

AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Chapters 11-12

Keys In Chapter Eleven:

1. I believe chapter eleven is a symbolic overview of the contents of the little book introduced in chapter ten.
2. The measuring of the temple draws from Old Testament symbolism relating to protection (vv. 1-2; Ezek. 40:3-42:20; Zech. 2:1; Jer. 38-40).
3. In this case, I see the measuring as indicating that the church will not be destroyed.
4. There will, however, be persecution—the trampling of the court (v. 2; cf. 2:10).
5. I believe the two witnesses represent the martyr element emphasized in Revelation (vv. 3-13).
6. The martyrs will be protected so they can give their testimony (vv. 3-7; cf. 7:3).
7. After testifying, they are killed (vv. 7-9).
8. Therefore, I see the two witnesses as representing the same idea as the 144, 000—the complete number of martyrs (6:9-11; 7:1-8).
9. The *olive trees* and the *lampstands* draw from Zechariah 4:3, 11, 14 where they stood respectively for God's Spirit and the two anointed ones, Joshua and Zerubbabel, who spoke for God.
10. Rome now joins Egypt, Sodom, and Jerusalem as great enemies of God (v. 8).
11. 3½ is a symbol of something unfinished—two such periods complete a cycle by adding up to seven (vv. 2, 3, 9, 11).
12. The martyrs cause is eventually vindicated, just when the enemy believes that it has won (vv. 10-12; cf. 20:4).
13. Rome is then judged and punished, and some of the enemy repents (v. 13; cf. 19:21).
14. The church will not be defeated (vv. 15-17).
15. Ultimately Judgment Day will settle all matters (vv. 18-19; cf. 20:11-15).
16. The remainder of the book of Revelation will deal with various aspects of the story of the little book.
17. Again and again the fate of the enemy will be repeated as the church is assured that the defeat of all that opposes God is sure (i.e. 14:17-20; 16:19; 18:2, 21; 19:2, 19-21; 20:15)!
18. The immediate and ultimate victory of the faithful saints is not in doubt (20:4; 21-22).

Keys To Chapter Twelve:

1. Chapter twelve begins an introduction of the cast of characters that will be the major players in the drama Revelation unfolds.

2. The woman clothed with the sun represents the idea of the *God's People*, first *The Israel of God*, then *The Church*, also *The Jerusalem Above* (vv. 1, 4-6, 14-17; Gal. 4:26).
3. Compare verse one with Genesis 37:9 to see the association with God's people as Israel.
4. The child is Jesus (vv. 2, 4-5).
5. The dragon/serpent is Satan (vv. 3-4, 7-9, 12-13, 17).
6. The *rest of her offspring* are Christians (v. 17).
7. Satan attempts to defeat Jesus at the crucifixion, but Jesus actually wins through death as He goes to be with the Father (vv. 2-5; Acts 2:32-33; Jn. 12:31-32).
8. Satan is expelled from access to heaven (vv. 7-10; Job 1-2; Zech. 3:1; Rom. 8:31-39).
9. Satan was unsuccessful in his first attempts to destroy the church, but he only became more determined to succeed (vv. 15-17).
10. Satan hates people who live right and who tell the story of Jesus—God loves them (v. 17).
11. The key to *overcoming* is a combination of: Jesus' blood, the word of the Christian's testimony, and a love for Jesus that is greater than for life itself (v. 11; cf. Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21).
12. Through: *salvation, and the power of the kingdom of our God, and the authority of Christ*, Satan has been defeated (10).
13. Chapter thirteen will introduce Satan's forces—the Roman Empire and those who serve the Emperor's insistence on being worshipped as a god.
14. Also, chapter thirteen will bring to our attention the number **666**.