Revelation 11:1-14, “I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers.” But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. And I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.” They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.” If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified. For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

But after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.”

- The 3rd Woe is the 7th Trumpet which is the Second Coming
  - These are the last moments of repentance
- Though the Seals and the Trumpets (and later the Bowls) unlock Tribulation Events, this passage is the first overview of the Tribulation and the Antichrist
- There are 3 major things to look at:
  - The Overview of Events
  - The Measuring of the Temple
  - The 2 Witnesses (This will be for next week)

- OVERVIEW OF EVENTS
  - John measures the Temple, the Altar and the Worshippers but excludes the Outer Courts and the Gentiles
  - The Gentiles trample the holy city for 42 months (3½ years)
  - 2 Witnesses prophesy for 1,260 days (3½ years)
  - The Witnesses have powers to harm those who try to harm them and cause natural disasters
    - The word “and” in verse 3 when introducing the 2 witnesses is hard to decipher between “at the same time” or “after”
    - Our studies have shown the first 3½ years to be full of human conflict (1st 5 Seals); this matches the “Gentiles Trampling”
    - Our studies have shown the last 3½ years to be full of Acts of God (Disasters from Heaven); this matches the activities of the 2 Witnesses (no rain; water to blood; plagues)
  - The Beast comes out of the Abyss and kills them
  - Their dead bodies lay in the public square of Jerusalem for 3½ days
  - People celebrate their death for the 3½ days
  - God resurrects them and everyone is afraid!
  - Then they are raptured into heaven
  - Then a severe earthquake destroys 1/10 of Jerusalem. 7000 killed.
  - Survivors were terrified and gave glory to God!
    - This is a new reaction! Everyone else has shook their fist at God
    - This may speak of Israel who, through prophecy, we know will repent in the End Times
      Zechariah 12:10, “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”
      (The possible identity of the 2 Witnesses may confirm this…next week)
THE MEASURING OF THE TEMPLE

Vs. 1, “I was given a reed like a measuring rod”

- The Reed (Greek = kalamos):
  - A rod-like plant that grew in the Jordan Valley to a height of 15-20 ft.
  - The mock sceptre used to beat Jesus along with His crown of thorns (Matthew 27:29)
  - It was hollow and lightweight, yet rigid enough to be used as a walking staff (Ezekiel 29:6) or to be shaved down into a pen (3 John 1:13)
  - Ideal for use as a measuring rod (long, sturdy and lightweight)

- The same “reed” is used by an angel in Revelation 21:15 to measure the New Jerusalem

- It is also used to describe the “iron sceptre” by which Jesus and his overcomers will use to reign (Revelation 2:27; Revelation 12:5; Revelation 19:15)

Vs. 1, “and was told, “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers.”

- Ezekiel’s vision of the mountain of the Lord’s house includes the measuring the entire Temple including the Outer Courts
  - The act of measuring here had a purpose:
    Ezekiel 40:3-4, “He took me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze; he was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand. He said to me, “Son of man, look carefully and listen closely and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for that is why you have been brought here. Tell the people of Israel everything you see.””
  - Remember at the end of Revelation 10, John was just told to Prophecy Again

- Zechariah’s vision of Jerusalem includes measuring the whole city
  - The act of measuring here had a purpose:
    Zechariah 2:1-5, “Then I looked up, and there before me was a man with a measuring line in his hand. I asked, “Where are you going?””
    He answered me, “To measure Jerusalem, to find out how wide and how long it is.”
    While the angel who was speaking to me was leaving, another angel came to meet him and said to him: “Run, tell that young man, Jerusalem will be a city without walls because of the great number of people and animals in it. And I myself will be a wall of fire around it, declares the Lord, and I will be its glory within.”
  - Measuring testifies of its immense perimeter in the future time of blessing when God will once again inhabit it (which lines up with our timeline)

- Buildings that are measured are important and meant to be preserved
- John is measuring 3 things: The Temple; The Altar; The Worshippers
  1. The Temple: The Building where Worshippers meet with God
  2. The Altar (Golden): The Place where People meet with God
     [Or 2. The Altar (Bronze): The Place where People gain Access to God]
  3. The Worshippers: The Individuals who Worship God
   * The Building and the People are Both measured (or counted)

Vs. 2, “But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months”

- The Temple is divided into 4 major areas. The closer to the centre, the more Holy the area was:
  - Outer Court: Anyone could enter (Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews)
  - Inner Court: Jews
  - Holy Place: Consecrated (ritually purified) Jewish Priests
  - Most Holy Place: The High Priest once every year

- “The “soreg” was a fence that separated the court of the Gentiles from the rest of the Temple areas. Gentiles and ritually unclean Israelites were forbidden, on pain of death, from passing through its gates. The Jews were so zealous in keeping the “purity” of this area that they placed stones along the fence, written in Greek, which threatened death to any Gentile who would dare enter.” (biblestudy.org)

- “Gentiles” here, refers to spiritual Gentiles (Unbelievers)
  - Believers are consider “Israel”
    Romans 9:6-8, “It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring.”
Things to consider in regards to the Third Temple:

- Physical Israel (Jews) have the Promises of God even though they have rejected Jesus as the Messiah
- Spiritual Israel are Jews and Gentiles that have received Jesus as their Messiah
  - Jews and Gentiles that have not received Jesus as their Messiah are not Spiritual Israel
- To say otherwise, denies the Work and Need of the Cross
- The deliberate exclusion of the Outer Court which was deliberately given to the Gentiles shows us that this area and the people in it (Remember the Temple, Altar and Worshippers were measured earlier (counted meaningful/preserved)):
  - Aren’t important to “look”, “listen”, “pay attention to” and “tell everyone about”
  - Have no future and no time of blessing to look forward to
  - Will not be preserved
  * Think about our focus in End Times. It is important that we look at what God is doing and His People and His Promise of a Future and Blessing! Don’t get caught up in the chaos of World Governments, Economies, Social Breakdown, Wars and their Hatred towards Believers

- The Existence of a Temple (The Third Temple) is essential to Revelation Prophecy:
  Note:  The First Temple was Solomon’s Temple (O.T.)
  The Second Temple was Herod’s Temple (O.T. - N.T.)
  No Temple has been built since
  - There are numerous reports of the “man of lawlessness” or the “first beast” or what’s commonly known as the “antichrist” who will go into the Temple and declare himself god and denounce all other sacrifices to Jehovah God.
  - This is the event in the middle of the 7 years that changes 3 ½ years of the antichrist’s deception to 3 ½ years of the antichrist punishing non-worshippers
  Daniel 9:27, “He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

- Things to consider in regards to the Third Temple:
  - 1 Theory: The Temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem
    - The last Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 70AD (Revelation was written 90AD)
    - The current location of the Temple Mount is somewhat vague:
      - Jews believe the Wailing Wall is the remains of Solomon’s Temple
      - However, Jesus said that not one stone would be left on the other
        Matthew 24:2, “Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. 2 “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” ”
      - Josephus (1st century historian), “It was so thoroughly laid even with the ground by those that dug it up to the foundation, that there was left nothing to make those that came thither believe it had ever been inhabited.”
      - Eusebius (3rd century historian), “The hill called Zion and Jerusalem, the building there, that is to say, the temple has been utterly removed or shaken.”
      - When the Crusaders attacked Jerusalem (1095 - 1291)
      - Some Historians believe that the Wailing Wall is part of a Roman Fortress
      - Eleazer Ben Jair (Roman Commander at Masada circa 70AD), “It (Jerusalem) is now demolished to the very foundations, and hath nothing left but that monument of it preserved, I mean the camp of these (Romans) that hath destroyed it, which still dwells upon its ruins.”
      - Jews were quarantined from Jerusalem until the 4th Century. When they were allowed back in, they determined 4 different possible locations for the Temple Mount
      - Some believe the Temple location is actually South of the popular location in the City of David
    - 2 Chronicles 3:1 gives directions to Solomon to build the Temple on the threshing floor (in the City of David)
      2 Chronicles 3:1, “Then Solomon began to build the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to his father David. It was on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the place provided by David.”
      - David bought the land to make sacrifices there to stop a plague:
        When Araunah looked and saw the king and his officials coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground.
        2) Araunah said, “Why has my lord the king come to his servant?” “To buy your threshing floor,” David answered, “so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped.”
    - A prophecy in Micah describes the area of the temple mount:
      Micah 3:12, “Therefore because of you, Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickers.”
      - The City of David has open areas (fields). The current Temple Mount is full of buildings
- There must be a water source in the Temple for certain purification rituals
  
  Leviticus 1:9, “You are to wash the internal organs and the legs with water, and the priest is to burn all of it on the altar. It is a burnt offering, a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the Lord.”
  
  Leviticus 6:28, “The clay pot the meat is cooked in must be broken; but if it is cooked in a bronze pot, the pot is to be scoured and rinsed with water.”
  
  Leviticus 8:6, “Then Moses brought Aaron and his sons forward and washed them with water.”

- As a results, there must be a source of water nearby the Temple:
  
  Ezekiel 47:1, “The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar.”
  
  - The Gihon Spring, in the city of David, is the only water source within a 5 mile radius of Jerusalem
  
  - There is no water source at the Dome of the Rock

- The Temple Mount is owned and protected by Muslim’s
  
  - Built in circa 700 AD (3rd most holy place in the Muslim religion)
  
  - Muslim’s believe Muhammad ascended into heaven at the dome of the rock (current Temple Mount)
  
  - Jews debate over having access to the Temple Mount:
    - Some feel it goes against ritual cleansing rites
    - Some feel it is imperative to go up and pray in the location
  
  - Reform and Reconstructionist Judaism do not believe in rebuilding the Temple. They regard it as a more primitive form of ritual from which Judaism has evolved and should not return
  
  - Jews debate over what will come first, the Jewish Messiah who will facilitate the building of the Third Temple, or the Temple

* Since the Jews are convinced of the current agreed location of the Temple, it makes the Jews building the new Temple difficult to rely on

* However, since the Jews don’t believe the City of David is the real location, it would make it easier for Christians (or others) to built it without much Jewish resistance

* Building it makes End Times “time sensitive”; the Tribulation CANNOT OCCUR without the Temple being rebuilt

* If the Antichrist facilitates the building of the Temple in the City of David, all attention will be on him without controversy

* If this is a real Temple being built,

- Theory #2: The Temple refers to the Body of Christ
  
  - The New Testament consistently says the Temple is now Believers with Jesus as the Head
  
  - 2 Corinthians 6:16, “What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God.”
  
  - 1 Corinthians 3:16, “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for God’s temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.”
  
  - Jesus compares Himself to the Temple (raise in 3 days)
    
    John 2:19, “Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.””

  - Christians are described as Living Stones
    
    1 Peter 2:5, “you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

  - Jesus is described as the Cornerstone
    
    Ephesians 2:19-22, “Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

  
  Note the context: “Jew and Gentile Reconciled Through Christ”

* If this is the case: The Antichrist stands up in the Church (perhaps all over the world) and says, “I am god”

* Since the Earthly Temple Building is no longer required as a means of Worship or Sacrifice for Believers, the building and the defilement is somewhat meaningless. However, the Antichrist defiling the Body of Christ, who are The Temple of God would result in a reaction by Believers and cause great Persecution.


- The take home from all of this is:
  
  - We aren’t to know about the Third Temple yet (what, where, when)
  
  - Spiritual Israel is safe in the Inner Courts of God’s Temple; don’t be alarmed and distracted by the Gentiles trampling everything underfoot.

  Matthew 24:6, “see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.”