

APPLY

- In the OT, the Temple was where God made His presence known. In Ezekiel 8:6,9,12,14,17, what caused God's presence to depart from it? What are Jesus' 'woes' against the Temple authorities (scribes) and Jerusalem in Matt. 23, leading to Jerusalem being destroyed in 70AD? How can you guard yourself from these same pitfalls?
- 'Two witness' in scripture were required to establish a credible or reliable report, so it may be that John is not talking about 2 literal witnesses here but believers bearing witness as a testimony to the truth of Jesus. What are some ways you can witness to unbelieving neighbours or friends?
- The oil of olive trees and lamp stands symbolize God's anointing and God's light within the witnesses (v.4). How can you bring God's presence and light to others as a witness?

DISCUSSION CLOSE/HOMEWORK

- In verse 6, the witnesses are described as having the spiritual authority of Elijah and Moses in being able to stop the rain or turn water to blood - images from the OT (1 Kings 17, Exodus 7:20). What were they up against?
- Do you believe our prayers can have this same kind of authority, as it says in James 5:17-18? Why? Why not?
- God gives us prayer as a weapon. How can you rely upon the power of prayer when facing a difficult situation?

GROUP PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray for a new level of desire to be a witness to Jesus.
- Pray for greater faith and a closer walk with God for greater authority to make your prayers more effective.
- Thank Jesus for His victory over your life and make a fresh surrender to Him so that you will experience it!



HOPE Unveiled 12

Book of
REVELATION
message series

Week 12: Jesus Wins!

Key Text: Revelation 11

OPEN

At chapter 11, we reach the half-way mark in Revelation – and again, though chapter 11 is another chapter of difficulty, it is a chapter of hope that tells us ahead of time that in the end Jesus wins! As the 7th trumpet is blown, it's declared: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah"(v.15). In this chapter, John is shown a contrast between the earthly temple in Jerusalem and "God's temple in heaven"(v.19). Just as John prophesies, Jerusalem – "the holy city" – and its earthly temple were "trampled" by the Romans in AD70. But the true temple of God's presence is now with believers who will be resurrected at Jesus' return. Believers are now God's living temple (see 1 Peter 2:4-5).

REFLECT

- John is told to "measure" the earthly temple, like Ezekiel in the OT (Ez. 8, 40-43). What does 'measuring' symbolize?
- The first temple of Ezekiel's time was destroyed by Babylon. Now, John sees the Jerusalem of Jesus' day (Matt. 24) being destroyed again. Why do you believe God allowed both temples to be destroyed (586 BC, 70AD)?
- During this destruction at the hands of the Gentiles/Romans, God protects His witnesses (verses 3-6). How?