

Briefing Document: The Two Witnesses: Lesson 2

Sunday PM: August 30, 2026

Executive Summary

This briefing document synthesizes a study on the opening verses of Revelation 11, focusing on the emergence of the two witnesses and the measurement of the temple during the end times. The core theme is God's persistent grace; even during the Great Tribulation, He provides messengers to call humanity to repentance. Key takeaways include the symbolic meaning of "measuring" as an act of divine ownership, the prophetic necessity of a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, and the miraculous ministry, death, and resurrection of two unique individuals who confront the world's rebellion before the final judgments.

Community and Ministry Context

Prior to the theological study, several community initiatives and prayer concerns were noted to provide context for the ministry's current endeavors:

- **Missions and Outreach:** The primary mission focus is a local pregnancy center. Additional efforts include the "Hug a Bear" ministry and the "Operation Christmas Child" (OCC) boxes, which require items such as hairbrushes, combs, and clothing (excluding toothpaste).
- **Support Groups:** A grief support group is currently organizing, and AA meetings are held twice weekly.
- **Upcoming Events:** A women's interdenominational Bible study begins on September 9th, followed by a women's conference on September 12th.
- **Scripture Memory:** The focus verse for the month is *Ecclesiastes 3:11: "He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end."*

The Act of Measuring: Ownership and Protection

The study begins with *Revelation 11:1-2: "Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, 'Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. But 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.'"*

The Significance of the "Kalamos" [^1]

John is given a *kalamos*, a reed from the Jordan Valley. These reeds are:

- **Physical Characteristics:** Hollow like bamboo, lightweight, yet remarkably strong.
- **Versatility:** They were used as walking sticks, pens, and measuring tools similar to a yardstick.
- **Length:** They typically grew between 10 and 15 feet high.

Biblical Meaning of Measurement

In the Bible, measuring something often signifies two things:

1. **Judgment:** Defining the boundaries of an area set for destruction.
2. **Ownership and Preservation:** Marking off property that belongs to God.

In the context of Revelation 11, the measurement represents God's possession. By measuring the temple and the worshippers, God is identifying the Jewish people as His chosen possession, ensuring their preservation and favored position even during times of intense persecution.

The Tribulation Temple

A significant point of the study is the existence of a temple during the tribulation. This is noteworthy because the historical temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D., approximately 25 years before John received this vision.

Prophetic Rebuilding

Scripture indicates that a temple must be rebuilt in Jerusalem to fulfill end-time prophecies:

- **Old Testament Prophecies:** *Amos 9:11* states, "In that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old." Other prophets, including Micah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Ezekiel, also spoke of a future temple.
- **The Antichrist's Pact:** *Daniel 9:27* describes a seven-year peace treaty between the Antichrist and Israel. In the middle of this "week" (after three and a half years), the Antichrist will stop the sacrifices and grain offerings. For sacrifices to be stopped, a temple must exist.
- **The Abomination of Desolation:** The Antichrist will eventually desecrate the *naos* [²] (the inner temple) by declaring himself to be God and setting up a monument to himself.

The Two Witnesses

The two witnesses are described as remarkable individuals who appear at the midpoint of the seven-year tribulation to prophesy for 1,260 days (three and a half years).

Their Power and Ministry

The witnesses are granted supernatural abilities to protect their message:

- **Defense:** Fire proceeds from their mouths to devour enemies who try to harm them.
- **Judgments:** They have the power to stop rain, turn water into blood, and strike the earth with plagues.
- **Global Visibility:** Because of modern technology, the entire world will be able to see their ministry and their eventual death.

Death and Resurrection

After their testimony is finished, the "beast" (the Antichrist) will overcome and kill them.

- **The Spectacle:** Their bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem (referred to spiritually as Sodom and Egypt) for three and a half days. The world will celebrate their deaths by sending gifts, as these prophets "tormented" them by speaking against their sin.
- **The Ascension:** After three and a half days, God will breathe life back into them. They will stand up and ascend to heaven in a cloud while their enemies watch. This event mirrors the resurrection of Jesus and serves as a powerful, final testimony.

Divine Purpose: The Persistence of Grace

The primary reason for the two witnesses is the grace of God. Even as the seventh trumpet approaches—which ushers in the most severe "bowl" judgments—God continues to offer an invitation to humanity.

- **Final Opportunity:** Alongside the 144,000 Jewish evangelists and an angel flying in mid-heaven, these two witnesses represent the final call to repentance.
- **The End of the Age:** As Jesus stated in *Matthew 24:14*: "*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*"
- **Conclusion of Ministry:** Once the witnesses ascend, the most terrible and rapid judgments will fall upon the earth, leading to the Battle of Armageddon and the eventual establishment of Christ's millennial kingdom.

Phonetic and Definition Guide

Greek Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Kalamos	KAH-lah-mose	A reed or stalk used as a measuring rod, walking stick, or pen.
Naos	NAH-ose	The inner temple, specifically the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies.

[^1]: Referring to the measuring instrument mentioned in Revelation 11:1. [^2]: Referring to the specific inner sanctuary mentioned as the object of John's measurement.