

PASTOR: Kip McCormick
DATE: September 29, 2024

SERIES: Rev'd Up
SERMON: Bold Faith

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Revelation 11:1-14 (NASB)
SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE: Daniel 9:24-27; Daniel 7:23-27; 2 Thessalonians 2:4;
Zechariah 3:1-4:14; 1 Kings 17-18; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Romans 8:38-39

MESSAGE TAKEAWAY: As we Christians become targets in the culture wars, we need to stand with moral courage. But the *way* we take a stand is as important as our *willingness* to take it.

SUPPORTING THOUGHTS:

- 70 “Weeks” -- In Daniel’s prophetic timetable: 1 week = 7 years. $70 \times 7 = 490$ years.
- The number of “weeks” between Gabriel giving this vision to Daniel and Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem on Holy Week, is 69 “weeks” or $(69 \times 7 = 483)$ 483 years.
- At that time, God pressed pause on the prophetic timetable. It starts again in Revelation 6, which is the beginning of the 7-year Tribulation.
- There’s going to be a rebuilding of the temple.
- God looks at the heart of the worshiper, not the appearance of the worshiper.
- The first half of tribulation period is 1,260 days (v3). The last half is the 42 months (v2).
- Two witnesses: 1. They’re real people. 2. They’re in Jerusalem (v1, v8). 3. They’ll prophecy 3.5 years. 4. They’re protected from harm and given special powers of destruction. 5. They have an important ministry during the first half of the Tribulation.
- God’s power to do His work will flow through two people.
- Who specifically are they? We don’t know. But God’s using them to proclaim His gospel to win people to Christ and frustrate God’s enemies. Possibilities:
 - Elijah and Moses
 - Elijah and Enoch
 - The Church
 - Kip and Rich



(OVER)

(SUPPORTING THOUGHTS CONTINUED)

- God allows the beast to have power. The beast is not more powerful than God.
- God doesn't abandon the two prophets like plastic bottles sitting in a trash dump. He brings beauty out of the ashes of death as He calls them back to Himself.
- It's all about the "dash."
- The second woe announced in Rev 8:13 is done. Now the final trumpet will sound as the final judgments (the third woe, which ushers in the 7 bowl judgments) begin.
- Closing thought: Great faith demands greater boldness.

CHALLENGE: Be bold, but don't be a jerk.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think God paused His prophetic table at 69 "weeks"? What's the purpose of that break?
- Do you think John is measuring the Temple literally or figuratively? Why?
- Christ died for our sins, past, present and future. Yet Jesus says in Matthew 12:36 that we're going to have to give an account of our words (for our rewards as believers at the final judgment). How does that relate to God having John measure the Temple and the worshipers in the Temple.
- We don't know who the anti-Christ is. Martin Luther said it was the Pope. Others have said Adolf Hitler or fill in the blank for any American politician we disdain. When the anti-Christ comes on the scene, he will dupe people into believing he's good and can solve all the problems of the world. With that, why is it important to understand more about end times and this person?
- Who do you think the two witnesses are? Why? What's important about them in our Revelation story currently? How does their story speak into how we live our lives?
- Why are the two witnesses wearing sackcloth?
- Read Matthew 5:14-16. How were these two witnesses a light for the world? How can you be a light? Take time to discuss this point –it's important!
- Discuss this thought: Great faith demands greater boldness. Why?
- How can you be bold in your faith without being a jerk. Are there appropriate times to be "in someone's grill" about matters of faith? If so, give some examples.
- What was your one main takeaway from Kip's teaching to apply to your life?

Sources: **Jim Dennison** (The Dennison Forum, excellent resource for thinking biblically in tough times); **Jason Dexter** (Study and Obey on-line Bible Study, Revelation, with excellent discussion questions and commentary); **Eliyahu Lizorkin-Eyzenberg**, Israel Bible Center (multiple books and commentaries); **Gotquestions.org**; **Gary Hamrick** (Cornerstone Chapel, Revelation Series); **Michael Heiser** (Naked Bible Podcast; *Unseen Realm* and multiple books); **Life Application Study Bible** Commentary, Revelation; **John MacArthur** (multiple books, sermons, study bible; Grace to You Ministries); **Chuck Swindoll** (New Testament Commentary – Revelation); **Through the Word Bible App**; **YouVersion Bible App**.