REVELATION 11

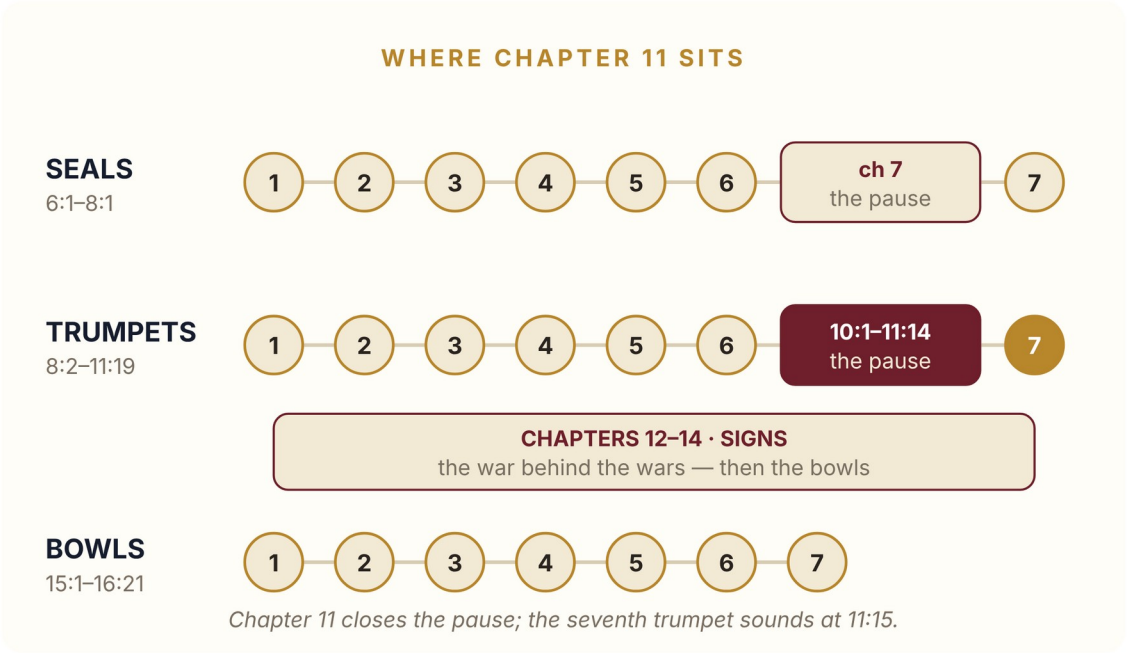
The Two Witnesses: The Kingdom of Our Lord

“Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.””
REVELATION 11:15

Where John has brought us

1. Chapter 11 picks up exactly where chapter 10 left off.

2. This is one of the most debated chapters in the book.



The Temple Measured

God marks off what is His; the outer court is trampled for a set time.

REVELATION 11:1

Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik weighs the view that this temple is the church, since the New Testament does call God's people a temple (Eph 2:21; 1 Pet 2:5).

WHAT IT MEANS

Before the witnesses appear, God measures. That is the comfort of these two verses: God knows exactly who and what is His.

ναός

NAOS · "TEMPLE, SANCTUARY"

Naos is not the whole temple complex but the sanctuary itself — the dwelling place of God. John measures the naos, the altar and the worshipers, and leaves out the outer court.

Two Witnesses, Oil and Fire

God grants two prophets a power no one can stop until their work is done.

REVELATION 11:3

"And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

DAVID GUZIK

Christians differ here. Some read the two witnesses as a symbol — the witnessing church, or the Law and the Prophets.

WHAT IT MEANS

The witnesses are "the two olive trees and the two lampstands" of Zechariah 4 — oil that never runs out, the Spirit's power for God's servants: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit.'

μάρτυς

MARTYS · "WITNESS"

Martys is one who testifies — a witness in court who tells what he has seen and heard. Because so many witnesses for Christ paid with their lives, the word became our English 'martyr.'

Olive Trees, Lampstands and Fire

THE TWO WITNESSES · 11:3–6



“the two olive trees and the two lampstands” (v4)

Zechariah 4 — oil that never runs out: the Spirit's power, not man's

THEIR POWER (vv3–6)	ECHOES
“fire flows out of their mouth” (v5)	Elijah · 2 Kgs 1:10
“power to shut up the sky” (v6)	Elijah · 1 Kgs 17:1; Jas 5:17
waters turned “into blood” (v6)	Moses · Exod 7:20
“clothed in sackcloth” (v3)	mourning and repentance

Elijah is most often named; Moses or Enoch for the second. Guzik: if it mattered, we'd be told.

The witnesses' power echoes Elijah and Moses, and it flows from the Spirit, like oil to a lamp.

Killed Only When Finished

The beast cannot touch them until their testimony is complete.

REVELATION 11:7

When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them.

DAVID GUZIK

Guzik sees the key in the first clause of v7: the beast cannot touch them until "they have finished their testimony." God's servants are immortal until their work is done.

WHAT IT MEANS

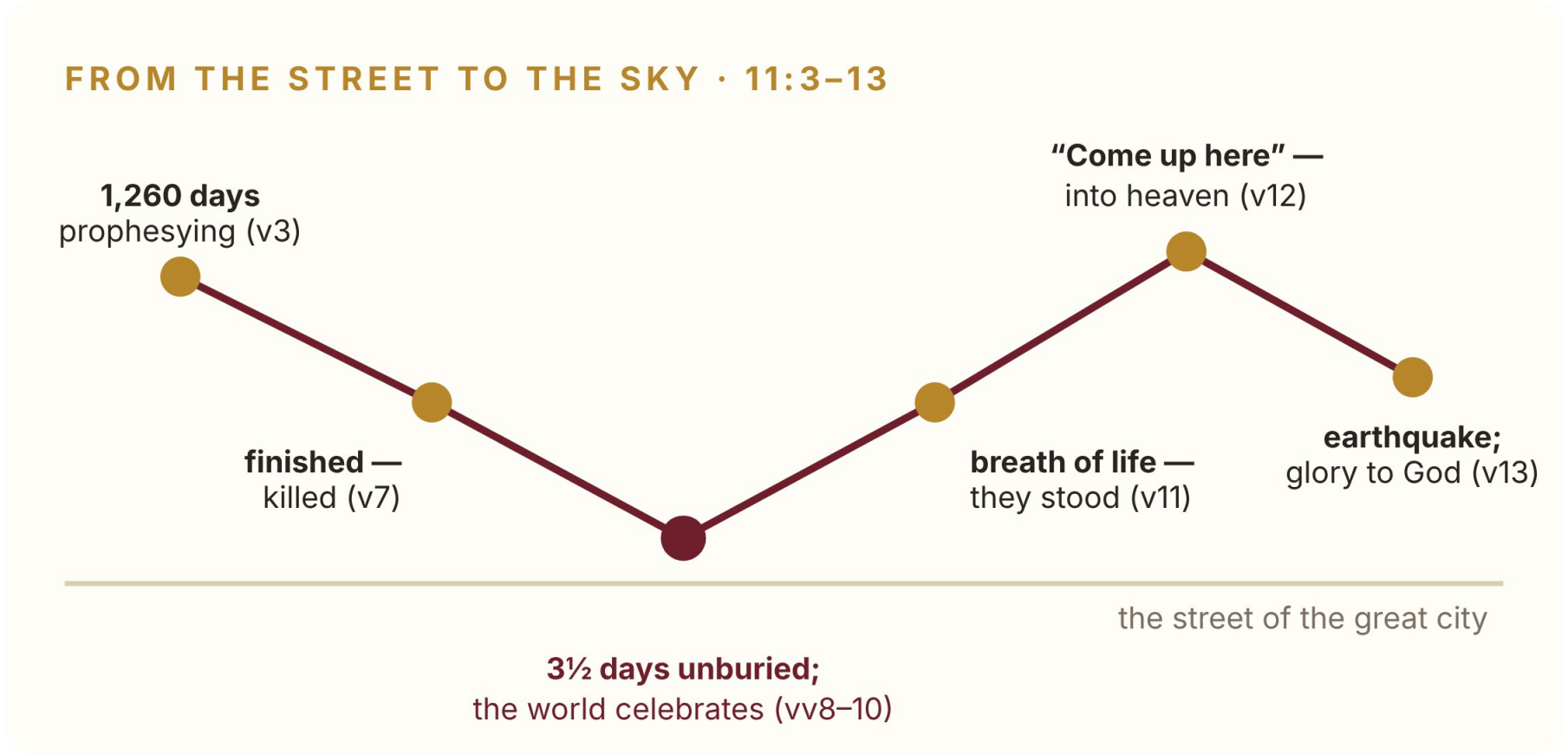
The world finally gets what it wanted. The beast that comes up out of the abyss — chapter 13 will show his face — makes war on the witnesses and kills them.

βασανίζω

BASANIZŌ · "TORMENT"

Basanizō means to torture or vex. It is a strong word for what two preachers did to a whole world: "these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth" (v10).

From the Street to the Sky



God's witnesses go down to death in the street and are raised and called up in front of their enemies.

Raised Before Their Enemies

The breath of life from God stands them on their feet.

REVELATION 11:11

But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them.

WHAT IT MEANS

After three and a half days, the breath of life from God comes into them, “and they stood on their feet.” Great fear falls on the watchers.

πνεῦμα

PNEUMA · “BREATH, SPIRIT”

Pneuma means breath, spirit, and the Spirit — one word carries all three.

The Seventh Trumpet: Christ Reigns

Heaven announces the kingdom as already won and opens its temple.

REVELATION 11:15

Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

WHAT IT MEANS

At last the seventh angel sounds: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ." The twenty-four elders fall on their faces.

βασιλεύω

BASILEUŌ · "TO REIGN"

Basileuō means to rule as king. Heaven's voices say He "will reign forever and ever" (v15), and the elders thank God that He has "begun to reign" (v17).

What to carry from this chapter

1

Measuring means ownership.

In Scripture, to measure something marks what belongs to God and what He protects.

2

A real temple.

Guzik finds the church view doesn't explain the altar, the worshipers and the outer court, and reads a literal future temple in Jerusalem.

3

Witness became martyr.

Martys means one who testifies; it became our word for those who die for their testimony.

4

Oil that never runs out.

The olive trees and lampstands come from Zechariah 4 — the Spirit's power, not man's.

More to carry

5

Immortal until finished.

Guzik: the beast cannot touch God's servants until they have finished their testimony.

6

Who they are matters less than you think.

Guzik concludes their identity must not be terribly important, or we would have been told exactly who they are.

7

Tormented by the truth.

Basanizō: the world called two preachers torture because they called it to repent.

8

Who are and who were.

The elders no longer say ‘who is to come’ as in 4:8, because at the seventh trumpet He has come.

Talk it through

1. What comfort is there in knowing God measures and marks what is His?

2. Why would men with power to call down fire still wear sackcloth?

3. Why did two preachers torment the whole world — and where has the truth tormented you?

4. What part of your story feels dead in the street, and what does v11 say God can do with it?

5. What would it look like to give Christ your whole life and not just your Sunday?

CLOSING

The world threw a party over two dead preachers, and three and a half days later God stood them on their feet. That is how the story ends for Christ's witnesses. The seventh trumpet has sounded and the kingdom is His; next, chapter 12 pulls back the curtain on the war behind it all.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

O·I·A study, slides, reflection journal and film: see the Revelation study page.