THE END - Part 9

THE TWO WITNESSES

Revelation 11:3

This passage is describing the "witnesses" that will be sent out to prophesy all over the world for 1260 days or for the last 3.5 years of the Tribulation. Who are the "two witnesses," and why are there only two? (It seems like a lot of work for just *two* people!)

Remember we said to you that the events we see in the gospels are really a parable of what will happen again in the last days. We saw this in regards to *Judas* who represents the 'sons of perdition,' or those who will fall away. Today we will see that there's also a record in the gospels of "two witnesses" being sent out. Moreover, we will see that the *witnesses* that will be sent out represent those disciples who do *not* fall away!

John 6:66

Here again, we are shown that there will be individuals who will *fall away* in the last days. (By the way, notice where this "falling away" is recorded—in John **6:66**! This is not a coincidence. Instead, it's *confirmation* that those who fall away will receive the 'mark' of the beast, which is **666**!)

John 6:67, 68

Apparently, NOT EVERYONE will "fall away." Some disciples will remain with Jesus (or with the *manchild*)! Moreover, those that remain will eventually be sent forth to *witness*!

Mark 6:7

Notice that the *twelve* (or those who remain) were sent out "two by two." In other words, they were sent out in companies of TWO! (This pattern continued throughout the book of Acts where Peter and John were sent out together, as well as Paul and Barnabas and Paul and Silas.)

Why were they sent out in 2's, and not companies of 3 or 4? They were sent out in groups of 2 because the Law requires "two" witnesses before a man can be condemned to death! A judge cannot condemn a man unless there are at least two witnesses against him.

This fact alone tells us the kind of *witnessing* they will be conveying. The "two witnesses" will be, for the most part, witnessing AGAINST men, not TO men!

Mark 6:11

Notice how the disciples would be a "testimony" or *witness* (same word) AGAINST men! Meaning, they will be sent to testify against men's sins. Again, this is the kind of witnessing that will be performed by the 'witnesses' in the last days.

Now, many believe that the "witnesses" spoken of in <u>Revelation 11</u> will be Moses and Elijah! They believe Moses and Elijah will be sent to prophesy before Christ returns. But, the "witnesses" mentioned in Revelation is NOT Moses and Elijah. We'll see why this is in a moment, but for now it's interesting to see how the "witnesses" sent in Jesus' day were ALSO mistaken for Old Testament prophets!

Mark 6:12-15

So, even the people in Jesus' day mistook the disciples (His *witnesses*) for prophets of old. And as we said, this same mistake is being made today regarding of the witnesses God will raise up in the last days.

Revelation 11:6

So, we see that the "two witnesses" will perform the same miracles that both Moses and Elijah performed. As we've said, many see this as proof that the "two witnesses" are in fact Moses and Elijah. But, the reason the end-time witnesses will perform the same miracles as Moses and Elijah IS NOT because they ARE Moses and Elijah. Instead, it's because their MINISTRY will be the same as that of Moses and Elijah! (Like Elijah, they will be sent to prophesy against *God's people* and, like Moses, they will be sent to prophesy against *the nations* that are holding God's people captive.)

Again, it's necessary that there be TWO witnesses, because the law requires two witnesses to condemn a man in a court of law.

In a court of law, there are 2 types of witnesses. First, there are *eyewitnesses*. Eyewitnesses can prove to be useful in court, but their testimony is limited to their experiences. They are not permitted to judge or offer testimony beyond what they have *personally* seen or heard.

There's another type of witness in a court of law. There are *expert* witnesses. An expert witness is someone who has devoted themselves to a particular field and, therefore, they have gained expertise and knowledge beyond the common person. As a result, they're permitted to testify according to their professional or expert opinion.

The "witnesses" God will raise up in the last days fall into this latter category witnesses. The "two witnesses" are individuals with *specialized* knowledge. Moreover, this special knowledge (discernment) enables them to do what natural men cannot do—judge according to the Spirit!

1Corinthians 2:6, 13-14

The *spiritual insight* of the "two witnesses" will enable them to judge the world even though they may not know them personally! But, to be considered an *expert* witness, one must have the *mind of Christ*.

1Corinthians 2:16

John 8:13

The Pharisees were accusing Jesus of "bearing record" of Himself. In other words, they were accusing Him of not having enough proof or *witnesses*. Thus, they were ready to dismiss Jesus' words on the grounds of a technicality!

John 8:14

Jesus explains to the Pharisees that, first of all, His claims (testimony) was true because He was speaking from experience (i.e. as an expert). Next He tells them that He, in fact, is *not* alone in His testimony!

John 8:16-18

The Father has been a second witness and corroborated His claims by the miracles which He did. (The greatest of these miracles being the resurrection, which He was yet to do!)

However, the Pharisees weren't interested in Jesus' claims (the truth). They were only interested in justifying themselves. This is why they tried to use a technicality (accusing Jesus of not having 2 witnesses). (People who are only interested in justifying themselves will use *technicalities* to keep from acknowledging the truth or repenting!) But again, this is why God will bringing forth *two* witnesses, expert witnesses possessing *specialized* knowledge that will testify and reveal the secrets of men's hearts!