

# “HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?”

Revelation 11:1-2

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## INTRODUCTION

**God measures and evaluates his worshipers.**

### HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

#### I. THE RULE OF MEASURE (v. 1)

##### A. The Object of Measuring—the reed

- The measuring reed: it is similar to a staff or rod; usually used for discipline as well as for shepherding.
- We speak of the Canon of Scripture: the rule for faith and practice.
- Here it is the divinely constituted rule and directions.

##### B. The Reason for Measurement

- God’s measurements and rules determine who will enter the kingdom.
- Those measured are set aside for either preservation or judgment.
  1. Judgment—II K. 21:13; Is. 34:11 etc.
  2. Preservation—Zech. 2 [Jerusalem and the millennium]; Ezek. 40-43 [the millennial temple]; Rev. 21 [the New Jerusalem]

##### C. The Sovereign Measurer—God through His messenger gave John the authority to measure

- cf. the angel of chapter 10 who put one foot on the land and one on the sea to indicate divine repossession of the earth for God and his people.
- The lines of measurement include God’s claim.
- He has the intention to preserve and restore his own; yet he makes important changes in the process. Here we see a resurvey indicating that things will take a new shape.

##### D. Drastic circumstances are about to fall upon his people.

- Indignities shown toward God’s claim on his people is a terrible crime.
- Scripture speaks of the approaching defilements by the Antichrist: Dan. 9:27; Mt. 24:15; II Thes. 2:4.

All of this shows us that there **must be a temple to measure and pollute!**

#### II. THE THINGS MEASURED (1)

##### A. The Place of Worship—the restored Jewish Temple

###### 1. The importance of Jerusalem

- Historically it is the most significant city in the world.
- God calls it “my city”; cf. Psalm 48. Jesus was crucified there.
- Is sacred to 3 religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
- Yet its most profound events await the future.

###### 2. The time John wrote: 95-100 A.D.

### 3. The current situation in Jerusalem

- The Muslims now claim Jerusalem's Temple site as their 2<sup>nd</sup> most sacred site of Islam next to Mecca.
- They believe that Mohammed ascended to heaven from a great rock resting now in the center of the mosque called "the Dome of the Rock."
- This rock is also believed to be the one where Abraham offered Isaac (Gen. 22); it is also believed to be the threshing floor of Araunah purchased by David for the site of the temple (II S. 24).
- For 4000 years that has been one of the most sacred spots to the Jews and the **only place** that their Temple has ever stood!
- The Dome of the Rock stands over the site of the front entrance of the Herodian Temple.
- Before 1967 the Jews had no control over the old city for 2500 yrs. They had only intermittent residency in one small crowded section over the past 2-400 years.
- The Wailing Wall is an exposed section of the ancient Western Wall of the temple area. The Herodian stones are still visible on its lower extremities; the top stones are Byzantine and Crusader.

B. The Means of Worship—the Altar [this is evidently the bronze altar]

C. The Worshipers

- The Lord Judges the worship and the character of the worshipers.
- All must give account to God!
- Evaluation includes the court of the priests, Israel, and the women.

### III. THE THINGS LEFT UNMEASURED (2)

A. The court of the Gentiles is "thrown out" of measurement

B. God's wrath is extended against his people who are in rebellion—See Dan. 12:7; 8:24; Zech.13:9; 14:1-2.

C. These are "given to the nations".

D. The holy city will be "trampled underfoot"—such is in the context of captivity—cf. verse 8. See Luke 21:24

E. The period of their abject subjection will be 42 months; 13:5—cf. Dan. 9:24—the end of the 70<sup>th</sup> week; 7:25; 12:7; Rev. 12:14—3 ½ times; Revelation 11:3; 12:6—1,260 days.

Remember, this court of the Gentiles is where Jesus:

Jesus was rejected by the Jewish leaders – Matthew 23:1-35

- He said that they would no more see him until they were ready to receive him –Mt. 23:39.
- The temple would be left to them desolate – 23:38.
- Thus he wept over the city – 23:37.

### CONCLUSION

God measures his worshipers; only those who "measure up" get in!

But God Measures Us by His Word; we must not measure ourselves by our standards – II Corinthians 10:12.

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