

Revelation Chapter 11 & Spirit of Prophecy Comments

Revelation 11:1, 2

11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

Rod = by 10 commandment standard

Rise and measure the temple = to give subject of sanctuary a special examination

Them = worshipers of the true church on earth.

11:2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty [and] two months.

Forty and two months = 538 – 1798; 1260 years of Papal persecution (Dan 11: 30-35)

11:3 And I will give [power] unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred [and] threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

Two witnesses = Old and New Testaments

A thousand two hundred and threescore days = 538-1798 Papal supremacy

Clothed in sackcloth = obscurity (the state of being unknown, inconspicuous, or unimportant)

The periods here mentioned--"forty and two months," and "a thousand two hundred and threescore days"--are the same, alike representing the time in which the church of Christ was to suffer oppression from Rome. The 1260 years of papal supremacy began in A.D. 538, and would therefore terminate in 1798. (See Appendix note for page 54.) At that time a French army entered Rome and made the pope a prisoner, and he died in exile. Though a new pope was soon afterward elected, the papal hierarchy has never since been able to wield the power which it before possessed. {GC 266.3}

The two witnesses represent the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament. Both are important testimonies to the origin and perpetuity of the law of God. Both are witnesses also to the plan of salvation. The types, sacrifices, and prophecies of the Old Testament point forward to a Saviour to come. The Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament tell of a Saviour who has come in the exact manner foretold by type and prophecy. {GC 267.1}

"They shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and three-score days, clothed in sackcloth." During the greater part of this period, God's witnesses remained in a state of obscurity. The papal power sought to hide from the people the word of truth, and set before them false witnesses to contradict its testimony. (See Appendix.) When the Bible was proscribed by religious and secular authority; when its testimony was perverted, and every effort made that men and demons could invent to turn the minds of the people from it; when those who dared proclaim its sacred truths were hunted, betrayed, tortured, buried in

dungeon cells, martyred for their faith, or compelled to flee to mountain fastnesses, and to dens and caves of the earth--then the faithful witnesses prophesied in sackcloth. Yet they continued their testimony throughout the entire period of 1260 years. In the darkest times there were faithful men who loved God's word and were jealous for His honor. To these loyal servants were given wisdom, power, and authority to declare His truth during the whole of this time. {GC 267.2}

Said the angel of the Lord: "The holy city shall they tread underfoot forty and two months. And I will give power unto **My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.** . . . And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. . . . And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. And after three days and a half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them." **Revelation 11:2-11.** {GC 266.2}

Revelation 11:4

11:4 These are the **two olive trees**, and the **two candlesticks** standing before the God of the earth.

Two olive trees = Old & New Testament are God's Word (Zech 4:11-14) that is a

Two candlesticks = lamp unto our feet and light unto our path; the Word gives light

Concerning the two witnesses the prophet declares further: "These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth." "Thy word," said the psalmist, "is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Revelation 11:4; Psalm 119:105. The two witnesses represent the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament. Both are important testimonies to the origin and perpetuity of the law of God. Both are witnesses also to the plan of salvation. The types, sacrifices, and prophecies of the Old Testament point forward to a Saviour to come. The Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament tell of a Saviour who has come in the exact manner foretold by type and prophecy. {GC 267.1}

Revelation 11:5

11:5 And if any man will **hurt them**, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he **must** in this manner **be killed**.

Them = Old and New Testament

Hurt = To hurt the Word of God is to oppose, corrupt, or pervert its testimony and turn people away from it; judgment pronounced on such.

Must be killed = judgment of fire; Mal 4:1; Rev 20:15; 22:18, 19

"And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed." **Revelation 11:5. Men cannot with impunity trample upon the word of God. The meaning of this fearful denunciation is set forth in the closing chapter of the Revelation: "I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Revelation 22:18, 19.** {GC 268.1}

Revelation 11:6

11:6 **These** have power to shut heaven, that it **rain not** in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all **plagues**, as often as they will.

These = Old and New Testament

Rain not = no Holy Spirit poured out in full measure during this period of obscurity

Plagues = 7 last plagues

Revelation 11:7-9

11:7 And when **they** shall **have finished** their testimony, the **beast** that ascendeth **out of the bottomless pit** shall make war against **them**, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

They/ them = Old and New Testament

Have finished = around 1798

Beast = Atheistic Homosexual France

Bottomless pit = doctrinal error/ deception/ lies

"And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified."

[Revelation 11:7, 8.] {4SP 190.3}

These events were to take place near the close of the period in which the witnesses testified in sackcloth. Through the medium of the papacy, Satan had long controlled the powers that ruled in Church and State. The fearful results were specially apparent in those countries that rejected the light of the Reformation. **There was a state of moral debasement and corruption similar to the condition of Sodom just prior to its destruction, and to the idolatry and spiritual darkness that prevailed in Egypt in the days of Moses.** {4SP 190.4}

When France publicly prohibited the Bible, wicked men and spirits of darkness exulted in their attainment of the object so long desired,—a kingdom free from the restraints of the law of God. Because sentence against an evil work was not speedily executed, therefore the heart of the sons of men was “fully set in them to do evil.” [Ecclesiastes 8:11-13.] But the transgression of a just and righteous law must inevitably result in misery and ruin. Though not visited at once with judgments, the wickedness of men was nevertheless surely working out their doom. Centuries of apostasy and crime had been treasuring up wrath against the day of retribution; and when their iniquity was full, the despisers of God learned too late that it is a fearful thing to have worn out the divine patience. The restraining Spirit of God, which imposes a check upon the cruel power of Satan, was in a great measure removed, and he whose only delight is the wretchedness of men, was permitted to work his will. Those who had chosen the service of rebellion, were left to reap its fruits, until the land was filled with crimes too horrible for pen to trace. From devastated provinces and ruined cities a terrible cry was heard,—a cry of bitterest anguish. France was shaken as if by an earthquake. Religion, law, social order, the family, the State, and the Church,—all were smitten down by the impious hand that had been lifted against the law of God. Truly spake the wise man: “The wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.” “Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him; but it shall not be well with the wicked.” [Ecclesiastes 8:11-13.] “They hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord;” “therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.” [Proverbs 1:29, 31.] {GC88 285.5}

11:8 And their dead bodies [shall lie] in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Their = God’s people

Great City = Atheistic Homosexual France; spiritually “Egypt” Ex. 5:2

Spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt = licentiousness

Where = Streets of Paris, France

Lord was crucified = in the person of his saints: Massacre of St. Bartholomew. “Crush the Wretch (Christ)” was the infidel’s motto.

A plot was laid by France to destroy all the pious Huguenots; and in one night (August 24/25, 1572), 50,000 of them were murdered in cold blood

11:9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

Dead bodies = saints that were murdered

Three days and an half = 3 ½ years; period of time of persecution. “The [Peace of Saint-Germain](#) put an end to three years of terrible civil war between Catholics and Protestants. This peace, however, was precarious since the more intransigent Catholics refused to accept it.” Wikipedia

In no land had the spirit of enmity against Christ and the truth been more strikingly displayed than in giddy and godless France. Nowhere had the gospel encountered more bitter and cruel opposition. **In the streets of Paris, Christ had indeed been crucified in the person of his saints.** The world still

recalls with shuddering horror the scenes of that most cowardly and cruel onslaught, **the Massacre of St. Bartholomew**. The king of France, urged on by Romish priests and prelates, lent his sanction to the dreadful work. The palace bell, tolling at midnight, gave the signal for the slaughter to begin. **Protestants by thousands, sleeping quietly in their homes, trusting to the plighted honor of their king, were dragged forth without a warning, and murdered in cold blood.** {4SP 191.1}

Attended meeting. My husband spoke in the forenoon upon the tenth of Revelation—the angel with the little book open swearing that time shall be no longer. [Revelation 10:2-6.] It was an interesting subject. I spoke in the afternoon upon brotherly love,—“I was an hungered and ye gave me no meat, thirsty,” etc. [Matthew 25:42.] I was quite free. After meeting closed we went two miles to the water and baptized eight. Brother Kellogg spoke in the evening upon the health question. I was too weary to go out. We feel an interest for the people. {Ms15-1868.26}

Revelation 11:10,11

11:10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

11:11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

Shall rejoice and make merry = The wicked triumphed over their evil course

These two prophets tormented them = In 1793, a decree was passed forbidding the Bible; they were gathered and burned, all the institutions of the Bible were abolished; 7th day weekly rest, baptism, communion; death pronounced as eternal sleep; the being of God was denied. The Goddess of Reason, in the person of a vile woman, was set up and publically worshiped.

Three days and an half, spirit of life entered them: 3 ½ years later, the decree of 1793 was reversed due to the appalling results of the rejection of the Bible.

Said the orator who introduced the worship of Reason: “Legislators! Fanaticism has given way to reason. Its bleared eyes could not endure the brilliancy of the light. This day an immense concourse has assembled beneath those gothic vaults, which, for the first time, re-echoed the truth. There the French have celebrated the only true worship,—that of Liberty, that of Reason. There we have formed wishes for the prosperity of the arms of the Republic. There we have abandoned inanimate idols for Reason, for that animated image, the masterpiece of nature.”—M. A. Thiers, *History of the French Revolution*, vol. 2, pp. 370, 371. {GC 275.3}

Concerning the two witnesses the prophet declares further, “And they heard a great voice from Heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.” [Revelation 11:12.] Since the French Revolution the word of God has been honored as never before. The Bible has been translated into nearly every language spoken by men, and scattered over every part of the globe. After being, as it were, thrust down to hell, it has, in truth, been exalted to heaven. {4SP 193.2}

God's faithful witnesses, slain by the blasphemous power that "ascendeth out of the bottomless pit," were not long to remain silent. "After three days and a half, the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them." [Revelation 11:11.] **It was in 1793 that the decree which prohibited the Bible passed the French Assembly. Three years and a half later a resolution rescinding the decree, and granting toleration to the Scriptures, was adopted by the same body. The world stood aghast at the enormity of guilt which had resulted from a rejection of the Sacred Oracles, and men recognized the necessity of faith in God and his Word as the foundation of virtue and morality.** Saith the Lord, "Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel." [Isaiah 37:23.] "Therefore, behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know mine hand and my might; and they shall know that my name is Jehovah." [Jeremiah 16:21.] {GC88 286.1}

Terrible indeed was the condition of infidel France. The word of truth lay dead in her streets, and those who hated the restrictions and requirements of God's law were jubilant. But transgression and rebellion were followed by the sure result. Unhappy France reaped in blood the harvest she had sown. The war against the Bible and the law of God banished peace and happiness from the hearts and homes of men. No one was secure: he who triumphed today was suspected, condemned, tomorrow. Violence and terror reigned supreme. The land was filled with crimes too horrible for pen to trace. {4SP 192.2}

God's faithful witnesses were not long to remain silent. "The Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet, and great fear fell upon them which saw them." [Revelation 11:11.] The world stood aghast at the enormity of guilt which had resulted from a rejection of the Sacred Oracles, and men were glad to return once more to faith in God and his word. {4SP 193.1}

11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

They = two witnesses

Cloud = heavenly elevation; British Bible Society in 1804 and The American Bible Society in 1817 came into existence and the Bible began to be translated into different languages.

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Concerning the two witnesses the prophet declares further: "And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them." [Revelation 11:12.] **Since France made war upon God's two witnesses, they have been honored as never before. In 1804 the British and Foreign Bible Society was organized . This was followed by similar organizations, with numerous branches, upon the continent of Europe. In 1816, the American Bible Society was founded. When the British Society was formed, the Bible had been printed and circulated in fifty tongues. It has since been translated into more than two hundred**

languages and dialects. By the efforts of Bible societies, since 1804, more than 187,000,000 copies of the Bible have been circulated. {GC88 287.1}

For the fifty years preceding 1792, little attention was given to the work of foreign missions. No new societies were formed, and there were but few churches that made any effort for the spread of Christianity in heathen lands. But toward the close of the eighteenth century a great change took place. Men became dissatisfied with the results of rationalism, and realized the necessity of divine revelation and experimental religion. The devoted Carey, who in 1793 became the first English missionary to India, kindled anew the flame of missionary effort in England. In America, twenty years later, the zeal of a society of students, among whom was Adoniram Judson, resulted in the formation of the American Board of Foreign Missions, under whose auspices Judson went as a missionary from the United States to Burmah. From this time the work of foreign missions attained an unprecedented growth. {GC88 287.2}

The improvements in printing have given an impetus to the work of circulating the Bible. The increased facilities for communication between different countries, the breaking down of ancient barriers of prejudice and national exclusiveness, and the loss of secular power by the pontiff of Rome, have opened the way for the entrance of the Word of God. For some years the Bible has been sold without restraint in the streets of Rome, and it has now been carried to every part of the habitable globe. {GC88 288.1}

The infidel Voltaire once boastingly said, "I am weary of hearing people repeat that twelve men established the Christian religion. I will prove that one man may suffice to overthrow it." A century has passed since his death. Millions have joined in the war upon the Bible. But it is so far from being destroyed, that where there were a hundred in Voltaire's time, there are now ten thousand, yes, a hundred thousand copies of the Book of God. In the words of an early reformer concerning the Christian church, "The Bible is an anvil that has worn out many hammers." Saith the Lord, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn." [Isaiah 54:17.] {GC88 288.2}

"The Word of our God shall stand forever." "All his commandments are sure. They stand fast forever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness." [Isaiah 40:8; Psalm 111:7, 8.] Whatever is built upon the authority of man will be overthrown; but that which is founded upon the rock of God's immutable Word shall stand forever. {GC88 288.3}

11:13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Tenth part of the city fell = France, one of the 10 horns, Dan 7:24

Slain of men seven thousand = The French Revolution from 1789-1798

The same master-spirit that urged in the Massacre of St. Bartholomew, led also in the scenes of the French Revolution. Satan seemed to triumph. Notwithstanding the labors of the Reformers, he had succeeded in holding vast multitudes in ignorance concerning God and his word. **Now he appeared in a new guise.** In France arose an atheistical power that openly declared war against the authority of Heaven. Men threw off all restraint. The law of God was trampled under foot. Those who could engage in the most Heaven-daring blasphemy and the most abominable wickedness were most highly exalted. Fornication was sanctioned by law. Profanity and corruption seemed deluging the earth. In all this, supreme homage was paid to Satan, while Christ, in his characteristics of truth, purity, and unselfish love, was crucified. **The Bible was publicly burned. The Sabbath was blotted out. Romanism had enjoined image worship; now divine honors were paid to the vilest objects. The work which the papacy had begun, atheism**

completed. The one withheld from the people the truths of the Bible; the other taught them to reject both the Bible and its Author. The seed sown by priests and prelates was yielding its evil fruit. {4SP 192.1}

“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God,” but he can advance no evidence to sustain his claims; he can only take the position of an objector to the purposes of an all-wise God. Atheism can shed no ray of light into the grave. It cannot restrain crime or quicken the moral energies. It has no power to elevate the character or purify the soul. On the contrary, it always tends to degenerate the human race; it leads away from purity and peace. An instance of this is given in the history of the **French Revolution**. That period, when the existence of God was denied, and his commandments were abolished, was the most revolting that is recorded. At the same time anarchy is seeking to sweep away all law, not only divine, but human. The centralizing of wealth and power; the vast combinations for the enriching of the few at the expense of the many; the combinations of the poorer classes for the defense of their interests and claims; the spirit of unrest, of riot and bloodshed; the world-wide dissemination of the same teachings that led to the **French Revolution**—all are tending to involve the whole world in a struggle similar to that which convulsed France. {Ed 228.2}

11:14 The second woe is past; [and], behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

Second woe = Aug 11, 1840 (re: geographical location of Turkey today)

Third woe = commenced in 1844

Revelation 11:15-17 – Glances forward to the full establishment of the kingdom of God.

11:15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become [the kingdoms] of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

11:16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

11:17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

Seventh angel sounded = in 1844

Verse 16 = This is the Holy Place compartment of the heavenly sanctuary

About his coming cluster the glories of that “restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.” [Acts 3:21.] Then the long-continued rule of evil shall be broken; “the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever.” [Revelation 11:15.] “The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.” “The Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.” He shall be “for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people.” [Isaiah 40:5; 61:11; 28:5.] {GC88 301.3}

To this time the revelator looks forward when he says, “The kingdoms of this world *are become* the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever.” [Revelation 11:15](#). The context clearly shows when this will take place: “The nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the

time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that Thou shouldest give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth." **Verse 18**. It is at the time of the final judgment, the reward of the righteous, and the punishment of the wicked that the kingdom of Christ will be set up. When all who oppose the sovereignty of Christ have been destroyed, the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. {PP 763.1}

"Thy kingdom come. They will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." [Matthew 6:10.] For ages this prayer, taught by Jesus to His disciples, has been ascending to God from contrite hearts. It will surely be answered. "The kingdoms of this world" will "become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ." [Revelation 11:15.] {Ms103-1893.34}

The kingdoms of this world are soon to become the kingdoms of our Lord. "The seventh angel sounded, and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever." There is to be a rapid and triumphant spread of the gospel. "And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament; and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail." [Revelation 11:15, 19.] {Lt123-1902.12}

11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Nations were angry = commencing with the 1848 Europe Revolution; "a series of [political upheavals](#) throughout [Europe](#) in 1848. It remains the most widespread [revolutionary wave](#) in [European history](#)."Wikipedia

Wrath = 7 last plagues

Time of the dead, that they should be judged = Oct 22, 1844, Jesus went from the Holy to the Most Holy Place in the sanctuary and judgment began with the dead and then finishes with the living.

Give reward unto thy servants the prophets = Possession of the heavenly inheritance at the end of the 1000 years.- Matt 25:34

Destroy them which destroy the earth = Wicked devoured by the purifying fires- 2Pet 3:7; Rev 20:9

A few of the old standard-bearers are still living. I am intensely desirous that our brethren and sisters shall respect and honor these pioneers. We present them before you as men who know what trials are. I am instructed to say, Let every believer respect the men who acted a prominent part during the early days of the message, and who have borne trials and hardships and many privations. These men have grown gray in service. Not long hence, they will receive their reward. Writing of the last days, John says: "The nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great: and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in

heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail." [Revelation 11:18, 19.] {Lt47-1902.12}

11:19 And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Verse 19: Here we see commencement of the 7th trumpet reviewed.

temple of God was opened in heaven/ ark of his testament = Most Holy Place/ October 22, 1844

As foretold in the Scriptures, the ministration of Christ in the most holy place began at the termination of the prophetic days in 1844. To this time apply the words of the Revelator, "The temple of God was opened in Heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament." [Revelation 11:19] The ark of God's testament is in the second apartment of the sanctuary. As Christ entered there, to minister in the sinner's behalf, the inner temple was opened, and the ark of God was brought to view. To those who by faith beheld the Saviour in his work of intercession, God's majesty and power were revealed. As the train of his glory filled the temple, light from the holy of holies was shed upon his waiting people on the earth. {4SP 273.2}

"The temple of God was opened in Heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament." [Revelation 11:19.] The ark of God's testament is in the holy of holies, the second apartment of the sanctuary. In the ministration of the earthly tabernacle, which served "unto the example and shadow of heavenly things," this apartment was opened only upon the great day of atonement, for the cleansing of the sanctuary. **Therefore the announcement that the temple of God was opened in Heaven, and the ark of his testament was seen, points to the opening of the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, in 1844, as Christ entered there to perform the closing work of the atonement. Those who by faith followed their great High Priest, as he entered upon his ministry in the most holy place, beheld the ark of his testament.** As they had studied the subject of the sanctuary, they had come to understand the Saviour's change of ministration, and they saw that he was now officiating before the ark of God, pleading his blood in behalf of sinners. {GC88 433.1}

The light is shining forth upon the fourth commandment; God is opening the understanding of many to see that they have been breaking the Lord's Sabbath. "And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament" (Revelation 11:19), calling, as it were, the attention of the people to the law of God covered by the mercy seat. The angels are represented as all looking reverentially into the law. God has made us the repositories of His law. What a responsibility is ours to form characters in harmony with the law of God! We are drawing nearer and still nearer the solemn event of our Lord's appearing, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." 1 John 3:3. {Lt31-1875.7}

John saw the temple of God opened in heaven, and in that temple he saw the ark of His testimony. [Revelation 11:19.] And says John, Here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. [Revelation 14:12.] The path of true obedience is found in the commandments of God. But Satan is going about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. He does not always appear like a lion; he has

the power of clothing himself like a lamb, and he has a soft and a tender voice. And how shall we meet him? Shall we let him come in and take the control of our hearts? We cannot afford it. {Ms5-1885.17}

As the sanctuary on earth had two apartments, the holy and the most holy, so there are two holy places in the sanctuary in Heaven. And the ark containing the law of God, the altar of incense, and other instruments of service found in the sanctuary below, have also their counterpart in the sanctuary above. In holy vision the apostle John was permitted to enter Heaven, and he there beheld the candlestick and the altar of incense, and as “the temple of God was opened,” he beheld also “the ark of his testament.” [Revelation 4:5; 8:3; Revelation 11:19.] {4SP 261.1}

The holy places of the sanctuary in Heaven are represented by the **two apartments** in the sanctuary on earth. As in vision the apostle John was granted a view of the temple of God in Heaven, he beheld there “seven lamps of fire burning before the throne.” [Revelation 4:5.] **He saw an angel “having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.”** [Revelation 8:3.] Here the prophet was permitted to behold the **first apartment** of the sanctuary in Heaven; and he saw there the “**seven lamps of fire**” and the “**golden altar**” represented by the **golden candlestick** and the **altar of incense in the sanctuary on earth**. **Again**, “the temple of God was opened,” [Revelation 11:19] and he looked within the **inner veil**, upon the **holy of holies**. Here he beheld “the **ark of His testament**,” represented by the sacred chest constructed by Moses to contain the law of God. {GC88 414.1}

As has been stated, the earthly sanctuary was built by Moses according to the pattern shown him in the mount. It was “a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices;” its two holy places were “patterns of things in the heavens;” Christ, our great High Priest, is “a minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.” Hebrews 9:9, 23; 8:2. As in vision the apostle John was granted a view of the temple of God in heaven, he beheld there “**seven lamps of fire burning before the throne**.” He saw an angel “having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the **golden altar** which was before the throne.” Revelation 4:5; 8:3. **Here the prophet was permitted to behold the first apartment of the sanctuary in heaven; and he saw there the “seven lamps of fire” and the “golden altar” represented by the golden candlestick and the altar of incense in the sanctuary on earth**. **Again**, “the temple of God was opened” (Revelation 11:19), and he looked within the **inner veil**, upon the **holy of holies**. Here he beheld “**the ark of His testament**” (Revelation 11:19), represented by the sacred chest constructed by Moses to contain the law of God. {PP 356.1}

John beholds the remnant people in these last days looking into the Sanctuary above, and he exclaims, “And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings and an earthquake and great hail!” [Revelation 11:19.] The cover of the ark was the mercy seat. What was in that ark? Beneath the mercy seat in the ark were the ten commandments written with the finger of God. This people were presented to John looking reverently upon the ark and the tables of stone within the ark upon which were engraven with the finger of God the ten commandments. As John beholds this scene he exclaims, here are they “which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” [Revelation 12:17.] {Lt19-1893.25}

God is to stand out in the message for these last days as glorified by His believing people, who must have less perplexing anxiety and more faith. “The temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament.” This ark is a symbol of God’s presence. It contains His holy law, given in Eden at the creation of the world, proclaimed on Mount Sinai, and written with the finger of God on two tables of stone. “And there were lightnings and voices and thunderings and an earthquake.” [[Revelation 11:19.](#)] This symbolizes the judgments that will fall upon those who have worked as transgressors of the laws of God’s kingdom. {Lt20-1900.17}

Influences are to be set in motion that will proclaim to the world the first, second, and third angels’ messages. The time has come of which John writes, “The temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the ark of His testament, and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.” [[Revelation 11:19.](#)] “The ark of His testament”—the two tables of stone, upon which are written, with the finger of God, the ten commandments. The ark is a symbol of the presence of God. In clear, steady rays the light shines from it to the world. The time has come when the law of God is to be proclaimed with strong, decided utterance. The world is to be warned, and I beseech those who know the truth to do all in their power to sound the warning, “Prepare to meet thy God.” [[Amos 4:12.](#)] The temple of God was opened in heaven in answer to the prayers of His people, and by terrible things in righteousness will He reveal His power. {Ms166-1902.9}

Christ sent His angel from heaven to teach John the Revelator in regard to the message that must be understood by us—a message of warning that concerns all who live in the last days of this earth’s history. We are to study the testing message given for this time. John declares: “The temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in His temple the ark of His testament.” [[Revelation 11:19.](#)] This ark contains God’s law, the ten commandments. A knowledge of this law is of great consequence to all who have light and to all who minister in word and doctrine. {Lt16-1903.14}