

Briefing Document: The Two Witnesses-Lesson 3

Sunday PM-September 6, 2026

Executive Summary

This briefing document analyzes the prophetic events surrounding the third lesson on the "Two Witnesses," focusing on the reconstruction of the Jewish temple and the spiritual state of Israel during the Tribulation. The central theme is God's continued ownership and covenant with the nation of Israel, symbolized by the act of measuring the temple in Revelation 11.

Key takeaways include:

- **The Tribulation Temple:** Scripture indicates a physical temple will exist during the Tribulation where the Antichrist will eventually establish himself as a false god.
- **Divine Ownership:** Measuring the temple signifies God's claim over the Jewish people, while the exclusion of the "outer court" indicates a temporary distinction between Jews and Gentiles.
- **The Remnant of Israel:** Despite current secularism in Israel, a spiritual awakening is predicted. While two-thirds of the population will perish during the Tribulation, a refined one-third will be saved and recognize Jesus as the Messiah.
- **The Two Witnesses:** These individuals will preach repentance and the gospel for 1,260 days during the Great Tribulation, coinciding with the reign of the Antichrist and the trampling of Jerusalem by Gentiles.

The Significance of Measuring the Temple

In Revelation 11, the Apostle John is instructed to measure the temple of God. In biblical terms, the act of measuring represents ownership. By ordering this measurement, God is demonstrating that the temple and the people associated with it belong to Him.

This act of measuring serves as a reminder that God has not permanently set aside His people, Israel. Even though the temple did not exist at the time John received this vision, the prophecy confirms its future restoration as a central location for God's redemptive purposes.

The Chronology of the Temples

The source outlines a sequence of five distinct temples in the history and future of Israel:

1. **The First Temple:** Built by King Solomon.

2. **The Second Temple:** Built by Zerubbabel (referred to as Jerobo in the transcript) after the Babylonian exile.
3. **The Third Temple:** Built and expanded by Herod the Great.
4. **The Fourth Temple (The Tribulation Temple):** This temple will be built by Jews at the beginning of the seven-year Tribulation period. It is this temple that the Antichrist will eventually desecrate.
5. **The Fifth Temple (The Millennial Temple):** Established by the Lord Himself during His thousand-year reign on Earth, as described in Ezekiel 40–48.

Currently, the site of the temple (Mount Moriah) is occupied by the Dome of the Rock, a significant Islamic shrine. Prophecy suggests the Antichrist will facilitate a peace treaty allowing the Jews to rebuild their temple and reinstate their ancient sacrificial system.

The Antichrist and the Abomination of Desolation

The Antichrist will rise to power by making a pact with Israel, providing them the freedom to worship. However, this peace is short-lived. At the midpoint of the seven-year Tribulation (after three and a half years), he will break the treaty.

- **Desecration:** The Antichrist will halt Jewish worship and "abominate" the temple.
 - **Self-Exaltation:** He will seat himself in the temple, demanding that the world worship him as God.
 - **Scriptural Basis:** This event is described in *2 Thessalonians 2:4*: *...who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*
 - **The Abomination:** Jesus also spoke of this in *Matthew 24:15*: *"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand).*
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The Spiritual Awakening and Refinement of Israel

While most modern Israelis are secular or focused on nationalism rather than religion, the reinstatement of the sacrificial system is expected to refocus their hearts on the need for a redeemer. The blood of animals cannot take away sins, which will lead many to look for the true Messiah.

The One-Third Remnant

The Bible predicts a harsh purging of the nation during this time. According to *Zechariah 13:8-9*: *"And it shall come to pass in all the land," says the Lord, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire,*

will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; and each one will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"

Recognizing the Pierced Messiah

As the Jews face the pressures of the Tribulation and the preaching of the 144,000 witnesses, their hearts will turn toward Jesus. *Zechariah 12:10* states: *"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they have pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn."*

The Separation of Jews and Gentiles

In Revelation 11:2, John is told: *"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."*

This distinction is critical for several reasons:

- **End of the Church Age:** During the current Church age, there is no distinction between Jew and Gentile. However, in the Tribulation, the "middle wall of partition" returns. The Church is no longer present on Earth, and God resumes His specific covenant dealings with Israel.
 - **The Outer Court:** God does not "measure" or claim ownership of the outer court because it has been surrendered to the Gentiles for a specific period.
 - **The Time of the Gentiles:** For 42 months (three and a half years), Gentile armies will dominate and overrun Jerusalem. This period matches the reign of the Antichrist. As noted in *Luke 21:24*: *"And 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."*
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The Ministry of the Two Witnesses

The Two Witnesses appear during the second half of the Tribulation, known as the Great Tribulation. Their ministry lasts for 1,260 days, which is exactly three and a half years.

- **Message:** They preach a message of repentance, judgment (specifically regarding the upcoming "bowl judgments"), and the gospel.
- **Purpose:** Their preaching serves as a final stimulus for the repentance of Israel before the second coming of Christ.

- **Protection for the Remnant:** During this time of intense persecution, many Jews will flee into the wilderness to a place prepared by God, potentially the city of Petra, where they will be protected for 1,260 days (*Revelation 12:6*).

Greek Word Guide

Greek Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition
Ecclesia [¹]	eh-klay-SEE-ah	A "called-out" assembly or congregation; used here to refer to the church or the book of Ecclesiastes.

[¹]: The speaker uses "Ecclesia" to refer to the source of the memory verse *Ecclesiastes 3:11*: *He has made everything beautiful in His 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.*