

God's Power, His People, and Man's Wrath

Revelation 11:1-14

Introduction:

- A. Common questions and conclusions when tragedy strikes
 - 1. Why would God allow _____ it to happen?
 - 2. Did God lack the power _____ to stop it?
 - 3. Was God too busy to notice?
 - 4. Was God punishing _____ people?
 - 5. Was it God's will _____?
- B. Today's lesson shows an interaction between God's power, God's people, and man's wrathful choices.
 - 1. We will learn not to question _____ God's power in tragedy.
 - 2. We will learn to live _____ for God's power.

God's People – immune from God's wrath but not man's wrath (1,2)

- A. The apostle John was commanded to measure three things:
 - 1. The temple _____ of God
 - a. This was not the 35 acre complex that Jesus went into and cleansed (Mk 11:15-17)
 - b. The Greek word refers to the inner _____ part of the temple where the Holy of Holies was.
 - c. It is best to translate as the sanctuary _____.
 - 2. The altar _____
 - a. The place where sacrifices _____ were made.
 - b. The Jewish Historian, Josephus, an eyewitness to the temple structure in Jesus's day and afterwards, records the altar as being 15 feet high, _____ feet wide and 50 feet long (Wars of the Jews, Book V, Chapter V).
 - 3. Those who were _____ in the sanctuary.
 - a. This refers to true believers since only they have access to God through Christ (Matt 27:51; 1Tim 2:5).
 - b. How was John to measure these people? – this was to make a line of demarcation _____, so that it was clear who the true believers are as the following verse makes clear.
- B. The apostle John was commanded not to measure the court _____ outside the sanctuary.
 - 1. This was the court of the Gentiles which *has been given to the nations* _____.
 - 2. These nations (Gentiles) will trample the holy city for _____ months.

- a. The holy city is Jerusalem in Luke 21:24 – Jesus prophesied that Jerusalem would be trampled by the Gentiles from the time of its destruction until the time of the Gentiles is f_____.
- b. The holy city in Revelation
 - 1) Is called the N_____ Jerusalem (Rev 21:2)
 - 2) Is symbolic of the p_____ of God (Rev 21:3 – When the holy city descends to earth, God is declared to be dwelling among His people)
 - 3) Is called the bride, the wife of the Lamb (Rev 21:9,10)
- C. The Gentiles will trample the people of God for 42 months
 1. Rev 13:5-7 gives the same period of time when the b_____ is given authority to make war with the saints world-wide and overcome them (trample them).
 2. Rev 13:17,18 prophesies of a m_____ given that will distinguish the believing world from the unbelieving world (true believers will not take it).

God's Power – not a question but a statement (3-6)

- A. During the 42 month persecution period, God will raise up two w_____ for 1260 days (i.e. virtually the same as 42 months)
 1. They are called p_____ (v. 10)
 2. They will be prophesying a b_____ message to the unbelieving world.
 3. They will be immune to h_____ during the days of their prophesying.
 4. They are identified as the two o_____ trees and two lampstands that *stand before the Lord of the earth.* – this is the language of Zech 4.
 - a. Zech 4:4 states that they symbolize the w_____ of the Lord which will be displayed in power of the Spirit.
 - b. Zech 4:13 states that they symbolize two a_____ ones.
 - c. All we can say is that the two witnesses are anointed by God as prophets who display His power.
 5. They will keep it from r_____ for 1260 days.
 6. They will strike the earth with various p_____
- B. All believers will not question God's power at this time in their persecution but will s_____ God's power working through the two prophets.

Man's Wrath – not self-benefiting but self-defeating (7-14)

- A. At the end of the 1260 day period, when the two prophets are done prophesying
1. The beast will k_____ them while they are in Jerusalem and leave their corpses on the street.
 2. The unbelieving world will c_____ for 3 ½ days over the death of their tormenters.
- B. God raises the two prophets to l_____
1. They ascend into the c_____ before the eyes of the unbelievers who are there.
 2. Causes an earthquake which destroys 1/10 of the city and kills _____ people.
 3. The rest of the unbelieving world in Jerusalem give g_____ to God out of terror.
- C. When we believers are objects of the world's wrath we are to know that they are not benefiting. They are just defeating themselves.

Conclusion:

- A. When a tragedy strikes believers
1. Trust in God's p_____ (He will use this tragedy to accomplish His plans).
 2. Look for God's p_____
- B. Example of the shooting at Wedgewood Baptist Church
1. The gunman shot 100 bullets into a crowd of 400 but only 14 people were hit.
 2. The pipe bomb he threw did not explode.
 3. None of the adults that were killed had children.
 4. All those killed were known to have a deep-seated faith in the Lord.
 5. Many denominations pulled together to help them.
 6. The pastor was interviewed on Larry King Live and was able to present the gospel to over 200 million viewers.
 7. The funeral service was broadcast live
 - a. By CNN
 - b. In Saudi Arabia (one of the victim's family lived there)
 - c. Broadcast internationally
 8. Many people came to Christ
 - a. 35 people in Japan surrendered to Christ
 - b. At one school, 110 students accepted Christ, at another 25.
 - c. A classroom teacher of another school led 22 students to Christ

DON'T QUESTION GOD'S POWER. LOOK FOR IT!