

PREFACE

These notes are to serve as a blessing and help to those studying the word with Pastor Neil Spencer. Pastor Neil does not claim to fully agree with all the thoughts, beliefs, writings, or teachings of every named source/person in these notes. The Bible is the ultimate authority & ALL believers are to be Bereans (Acts 17.10-11).

INTRODUCTION

1. John is told, **1.19** *Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.*
 1. CH 1: *the things that John saw* — the reality of the **PERSON** of **JESUS** — Resurrected/in Power
 2. CH 2-3: *the things that were* — at the time John was writing... the **PEOPLE** of **JESUS** — 7 Churches
 3. CH 4–22: *the things which will take place...*
 1. CH 4–5: HEAVEN... believe this to be picturesque of JESUS rapturing HIS church & clarity that the Father & the Son are seated in Authority & Power... and it's a GOOD thing!
 2. CH 6-19: HEAVEN/EARTH... we see Justice & Mercy
 1. God pouring out His wrath/judgment on a Christ-Rejecting world
 2. The OT— *“the day of the Lord”* or *“the time of Jacob’s trouble,”* (Jacob renamed Israel)
 3. Why the tribulation... why this judgment?
 1. **WAKE** Up a Nation — the nation of Israel
 2. **SHAKE** Up a Ppl — those who don't believe now, in their own world
 4. That's what we see for the season/series in front of us CH 6–19— **Jesus: Full of Mercy & Justice** — **waking** up the nation of Israel & **shaking** up a Christ-rejecting world.
2. This morning, we'll consider the witness & the works of the 2 Witnesses of The Great Tribulation.
 1. We'll see the antichrist retaliate against these witnesses
 2. How God resurrects them & judgment befalls the city of Jerusalem
 3. And how all of heaven responds in worship b/c of the MERCY & JUSTICE of God.
3. As we get into CH 11, I want to draw your attention to the last v of CH10, sets stage for what we'll see in CH 11
4. Look at **Rev 10.11** *Then I was told, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, languages, & kings.”*
 1. This is what we see throughout CH 11 — John prophesies about a people, a nation, and a tongue in the events concerning Israel & what's known as the Tribulation Temple.
 2. You see, according to CH10:6 God will now start to focus & finalize His wrath upon the world, & as He does, He will focus his attention on Israel & and as we'll see this morning... the temple.
 3. The attention & centerpiece of Israel in the end days is a theme throughout the OT
 1. Remember the book of Revelation contains more than 500 allusions to the OT
 2. 70% — 278 of the 404 verses that make up the book of Revelation — make reference to the OT
 3. Zechariah 12 & 14 reveal some of God's judgments to come upon Israel & her enemies.
 4. One author: *Israel will become the storm center of the world during the Tribulation Period.*

4. For the Religious Jews — the heart & soul of their Jewish religion is their Temple — & they strongly desire to see it rebuilt on the same site as the 2 previous Temples
 1. The 1st temple — of Solomon was his crowning achievement — lasted for over 400yrs
 2. The 2nd temple — of Zerrubabel — much smaller, King Herod, during the Roman rule expanded upon it, but it was destroyed just as Jesus said it would be... AD 70
5. Currently, there is no Temple in Israel, but God's Word shows that there will be a Tribulation Temple:
 1. The OT prophet Daniel — Temple will be rebuilt & in use by the middle of the Tribulation Period.
 2. Jesus spoke of Daniel's prophecy in MT 24 — that a 3rd Temple will be built
 3. 2 Thess 2, Paul says that the Temple will be rebuilt & the "man of sin" or Antichrist will defile it.
6. But, there's more than 1 challenge to having the Temple rebuilt on what is believed to be the original location of the previous 2
 1. The believed site for the Temple is this same site for the existing Dome of the Rock Mosque.
 2. The Dome of the Rock is considered the 3rd holiest site in Islam, after Mecca & Medina.
 1. I'm sure that's a simple fix, right... Jews & Muslims coming to a simple/peaceable plan
 2. Muslims believe that the prophet Muhammad, ascended to heaven from the rock that sits in the middle of the domed shrine—hence the name, Dome of the Rock.
 3. Muslims believe they will incur the wrath of Allah if they give up that location.
 4. This is a problem for religious Jews who long to see the Temple reestablished.
 3. However, years ago, a professor from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Dr. Asher Kaufman, provided somewhat controversial research that the 2 previous temples did not rest on the spot where the Dome of the Rock stands ... but to its north.
 4. So, it's possible that this FUTURE TEMPLE could be rebuilt on that spot
 1. More than a 100yds from the Dome of the Rock but still on the Temple Mount area.
 2. Daniel 9:27 states that the Antichrist will barter a peace agreement in the Middle East, & his peace plan may allow for Jews to rebuild their temple right next to the Dome of the Rock.
 5. That scenario fits well with the first two verses of Revelation 11. Let's read them.

REVELATION 11

1 Then I was given a measuring stick, and I was told, "Go and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count the number of worshipers. 2 But do not measure the outer courtyard, for it has been turned over to the nations. They will trample the holy city for 42 months.

1. John is given a measuring stick & told to measure the temple of God, the altar, & to count the ppl worshipping but not to measure the outer court because it has been given to the Gentiles... & that they will trample on the

holy city for 42 months.

1. The holy city mentioned here is none other than Jerusalem
 2. You see, not only does this text seem to indicate that there could be a scenario where the Temple & the Dome of the Rock function side-by-side
 3. But, this coincides with what Jesus taught in MT 24, that the Gentiles will control Jerusalem & the Temple during the last 3 1/2 years of the Tribulation Period.
2. Interesting, but there's another layer to this dynamic of John being given a measuring stick & told to measure the temple of God, the altar, & to count the ppl worshipping.
1. God will measure, evaluate, or count the worshipers to see how many people at the Tribulation Temple are truly worshipping Jesus — He will find none.
 1. These worshipers are at the brazen altar, which means they've brought animal sacrifices, so they have reverted back to the OT system.
 2. Therefore, they're not worshipping God as NT believers but as Old Testament Jews who have not yet accepted Jesus as their Messiah.
 2. God measures... He pays attention... He sees our hearts... He has the right to be JUDGE...
 3. At times in the OT, the idea of measuring communicated ownership...
 1. When Habakkuk prophesied, Hab 3.6 — *He stood and measured the earth* — the idea was that the Lord owned the earth & could do with it as He pleased.
 2. When this temple is measured, it shows that God knows its every dimension, and He is in charge.
 3. Let me see if I can say this clearly...
 4. *God is in charge.*
 1. This is the **THEME** of the BIBLE.
 2. God is God ... not us...
 1. In the beginning _____ created the heavens & the earth...
 2. Remember the story of Job? ... Job 38-40 — God answers Job's questions/complaints
 1. **38.1** *Then the Lord answered Job from the whirlwind: 2 "Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorant words? 3 Brace yourself like a man, because I have some questions for you, and you must answer them. 4 "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. 5 Who determined its dimensions & stretched out the surveying line? 6 What supports its foundations, & who laid its cornerstone 7 as the morning stars sang together & all the angels shouted for joy?*
 2. **40.1** *Then the Lord said to Job, 2 "Do you still want to argue with the Almighty? You are*

God's critic, but do you have the answers?" 3 Then Job replied to the Lord, 4 "I am nothing—how could I ever find the answers? I will cover my mouth with my hand. 5 I have said too much already. I have nothing more to say."

3. God is in control & in charge

1. The sooner we embrace this perspective in every aspect of our lives

2. The sooner we live in this reality... & in alignment w/ the truth & the truth will set us free...

4. As I was scrolling through social media this week I came across this little video reel, that I thought expresses very well how the generation today struggles with this same truth that GOD is GOD & He's in charge & not us — **(PP)** VIDEO

1. This is one of the glorious, mighty themes of the Book of Revelation — God is in Charge...

2. Throughout this time of the Great Tribulation as the ONE who is in charge — He has the right & ability to bring JUSTICE & MERCY.

3. As the Rightful & Righteous Judge... God in His MERCY raises up 2 witnesses to point the ppl to Him.

3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will be clothed in burlap and will prophesy during those 1,260 days." 4 These two prophets are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of all the earth. 5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire flashes from their mouths and consumes their enemies. This is how anyone who tries to harm them must die. 6 They have power to shut the sky so that no rain will fall for as long as they prophesy. And they have the power to turn the rivers and oceans into blood, and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they wish.

1. God Raises Up 2 Witnesses

1. It's interesting, when Paul was preaching the gospel in Lystra, as recorded in Acts 14, he made the statement that God never leaves Himself without a witness (Acts 14:17).

2. This is true throughout Scripture...

1. Noah in the flood ... Lot in Sodom ... Elijah on Mount Carmel ... Esther in Babylon

2. John the Baptist in the wilderness ... The 144,000 Jewish evangelists in the tribulation period

3. God always leaves Himself a witness to the truth.

1. He's done that in my life

2. Individuals who modeled what a life given to Jesus looks like

3. He's also calling us to be that in the world that we are in today...

2. These witnesses are clothed in burlap (not a Kanye Fashion Comeback) — but symbolizes repentance — for 1,260 days — or 3 1/2 yrs following a 360 day calendar — they deliver a powerful/potent message of repentance — Calling people to God.

3. V4 — identifies them as the 2 Olive Trees & 2 Lampstands before the Lord — what is that?
 1. What do these symbols mean?
 2. Remember that so much of Revelation correlates & incorporates much of the OT... that's the case here
 1. In Zechariah 4:2–6— two olive trees stand by a lampstand & provide oil to the lampstand.
 1. This oil represents the Holy Spirit.
 2. The 2 witnesses will be olive trees b/c they'll be filled w/ the Holy Spirit — powerfully
 2. Zechariah 4:11–14 explains what the lampstands represent
 1. The lampstands hold pots of burning oil that provide light.
 2. The 2 witnesses will be lampstands because they will provide light to a dark world.
 3. These 2 Witnesses, filled w/ the Holy Spirit, are a light in the darkness of the world.
 1. Church — this is the same calling upon our lives today
 2. *Philippians 2:14 Do everything without complaining and arguing, 15 so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. 16 Hold firmly to the word of life ...*
 1. We are filled with the Holy Spirit of God
 2. We are empowered to be a light & a witness for Jesus
4. Who are these 2 Witnesses?
 1. Batman & Robin? ... the next 2 New Avengers to join the Marvel Universe?
 2. Ultimately, we don't know w/ certainty... the text does not say definitively...
 3. A strong case could be made that these men are none other than Moses representing the LAW of God and Elijah representing the PROPHETS of God
 4. Why?
 1. As v3 says, they'll be given great power & look again with me the kind of power of their witness
 2. *5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire flashes from their mouths and consumes their enemies. This is how anyone who tries to harm them must die. 6 They have power to shut the sky so that no rain will fall for as long as they prophesy. And they have the power to turn the rivers and oceans into blood, and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they wish.*
 5. I don't think this means that they're like Godzilla — fire coming from their mouths — but, much like the lives of Moses & Elijah
 1. They destroy their enemies by calling fire down from heaven, as Elijah did (2 Kings 1:10-12).
 2. They call for drought, as Elijah did (1 Kings 17:1).
 3. They have the power to turn water into blood & to strike the earth with various plagues, as Moses did (Exodus 7:15–12:32).

4. Also, Moses & Elijah have already come back as a pair — Mount of Transfiguration, Moses & Elijah appeared to Jesus & spoke w/ Him about His approaching crucifixion (Matthew 17:3).
5. The 144k witnesses will be going all throughout the globe, but the focus of these 2 Witnesses is in the city of Jerusalem with the ppl of Israel... who better to reach them than Moses representing the LAW of God & Elijah representing the PROPHETS of God?

6. God protects them & uses them until they're time is finished... God's patience does come to an end...v7

7 When they complete their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the bottomless pit will declare war against them, and he will conquer them and kill them. 8 And their bodies will lie in the main street of Jerusalem, the city that is figuratively called "Sodom" and "Egypt," the city where their Lord was crucified. 9 And for three and a half days, all peoples, tribes, languages, and nations will stare at their bodies. No one will be allowed to bury them. 10 All the people who belong to this world will gloat over them and give presents to each other to celebrate the death of the two prophets who had tormented them.

1. Wow, you know ... that statement in v7, can/should bring some sense of clarity & comfort to our lives.
 1. These 2 witnesses can't be killed until they "*complete their testimony*"
 1. They are indestructible until God completes His purposes for them on earth.
 2. One author says this, "*In a similar way, every child of God doing the work of God in the will of God is invincible—until God is finished with them.*"
 3. What that doesn't mean is bring on the burgers, pizza, Krispy Kreme every day... if I belong to God... nothing can touch me. no... by you touching them, they'll leave their touch all over you...
 2. But there is comfort in knowing that God's hand is upon His ppl — His protection & provision.
 3. Like the Psalmist said, "*My times are in your hands*" (Psalm 31:15)
2. In v7 we see the 1st mention of the AntiChrist, he is called "*the beast that comes up out of the bottomless pit.*"
 1. He comes to destroy, we'll see him mentioned 36x more in this book.
 2. The 2 witnesses will oppose him face-to-face.
3. **(PP)** I love what Pastor Skip Heitzig says regarding this: "*For three-and-a-half years the witnesses will interpret for the world all of the cataclysms, destruction, hordes of demons, the heavens falling, and destruction of the sea. They will say, "This is God's judgment on wicked people." And do you think anyone will like their message? A righteous person is always a torment to a wicked person. A righteous person living in God's light shines that light upon those living in darkness and makes them feel deeply agitated. So the vast majority of the people of the world will hate these two witnesses and will want to destroy them.*"
4. One day the Antichrist will be allowed to kill them.
 1. Their bodies will be left in the streets for 3 1/2 days... Snapchat's & TikTok's or whatever the means of

communication in that day will stream this to everyone all over the world

2. In fact... ppl will celebrate... Giving gifts to one another... like Satanic Anti-Christmas... but... v11

11 *But after three and a half days, God breathed life into them, and they stood up! Terror struck all who were staring at them. 12* *Then a loud voice from heaven called to the two prophets, "Come up here!" And they rose to heaven in a cloud as their enemies watched.*

1. This is amazing. After 3 1/2 days... not only the men RISE from the dead... which strikes TERROR in the hearts of those who are making their TikTok's.... But a LOUD voice calls them up...

2. They're essentially raptured... as their enemies watch. Look at what happens...

13 *At the same time there was a terrible earthquake that destroyed a tenth of the city. Seven thousand people died in that earthquake, and everyone else was terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14* *The second terror is past, but look, the third terror is coming quickly.*

1. As ppl are staring at the sky, the ground quakes/shakes, 10% of the city is destroyed, killing 7k ppl.

2. This is devastating & mind-blowing... can you imagine seeing something like this?

3. Author: **(PP)** *"Many will change their minds about the two witnesses, praise the God of heaven, and begin a Jewish revival. Notice how good can come from things like earthquakes and death. God can use apparent disasters to bring about change."*

1. I love that... and... I don't

2. I love that good can come from challenging situations... I mean think of what happened here 2yrs ago...

Sally beat upon our little Coastline...

1. Church — flooded! Kids space + Admin space out of commission for the better 1/2 of 6m ...

2. But, we redesigned, opened up a new space for our school to grow-over 150 students now, & we can't keep up with the growth... the portable — beach cottage — opens tomorrow

3. I love that good can come from disaster...

3. But, also... I don't... why... I don't think we should we wait for earthquakes & death to bring us to a place where are our hearts praise God.

1. Thank God—He's faithful to pursue us, but, can I say something... let God's Word says it?

2. **(PP)** *Romans 2.4 Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?*

4. The BEST time to get right with GOD is now... don't wait for consequence or disaster... but respond to the grace & kindness of God — today!

5. Well... let's wrap up this chapter...

15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven: “The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.”

1. Quickly, what does this mean?
2. As the 7th trumpet sounds there’s a heavenly declaration that God & his Son, Jesus, will be taking over.
 1. Paul says this in 1 Cor 15.24, “Then comes the end, when He [Jesus] delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power”.
 2. The 7th trumpet blast brings on 7 final plagues, & Rev 15.1 *in them the wrath of God is complete*.
 1. Since the Fall of man, ppl have wondered, “when will God make everything right?”
 2. The trumpet announces: “It’s happening now.”
3. This brings celebration!

16 The twenty-four elders sitting on their thrones before God fell with their faces to the ground and worshiped him.
17 And they said, “We give thanks to you, Lord God, the Almighty, the one who is and who always was, for now you have assumed your great power and have begun to reign.

1. The 24 elders in heaven, representing the church, worship God for bringing the kingdom into fullness.
2. They thank God for His sovereign power & His willingness to use it.
3. Then what’s said in v18 encompasses the entire Tribulation period & the millennium to follow...

18 The nations were filled with wrath, but now the time of your wrath has come. It is time to judge the dead and reward your servants the prophets, as well as your holy people, and all who fear your name, from the least to the greatest. It is time to destroy all who have caused destruction on the earth.”

1. This is good summary of the whole book of Revelation.
2. Some of what’s said here, we’ve seen, & some is to come

19 Then, in heaven, the Temple of God was opened and the Ark of his covenant could be seen inside the Temple. Lightning flashed, thunder crashed and roared, and there was an earthquake and a terrible hailstorm.

1. CH11 closes w/ an “open house” of the Temple of God in Heaven w/ the Ark of his Covenant.
2. I believe, signifying that in heaven we will realize God’s full covenant, where we will enter into unbroken fellowship with Him.
3. This is point & purpose of God in Revelation — to bring us into fellowship w/ Him!