



# THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD

## CHRIST THE LORD PARISH

1-5 ADMIRALITY ROAD, LEKKI PHASE 1, LEKKI

SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2024

**THEME: LAST DAYS EVENTS**

**TOPIC: THE TWO WITNESSES, SEVENTH TRUMPET, THE WOMAN AND THE DRAGON**

**TEXT: REVELATION 11:1-4, 7-12, 15-19; REVELATION 12:1-5, 7-11,17**

**INTRODUCTION:** So far, we have been studying about the last days and activities during this period. Last week we learnt about the bottomless pit, demons in River Euphrates and the Antichrist. Today, we shall continue with chapter 11, a chapter of hope despite worrying happenings between the sixth and seventh trumpet judgements during the great tribulation, including the fate of the holy city (Jerusalem), mission of two powerful witnesses followed by the announcement of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet. Chapter 12 which also gives hope is about the woman and her child, and a series of events including conflict in heaven and on earth, persecution by the evil one, divine protection and the ultimate triumph of good over evil.

**OUTLINE 1: THE TWO WITNESSES:** Revelation 11: 1 – 19.

**Measurement of the temple:** Revelation 11: 1-2, Matthew 24:15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4. John is instructed to measure the temple, altar and its worshippers. *The temple refers to the temple that will be built on earth in Jerusalem by the Jews in future and will be the site of bad events to happen in fulfilment of Daniel 9:27; 11:31 and 2 Thessalonians 2: 3-4 where Paul says the antichrist will sit in the temple of God.* The measurement of the temple indicates God knows the dimension and is in control. The outer part of the court should not be measured as it has been given out to the Gentiles, who will possess it and trample on the holy city.

**The two witnesses:** Revelation 11:3-6: Revelation 11: 3-6. During this period of 3 ½ years, God's two witnesses empowered by the Holy spirit and dressed in sack cloth will prophesy. They are also referred to as the two olive trees (oil representing the Holy Spirit) and two lampstands who stand in the presence of the Lord. As the witnesses were empowered continually by the Holy Spirit, we need to have an encounter with Jesus and need the power of the Holy Spirit to be effective witnesses on earth. The witnesses are specially protected by God.

**Witnesses killed ascend to heaven:** Revelation 11: 7 -13. The witnesses will complete their testimonies after 42 months and the Beast from the Abyss will fight and kill them, leaving their corpses on the street of Jerusalem. People will cheer and after 3 ½ days, the Living Spirit of God will enter the witnesses, who will ascend to heaven wrapped in a cloud while the enemies watch. In the same hour, an earthquake will bring judgement (in which the tenth part of Jerusalem will fall and 7000 perish) and the survivors will give honour to the God of heaven. This will put an end to the second woe (Revelation 9:13-21) and the third will follow quickly.

### **B. REVELATION 11: 15 – 17: THE SEVENTH TRUMPET SOUND/ANTICHRISTIAN POWERS DESTROYED AND A GLORIOUS STATE OF CHRIST KINGDOM ON EARTH.**

The seventh Angel will then trumpet, signifying the dominion of God's kingdom all over the world, with a crescendo of voices in heaven singing 'The kingdom of the world is now, the kingdom of our God and his Messiah, Jesus, who will rule forever. The 24 elders seated before God on their thrones will then fall to their knees and worship God and give thanks to Him, for the hour that has now come for judgement, reward and destruction.

**Rewards for the righteous:** Revelation 11: 18 – 19, There will be judgement of the dead and rewards for God's prophets, saints and all who fear God, while those who destroy the earth will be destroyed. Following this, the doors of God's Temple in heaven will open, revealing the Ark of his Covenant (indicating God's presence), surrounded by lightening, loud shouts, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a fierce hailstorm.

### **OUTLINE 2: THE WOMAN AND THE CHILD: Revelation 12: 1 – 17**

**Vision of a woman:** Revelation 12:1-2, Genesis 37:9-11. The vision of a pregnant woman clothed in the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head is seen by John in a great wonder or sign. The woman in pain represents Israel (Genesis 37: 9-11), and the pain from the woman is believed to be the travail of Israel at the time of the birth of Jesus, when Jerusalem was under Roman occupation and oppression.

**Vision of the dragon:** Revelation 12: 3-4, Daniel 7:7-8. The red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, with seven crowns implies the dragon had great power and fake claims of royal authority. It seems like the dragon described in Daniel 7. The dragon's tail drew a third of the stars of heaven, which refer to the third of the angelic host in league with Satan, who were driven out of heaven and who now make up demonic spirits who govern for him on earth. He stood before the woman so he could devour the woman's child.

**The woman and the birth of her child:** Rev.12: 5-6, Psalm 2:9, Rev. 19:15. The woman bore the man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron and her child was caught up to God and His throne. This clearly refers to the birth of Jesus. Verse 5 also refers to the ascension of Jesus, after His resurrection. The woman fled to the wilderness, a place prepared by God for her where she is hidden for 1260 days, which is the second half of the 7 years of Daniel 9 prophecy. (verse 6).

**Conflict in heaven/Victory over Satan:** Rev. 12: 7 – 9, Daniel 12:1, Job 1:6-12, Revelation 12:10. Following this is a war in heaven, with Michael and the angels on one side and the dragon and his agents on the other. The battle happens during the great tribulation. At the midpoint of the great tribulation, God will turn the tide against Satan in heaven and then on earth. Once Satan and his angels are cast out, they will no longer have access to heaven. We must always be wary of the enemy and realize that we fight a spiritual battle with Satan. (Ephesians 6:12).

**Triumphant song/rejoicing in heaven:** Revelation12: 10 - 11. There in heaven, a song of triumph was sung by the inhabitants of heaven because salvation and strength had come to them and because of the kingdom and power of Christ which now took place and the ejection of Satan and his angels and the manner he was overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony and by their death. The blood overcomes Satan's accusations and speaks to us of the real physical death of Jesus on our behalf before God. They also overcame him by the word of their testimony, which overcomes Satan's deceptions. We need an intercessor and advocate (Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1).

**Conflict on earth/Persecution of and help for the woman:** Revelation12: 13 – 14. Then the dragon persecuted the woman. The persecution of Israel is part of the satanic program to thwart and hinder the work of God. He hates Israel because Israel was instrumental in bringing Jesus into the world. Satan's attack fails and the Jewish refugees will be placed in a safe place in the wilderness for 3 ½ years, the second half of the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel.

**War against the remnant of the woman's seed:** Revelation 12: 15 – 17. Satan will then make war with the remnant of the woman's seed who kept the commandments of God and had the testimony of Jesus. This refers to Israel (the woman) and the remnant of the woman's seed refers to those who come to have faith in Jesus during the great tribulation.

**CONCLUSION:** The Lord is coming back soon. Before then, though there will be trials which signify the coming of a divine kingdom where God will reign supreme. As believers, we have hope because God's protection will prevail even when it seems evil dominates. As Christians, we are assured that no matter what persecution we suffer on earth, God is always in control. The battle is already won, as the Lord will rule and Satan's time is limited. We must identify with the winning side and be effective witnesses - like the two witnesses who powerfully testified - and never backslide.