



The Tribulation Temple  
Revelation 11:1-2  
October 2, 2022

**Introduction:**

We are still in the middle of a parenthetical passage that began in chapter 10. We are in the middle of a pause in the actions and activities of the Tribulation Period judgments. As we come to Revelation 11, we have arrived at one of the most difficult passages in the book of the Revelation. Admittedly, it is hard to understand, but keeping two thoughts in mind will help us as we study these verses.

1. We are on Jewish ground—The images and terminology are Jewish in nature. These verses deal with the future of the people of Israel.
2. We are dealing with future events—Some people take these verses and try to make them fit the past, and some even try to make them fit into the present. These are previews of coming attractions.

**A Harsh Truth:**

There are two reasons for the Tribulation period. First, there will be a purging of the Jewish rebels on the earth. The seven-year tribulation period is primarily for the Jews. Second, it will be a time when all Gentile rejectors will be punished.

**A Fact to Remember:**

Chapter 11 is a continuation of Chapter 10. It is unfortunate that there is a chapter break in our bible. Chapter 11 is still a divine parenthesis in the whole scheme of the tribulation period. Remember, chapter breaks are not inspired; they are always added by human interpreters.

- I. The Future Vision of Promise
  - A. The Temple's Past History

**Takeaway:**

For some 500 years, from the time of Moses to David, the people of Israel worshiped God at the Tabernacle. It was there that sacrifices were carried out, and it was there that the priests made intercession for the sins of the people. It was there that Israel sought their God.

Before David died, he expressed a desire to build a permanent house of God, a Temple where God's presence could dwell (2 Samuel 7:1–4). God, however, refused to allow David to build the Temple because he was a man of war (1 Chronicles 28:3). That responsibility went to his son, Solomon, and it took seven years to build it.

There are five Temples referred to in the scriptures:

1. Solomon's Temple (it took seven years to complete, I Kings 6:38)
2. Zerubbabel's Temple (built after the exile, Ezra 3:12)
3. Herod's Temple (built during Jesus' time on the earth and was destroyed by Titus in AD70)
4. Jesus's Temple (this Temple will be built during the Millennium)
5. The Tribulation Temple (this Temple will be built during the first half of the Tribulation period under the leadership of the Antichrist)

- B. The Temple's Present Preparation for the Future

**Historical fact:**

Many orthodox Jews today dream of rebuilding their temple, but its site is now occupied by the Islamic shrine known as the Dome of the Rock (we will go there in June of 2023). Because Muslims believe it to be the place from which Muhammad ascended to heaven, it is among the most sacred shrines in the Islamic world. For the Jews to take that site away from the Muslims and build their temple there would be unthinkable in today's political climate. But during the Tribulation, under the protection of the Antichrist (Dan. 9:24–27), they will be able to rebuild the temple.

**Takeaway:**

The problems we see in the Middle East today are not political problems; they are all religious problems. Every modern group today that is involved in the turmoil of Israel wants control of the ancient city of Jerusalem. It is the most contested ground in the world. For the Jews, their struggle is one of survival. For the Arabs and Muslims, their goal is the annihilation of Israel. It will all be settled during this time of tribulation.

**A Noteworthy Prophetic Fact:**

On Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 5:00PM, five perfect, unblemished red heifers arrived in Israel from the USA (Comanche, Texas). A modest ceremony was held at the unloading bay of the cargo terminal at Ben Gurion airport, where the new arrivals were greeted, and speeches were made by the incredible people who have put their hearts, souls, and means into making this historic/prophetic day become a reality. This is an unprecedented act and moment in prophetic history, for it was carried out over two continents and two hemispheres to locate and get the five heifers they desired. Rabbis from the local Temple Institute in Israel, Christian Jews in the United States, and Israeli Veterinarian services all helped carry out this prophetic move in getting them transferred from Texas. Why five red heifers? Only one heifer is needed for the sacrifice, but five were located in order to make sure they had the needed one. After the heifer is one year old (the proper age for a heifer to be slaughtered), the heifer will be slaughtered, and the ashes will be placed on the Mount of Olives. Those conducting the sacrifice will look directly into the sanctuary of the Holy Temple, which isn't built yet. The Temple service cannot begin without a red heifer. The Bible states that only the red heifer can restore the Biblical purity needed to rebuild the Temple. Today over 500 Temple Priests have been trained to fulfill their duties of worship and sacrifice in the Temple.

When these red heifers are out of quarantine, three will be placed in an unnamed location, while the other two will be placed in the Jordan Valley, and these two can be seen as they will be open to the public. For health reasons, the United States does not allow the transportation of livestock into Israel as well as other States and countries, so this is for sure a historical moment of future prophecy being fulfilled. What is the significance of a red heifer in the Bible? To meet Old Testament law requirements, a red heifer was needed to help accomplish the purification of the Israelites from uncleanness; specifically, the ashes of a red heifer were needed for ceremonial cleansing.

*Hebrews 9:13–14 (NKJV) For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

**Free Grace International Ministries:**

Red heifers are incredibly rare. Rabbis estimate that only nine of them were ever found and used in two eras of the temples in Jerusalem. Of course, the next temple (the third) is still waiting to be built, but many of the implements and instruments for temple worship have already been made. Five hundred men with the right lineage have been trained to perform priestly duties. There are plans to build another temple on the Temple Mount. Of course, it's complicated because the dome of the rock occupies much of the real estate, but there are plans that make a shared space a real possibility. However, without a red heifer, there's no kosher way to jumpstart a new temple even if it were built. It's like having a car; the red heifer is the key to starting the ignition. COVID was the key (and here is where the story gets interesting). At the height of the COVID pandemic, many people were not coming to work. A certain Texas rancher reports that a group of five red heifers were born in one litter (an incredibly rare occurrence within itself); more amazing still, since it was during COVID, the employee who normally puts in the ear tags didn't come into work that day. So, these five red calves remained unblemished. When they were about eight or nine months old, rabbis were called to inspect them. Not long after, a group of Israeli Rabbis from the temple institute showed up in Comanche, Texas, to inspect a sibling set of red heifers. Apparently, they passed the test because five red cows arrived in Israel on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Numbers 19:1–6 (NKJV) Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, <sup>2</sup> “This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD has commanded, saying: ‘Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring you a red heifer without blemish, in which there is no defect and on which a yoke has never come. <sup>3</sup> You shall give it to Eleazar the priest, that he may take it outside the camp, and it shall be slaughtered before him; <sup>4</sup> and Eleazar the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger, and sprinkle some of its blood seven times directly in front of the tabernacle of meeting. <sup>5</sup> Then the heifer shall be burned in his sight: its hide, its flesh, its blood, and its offal (internal organs) shall be burned. <sup>6</sup> And the priest shall take cedar wood and hyssop and scarlet and cast them into the midst of the fire burning the heifer.**