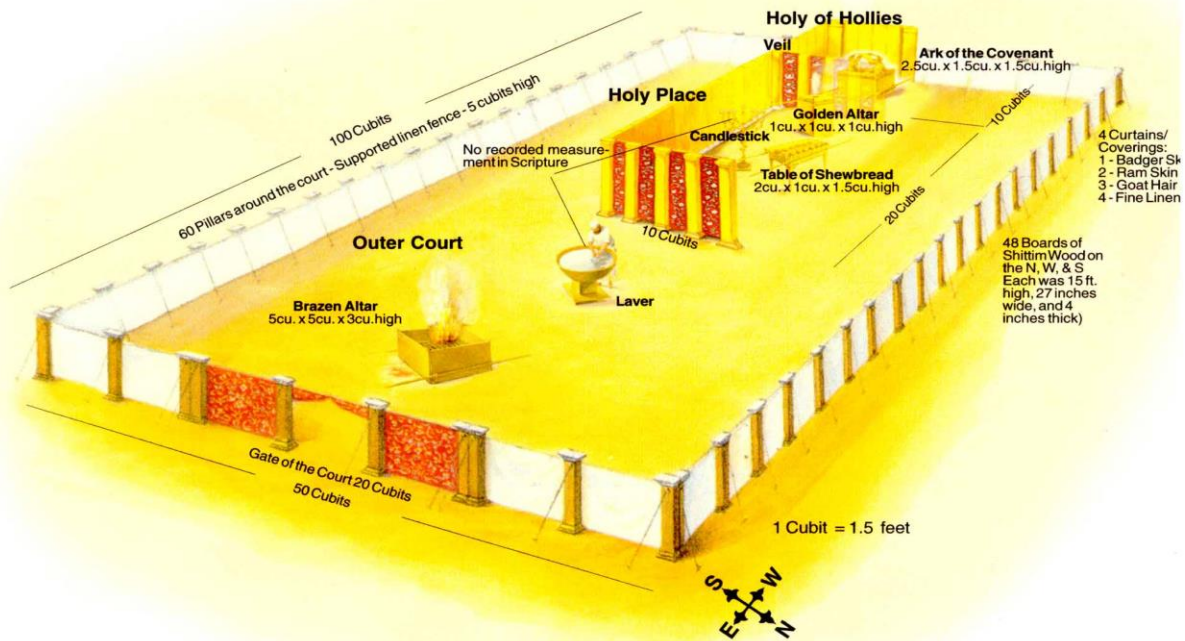
A. John was told not to measure the outer court.

B. The reason given to John was that it was going to be turned over to the Gentiles. They were going to tread the Holy City (Jerusalem) for 42 months.

¹ (MacArthur’s New Testament Commentary: Revelation 1-11 Copyright © 1999 by John MacArthur Jr. All rights reserved.)



The Structure and Dimensions of the Tabernacle



“The presence of the temple in this vision of the time of great tribulation brought with it the encouraging realization that the temple, destroyed by the Romans many years before John wrote, would be rebuilt in the future.

The Bible mentions five temples. Solomon built the first, Zerubbabel built the second after the exile, Herod built the third (during the time of Christ), and the Lord Himself will build the fifth during the Millennium (Ezek. 40–48; Hag. 2:9; Zech. 6:12–13). **The temple John saw in this vision was the fourth temple, which will be built in Jerusalem during the Tribulation** (Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4), and, along with it, the Jewish sacrificial system will be restored (cf. Dan. 9:27; 12:11).

“The Tribulation temple will be built early in the first half of the Tribulation under the patronage and protection of Antichrist. Many orthodox Jews today dream of rebuilding their temple, but its site is now occupied (and in the minds of many Jews desecrated) by the Islamic shrine known as the Dome of the Rock. Because Muslims believe it to be the place from which Muhammad ascended to heaven, it is among the most sacred shrines in the Islamic world.

For the Jews to wrest that site away from the Muslims and build their temple there would be unthinkable in today’s political climate. But during the Tribulation, under the protection of Antichrist (cf. Dan. 9:24–27), they will be able to rebuild the temple.”²

Let’s talk about John’s instructions on measuring the temple. He was told to leave something out, which was the outer court. Gentiles were forbidden to go beyond the outer court otherwise they would defile the temple.

Acts 21:27-29(NKJV) ²⁷Now when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, ²⁸crying out, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all *men* everywhere against the people, the law, and this place; and furthermore he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.” ²⁹(For they had [£]previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)

The outer court would be under Gentile control for 42 months which is 3 ½ years. Look at what Christ say’s in Luke:

Luke 21:20-24(NKJV) ²⁰“But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know

² (MacArthur’s New Testament Commentary: Revelation 1-11 Copyright © 1999 by John MacArthur Jr. All rights reserved.)

that its desolation is near. ²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²²For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. ²³But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. **And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**

II. The Two Witnesses. (11:3-14)

I. Prophecy For 1260 Days. (11:3-6)

Revelation 11:3-6(NKJV) ³And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” ⁴These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the [£]God of the earth. ⁵And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. ⁶These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

A. God will give these two witnesses power to **prophecy**, and they will be clothed in **sackcloth**. (11:3)

B. These two witnesses are identified as the two olive trees and two lampstands standing before God. (11:4)

C. God gives them His protection so no harm comes to them while they are preaching for the last 3 ½ years. It says fire will come from their mouths and devour anyone who tries to harm them. (11:5)

D. The Power of these two witnesses. (11:6)

- 1) To shut the heavens so that it doesn't rain for 3 ½ years while they are preaching.
- 2) To turn the water into blood.
- 3) To strike the earth with plagues as they desire.

II. Killed And Left In The Streets For Three And A Half Days. (11:7-10)

Revelation 11:7-10(NKJV) ⁷When they finish their testimony, **the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit** will make war against them, overcome them, and kill

them. ⁸And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also [£]our Lord was crucified. ⁹Then *those* from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations [£]will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. ¹⁰And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

A. When they finish what God wants accomplished, God will permit these two witnesses to be killed by the **beast. (11:7)**

- 1) Who is this beast that ascends from the bottomless pit?
- 2) This beast will make war against the two witnesses and kill them.

B. The Beast will let their bodies lie in the streets of the great city. (11:8)

- 1) What is the **great city**? It was none other than Jerusalem.
- 2) Spiritually it is called Sodom and Egypt.
- 3) So there is no mistake that it is Jerusalem that John is talking about he says that it is where Christ was crucified.

C. The people who dwell on the earth. **(11:9-10)**

- 1) They will the bodies of the two witnesses for 3 ½ days.
- 2) The people will not allow them to be buried.
- 3) Because these two witnesses tormented them for 3 ½ years and they were finally killed, they began to rejoice and party and send it other gifts.

III. The Witnesses Resurrected. (11:11-14)

Revelation 11:11-14(NKJV) ¹¹Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. ¹²And [£]they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. ¹³In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. ¹⁴The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

A. After 3 ½ days God breathed in them the breath of life. **(11:11)**

- 1) They stood on their feet and great fear fell over the people.

B. A voice from heaven tells them to “Come up here” and they ascended to heaven in a cloud and their enemies saw them. **(11:12)**

C. As they were being taken to heaven, there was an earthquake. **(11:13)**

- 1) A tenth of the city (Jerusalem) fell
- 2) Seven thousand people were killed by the earthquake.
- 3) This struck fear in the people and they gave glory to the God of heaven.

D. The second woe is complete and the third one is coming. **(11:14)**

III. The Seventh Trumpet: The Kingdom Of Christ. **(11:15-19)**

I. Victory Proclaimed. **(11:15)**

Revelation 11:15(NKJV) ¹⁵Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “**The ^ƒkingdoms** of this world have become *the kingdoms of our Lord* and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

Revelation 11:15(NASB) ¹⁵Then 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 ^ƒChrist; and He will reign forever and ever.”

A. The seventh angel sounds his trumpet and loud voices began to proclaim what is going to happen. They were going wild in their praise to God. Everything is coming to finality.

B. The kingdom or kingdoms of this world will become Gods and Christ’s. We view the world as divided into smaller territories and nations, which changes constantly. But God sees the world as it truly is, a dark kingdom ruled by the “Prince of Darkness”. Three times in the Gospel of John Jesus called Satan the ruler of this world.

John 12:31(NKJV) ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now **the ruler of this world** will be cast out.

John 14:30(NKJV) ³⁰I will no longer talk much with you, for **the ruler of this world** is coming, and he has nothing in Me.

John 16:11(NKJV) ¹¹of judgment, because **the ruler of this world** is judged.

In the future Satan will be ruling on earth (temporarily I might add) over a united fallen humanity through one visible kingdom under the Antichrists leadership.

II. The Twenty-Four Elders Worship God. (11:16-18)

Revelation 11:16-18(NKJV) ¹⁶And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷saying: “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was [£]and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. ¹⁸The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, **And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants prophets and the saints,** And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth.”

A. It states that the twenty-four elders fell down on their face and began to worship God. He is about to take his seat on his throne, this is what they been waiting for.

1) They gave him thanks because He has taken His great power and has begun to reign in His full power and glory. It doesn't look good for Satan.

Psalms 24:1-2(NKJV) ¹The earth *is* the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. ²For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters.

2) The nations are angry and His wrath has come. The anger of the nations has been building since the opening of the seals; they are becoming more defiant and enraged at the prospect that Christ is going to establish His kingdom on earth. But they have not seen the full wrath of God. Now they will see the undiluted wrath of God coming forth thru Christ as he returns to earth to take over.

3) The elders said “that the time of the dead (*has come*) that they should be judged.” What judgment is this and who does it include. Some believe this is talking about the wicked dead here, including wicked Israel plus the rest of wicked mankind. This is good time to see how many resurrections the bible talks about. The following article, by Dr. David Reagan was borrowed from the “**Lamb and Lion Ministries**” website: *Note bible verses were added by me for emphasis.*

Multiple Resurrections

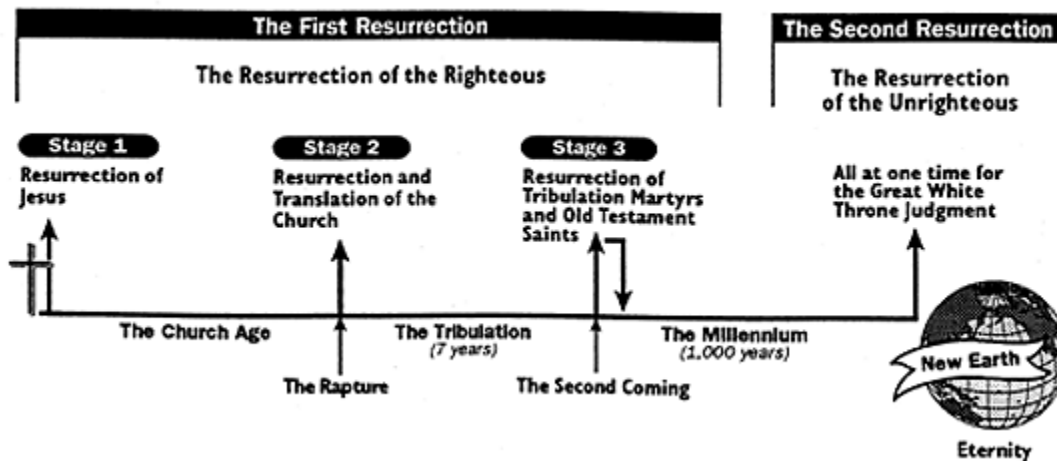
“Concerning resurrection, Jesus clearly taught that there would be more than one resurrection. In [John 5:29](#) He refers to a "resurrection of life" and a "resurrection of judgment." The apostle Paul confirmed this concept in his defense before Felix when he stated that he believed the teaching of the prophets "that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked" ([Acts 24:15](#)).

John 5:28-29(NKJV) ²⁸Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹and come forth—those who have done good, to the **resurrection of life**, and those who have done evil, to the **resurrection of condemnation**.

Acts 24:15(NKJV) ¹⁵I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of *the* dead, both of ***the just*** and ***the unjust***.

Of course, it could be argued that the two resurrections referred to in these scriptures will occur at the same time. Thus, because they will happen simultaneously, there is, in effect, only one resurrection. However, the Scriptures establish the fact that the resurrection of the righteous will occur in stages.

In other words, the Bible does not teach one resurrection or even two resurrections in number. Rather, it teaches that there will be two resurrections in type which will be conducted in stages, resulting in several resurrections — at least four, to be specific.



The Resurrection of the Just

That the resurrection of the righteous will occur in stages is clearly taught in [1 Corinthians 15:20-24](#). In fact, the first stage of the resurrection of the righteous has already happened, for verse 20 says that "Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep."

1 Corinthians 15:20-24(NKJV) ²⁰But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³**But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming.** ²⁴Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

Verses 22 and 23 go on to explain that all who have died in Christ shall be made alive, "but each in his own order: Christ, the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming."

The imagery of the harvest that is used in these verses is a key to understanding the first resurrection — the resurrection of the righteous.

The Harvest Imagery

In Bible times the harvest was conducted in three stages. It began with the gathering of the first fruits which were offered as a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God.

It proceeded with the general harvest. But not all was taken in this harvest. Some of the crop was left in the field to be gathered by the poor and the needy. This was called the gleanings ([Leviticus 19:9-10](#)).

Using this imagery, the Bible presents the resurrection of Jesus as the "first fruits" of the resurrection of the righteous. The gathering of the Church Age saints, living and dead, at the appearing of the Lord (the Rapture) is thus the general harvest stage of the resurrection of the righteous ([John 14:1-3](#) and [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)).

But there is a third and final stage to this resurrection of the righteous. It is the gleanings, and it occurs at the end of the Tribulation when the Lord's Second Coming takes place. At that time two final groups of the righteous will be resurrected: 1) the Tribulation martyrs ([Revelation 20:4](#)), and 2) the Old Testament saints ([Dan 12:2](#)).

Revelation 20:4(NKJV) ⁴And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image,

and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Daniel 12:1-2(NKJV) ¹“At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people; **And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, *Even to that time.* And at that time your people shall be delivered,** Every one who is found written in the book. ² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

Daniel 12:1-2(NASB) ¹“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands *guard* over the sons of your people, will arise. **And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.** ²“Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace *and* everlasting contempt.

Some people are startled by the thought that the Old Testament saints will not be resurrected until the end of the Tribulation. But keep in mind that the Rapture is a promise to the Church, and the Church only. Also, the book of Daniel makes it clear that the Old Testament saints will be resurrected at the end of the "time of distress" ([Daniel 12:1-2](#)).

So the first resurrection, the resurrection of the righteous, occurs in three stages, beginning with Christ, continuing with the Church at the Rapture, and culminating with the Tribulation martyrs and the Old Testament saints at the return of Jesus.

The Resurrection of the Unjust

The second type of resurrection, "the resurrection of the wicked" ([Acts 24:15](#)), will take place all at one time at the end of the millennial reign of Jesus. This is at the time of the Great White Throne Judgment, the judgment of the damned ([Revelation 20:11-15](#)).

Every person who ever failed to relate to God in faith will be resurrected at this time, regardless of when he or she may have lived and died — whether before or after the Cross. This resurrection will also include the unjust who died during the Tribulation and the Millennium.

There will be no need for an additional resurrection of the righteous at the end of the Millennium, because all those born during that time who accept Jesus as their Savior will live to the end of the Lord's reign ([Isaiah 65:19-20](#)). "As the lifetime of a tree, so shall be the days of

My people,'... says the Lord" ([Isaiah 65:22,25](#)). In other words, life spans during the Millennium will be returned to what they were at the beginning of time, before the flood."³

3. The Temple Of God Opened In Heaven. (11:19)

Revelation 11:19(NKJV) ¹⁹Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of [£]His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

A. The temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple.

1) This is where the presence of God dwells. The ark is revealed and symbolizes the covenant that God promised to man, his unbroken communion and fellowship.

2) The earthly tabernacle was a copy of the heavenly temple.

Exodus 25:8-9(NKJV) ⁸And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. ⁹**According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings,** just so you shall make *it*.

Hebrews 8:1-6(NKJV) ¹Now *this is* the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, ²a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man. ³For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore *it is* necessary that this One also have something to offer. ⁴For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; ⁵**who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle.** For He said, "*See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.*" [£] ⁶But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.

B. There were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

³ (Resurrections and Judgments How many and when? by [Dr. David R. Reagan](#)
http://www.lamblion.com/articles/articles_eternity4.php)