

Revelation 11:1-14
Power and Pain

Warm Up

Apart from Jesus, who are your TWO favourite characters in the Bible? Why? What is it about these people that you like or admire? Their strength? Their weakness? Their humility? Their actions or lifestyle?

Background and context

This chapter sits at a crucial hinge-point in the book of Revelation: an interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpets. John is shown how God protects His people, empowers their witness, allows their suffering, and ultimately vindicates them. The pause in the judgement sequence gives reassurance to the Church that God is actively preserving and empowering His people even during global upheaval.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Revelation 11:1-14. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?



1. **Read Ezekiel 40:1-5.** What is the significance of a wall 11 feet high and thick? How might this encourage believers who are feeling threatened in the world?
2. **The worshippers are protected, yet the holy city is trampled.** How does this description show that God can preserve His people without promising freedom from suffering? What forms of pressure or opposition do Christians face today?
3. **The forty-two months/1260 days.** Chris suggested this relates to the 42 stages in Israel's journey from Egypt to the promised land (Numbers 33). How might this encourage the first readers of Revelation and persecuted Christians today?
4. **Read Zechariah 2:1-14.** The two witnesses are called "the two olive trees and the two lampstands." How are you depending on the Holy Spirit in fulfilling the work God has given you to do?
5. In what ways do the references to **Moses and Elijah** suggest the church should expect to make a powerful impact? How can we speak God's truth courageously without becoming harsh or self-righteous?
6. **The world celebrates the death of the witnesses.** Why can faithful Christian witness provoke hostility? Where might believers today be tempted to soften, hide or abandon an unpopular biblical message in order to gain acceptance?
7. How does the pattern of power, pain and glory fulfil the pattern for all God's people through every generation? (see Matt 5:11-12). How can confidence in the final resurrection and vindication help us remain faithful when our service seems unsuccessful?



Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.