

REVELATION

The Two Witnesses
(Revelation 11:1~14)



*Zechariah 4:6, 8-9: Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: **Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts**"*

... Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you."

Revelation 11 contains one of the most encouraging sections during the time of the Tribulation.

God gives a witness of Himself, and that witness will be effective.

1. We see worshippers of God at a temple.

- ❖ Revelation 11:1-2: Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, “Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.”

1. We see worshippers of God at a temple.

A. This description points to a literal temple during the time of the Tribulation.

❖ Some try to spiritualize this temple and say it represents believers.

❖ 1 Corinthians 3 and Ephesians 2 point to a group of believers as a temple.

❖ 1 Corinthians 6 points to an individual believer's body as the temple of God.

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1. We see worshippers of God at a temple.

B. The idea of a physical temple in the Tribulation fits with Daniel 9.

❖ Daniel 9:27: And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to **sacrifice** and **offering**. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.

2. Two witnesses will minister in Israel during this time.

- ❖ Revelation 11:3-4: And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

2. Two witnesses will minister in Israel during this time.

A. These witnesses will minister for 1,260 days.

- ❖ Daniel 9: the Antichrist will cut off sacrifices at the midpoint of the Tribulation.
- ❖ Revelation 13: the “Beast” is given special power for 42 months.
- ❖ Some say these witnesses minister during the first half of Tribulation and others say during the second half.

2. Two witnesses will minister in Israel during this time.

B. During their ministry, God will give these witnesses supernatural protection.

❖ Revelation 11:5: And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed.

2. Two witnesses will minister in Israel during this time.

C. God will give supernatural signs to accompany their witness.

❖ Revelation 11:6: They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire.

2. Two witnesses will minister in Israel during this time.

C. God will give supernatural signs to accompany their witness.



2. Two witnesses will minister in Israel during this time.

D. Who are these witnesses?

❖ Perhaps simply two men who are alive during that time.

1. Some say Enoch and Elijah.

❖ Hebrews 9:27: appointed to man once to die

❖ General rule with exceptions: widow's son, Lazarus, Jairus' daughter, living believers at Rapture)

2. Two witnesses will minister in Israel during this time.

D. Who are these witnesses?

2. Some say Moses and Elijah.

- ❖ Who turned water to blood?
- ❖ Who prayed that it would not rain for 3½ years?
- ❖ Who appeared with Christ at the Transfiguration?

3. At the conclusion of their ministry, the witnesses are killed by the beast.

- ❖ Revelation 11:7: And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them.
- ❖ First mention of “the beast” in Revelation.

3. At the conclusion of their ministry, the witnesses are killed by the beast.

A. These witnesses are not killed until “they have finished their testimony.”

- ❖ God is sovereign and in control, even in the timing of events.
- ❖ These witnesses will minister for an exact number of days, and nothing can harm them until the appointed time.

3. At the conclusion of their ministry, the witnesses are killed by the beast.

A. These witnesses are not killed until “they have finished their testimony.”

- ❖ These witnesses are faithful to their task
- ❖ Acts 13:36-37: For David, **after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation**, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, but he whom God raised up did not see corruption.

3. At the conclusion of their ministry, the witnesses are killed by the beast.

B. When the beast kills the two witnesses, the people of earth celebrate.

- ❖ Revelation 11:8-10: And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth.

3. At the conclusion of their ministry, the witnesses are killed by the beast.

B. When the beast kills the two witnesses, the people of earth celebrate.



4. God will resurrect the two witnesses and call them to heaven.

❖ Revelation 11:11-12: But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here!” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and **their enemies watched them.**

4. God will resurrect the two witnesses and call them to heaven.

A. Along with the resurrection, God will send an earthquake.

❖ Revelation 11:13a: And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake . . .



4. God will resurrect the two witnesses and call them to heaven.

B. As a result, some will turn to God.

❖ Revelation 11:13b: . . . and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.



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B. As a result, some will turn to God.

❖ Revelation 14:6-7: Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

4. God will resurrect the two witnesses and call them to heaven.

C. The second woe has passed by the time the ministry of the two witnesses ends.

- ❖ Revelation 11:14: The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.
- ❖ The sixth trumpet/second woe was the 200,000,000 horsemen in Revelation 9.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- God leaves a witness of Himself.
- These witnesses will be effective.
- God is sovereign over all, including the timing of our lives.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- We must be faithful with the lives that God has given to us.
- We must depend on the Holy Spirit to help us witness effectively.
- We should be encouraged that God's witness is effective.
- God gives a witness of Himself, and that witness will be effective.

NEXT TIME:

REVELATION 11:15-19

- The Seventh Trumpet