



House Church Study Questions Based on the SAC Sermon on June 5, 2022

Text: Revelation 11

Read

Discussion Questions

Question #1: One of the big questions that Revelations causes us to ask is this: “How does this affect me?” If we approach it like we want to have more data and expand our Bible knowledge only, then we may miss the point. Throughout scripture one of the main purposes of God is that we would *take to heart* the things He says. This means being willing to change our minds and change the course of direction our lives may be on.

Your first question is this: If 11:1-2 is talking about the ‘temple of God’, and that temple is not a physical building but is instead describing believers like you and I, then how might that change how we approach the topic at hand? Read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and then think about how God might want you to live?

Question #2: In verse 2 it talks about ‘Gentiles’ that will trample on the holy city. We have to wrestle, again, if this is talking about Jerusalem or if it represents something much more broad in scope. If it is broad then it isn’t local but instead is global. The Gentiles here are not talking about you and I but instead are talking about those who are not saved and have not been made into the priesthood of all believers. There are two questions here: 1. Read 1 Peter 2:9 and think about your identity and what your call is here. 2. Now consider what it says in Revelation 11:2 and 11:7. . .the non-believers will trample and kill the witnesses, the ones who are prophesying the things of God. What thoughts arise in you as you consider this?

Question #3: There is a cosmic battle taking place here and it's easy to see yourself getting lost in the midst of it. But God showing us these things in advance is an expression of His mercy toward his Bride.

In Revelation 11:7 it says that the Beast is able to come forward in order to overpower and kill the witnesses (again, I am presenting the witnesses as the church). It says the "inhabitants of the earth rejoiced" over this because the witness was like a torment to them.

Jesus was the ultimate witness. He died in order for freedom/salvation to be made available to the world. Death was necessary to bring this about.

Is the same true for the church? Is death necessary in order for hearts to be set free? If that's true then how might that affect the way we think being the church is done?

Question #4: Read 11:11-13. Many Christians have been killed as witnesses of Jesus. The world celebrated this and gloated over the innumerable dead bodies of the saints that were left on the ground. But in 11:11 God empowers the remnant of the Church and they 'rise up'. This fact puts terror in the people of the earth and then the church is lifted up to heaven. There was a severe earthquake and a 1/10 of the city collapsed and possibly 1/10 of the people, 7000 died.

I want you to see some similarities to other themes before we conclude:

Jesus died	Many of the Church died
People gloated over Jesus' death	Many gloat over the death of Believers
Jesus is raised up	The Church is raised up
Earthquake happens	Earthquake happens
People that are dead come to life (Matthew 27:51-53)	7000 die <i>but the rest of the city gives glory to God, possibly 9/10 of the city!</i> (11:13)

This means that the majority of people in that place *were saved*.

Does it seem that the sinful hardness of people's heart are so strong that it takes death in order to shake them out of their prison? Talk about this beyond a simple 'yes' or 'no'. How does this affect you? What might God be saying to you?

Invitation and Mission for this week

This week meditate on this passage of scripture: “I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

(Philippians 3:10-11)

Ask Jesus to help you understand what this means for your life, and if you seek Him earnestly, He will help to show the path He wants you to walk.

Pray for each other