

# THE END – Part 10

## THE TWO WITNESSES (2)

### [Revelation 11:3](#)

I said to you last time that it's *unlikely* the “two witnesses” represent *two* literal people. Instead, they represent a *group* of people. In fact, it's likely they represent *believers* or the Church. This can be easily proven by the fact that they are described in **verse 4** as “two *candlesticks*.”

### [Revelation 11:4](#)

According to [Revelation 1](#), “candlesticks” are a symbol for the Church!

### [Revelation 1:20](#)

Now, if we accept the fact that these “two witnesses” represent numerous believers in the Church, then why doesn't the Bible just call them “witnesses”? Why describe them as “TWO witnesses”?

As we said to you before, the law requires the testimony of *two* witnesses to condemn any man to death. Therefore, this is clue that these “two witnesses” will be sent to prophesy AGAINST men. In other words, God will send the witnesses to prophesy against those in the Church and in secular society. We know this because the witnesses are said to perform miracles common to both Elijah and Moses. The reason this is important is because Elijah was sent to prophesy against God's people and Moses was sent to prophesy against secular government (Egypt).

### [Revelation 11:7](#)

There's a lot to unpack in this verse, starting with, “Who is this ‘beast,’ and why is he given power to overcome and kill God's people?” But before we deal with this, I want to point out the fact that the ‘beast’ will not be able to kill the witnesses until they have completed their assignment (i.e. “finished their testimony”)!

I believe the same is true of us today. Death cannot overcome us until we have finished our assignment. Therefore, what determines whether we live or die is not really our *health* or our *age*, but where we are in terms of our assignment in life!

### [Acts 13:36](#)

### [Revelation 11:7](#)

We should point out that the word **finish** in this verse does not simply mean to *terminate*. Instead, it means *to carry a thing out to its completion or end* (i.e. to fulfill it). There are a lot of people who have terminated their ministry, but have not truly finished or completed it!

### [2Timothy 4:5](#)

The words “make full proof of thy ministry,” really means “*fulfill* your ministry!”

#### [2 Timothy 4:5 ESV](#)

<sup>5</sup> **As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, **FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY.****

Notice what it takes to *finish* or to “fulfill one’s ministry”—being *sober-minded* and *enduring afflictions*! Therefore, in order to complete any assignment we will, at some point, be required to endure some form of affliction or hardship. And when we do, we must do it soberly (patiently, and under control)!

### [2Timothy 4:6, 7](#)

Notice, Paul knew he was coming to the end of his course because it was now time to offer his body! The same was true of Jesus. Remember, it was on the *cross* where Jesus declared, “It is FINISHED!”

Therefore, not only are we to expect every assignment to include some sort of ‘hardship’ (affliction), we should expect for it to come in the end! Every assignment or trial will most likely end with us on our cross (dying to self). In other words, we’re supposed to *lose* something once our course or trial has ended!

If we’re still playing with the same cards we had when we started, then either we’ve done something wrong or our job is not done. (Just ask the servant with one talent in the Parable of the Talents!)

Many in the body of Christ claim they have obeyed God and done all that was commanded of them, yet, like Samuel, I still hear “sheep bleating” in my ears!

### [1 Samuel 15:13–14](#)

Saul was told to smite the Amalekites AND destroy *all* that they have (i.e. all their livestock). Thus, when Samuel heard sheep “bleating” he knew the job was *not* finished! We’re not finished until we have fully laid down our lives. (In sports they call it “leaving it all on the field!”)

## [Revelation 11:7](#)

Now we come to the question that we asked earlier; that is, “Who is this *beast*, and why has he been given power to kill the witnesses?”

Well, we’re not given much information about the “beast” in **chapter 11**. (More about the ‘beast’ is learned later in [Revelation 13](#) and [Revelation 17](#).) We’re simply told that the beast will “ascend out of the bottomless pit” and will be in opposition to the witnesses (saints).

## [Revelation 13:7](#)

Therefore, the ‘beast’ will make war with the saints. In fact, he will be given “power” (or authority) to defeat and kill them. This is pretty surprising. Why would God give power to the enemy to overcome His people? Is this an act of judgment? No.

## [John 19:8-11](#)

Apparently, Jesus knew the Father had given authority over to his enemies to bring Him to His cross! Again, this goes back to what we’ve previously said and that’s this: in order to finish our course, power (authority) will often be given to our enemies in order to bring us to our cross. It will be impossible to finish your course without, at some point, picking up your cross!

This is usually the time when we move from ‘glorifying God’ by our works, to God being ‘glorified in us.’

## [John 17:4, 5](#)

Jesus glorified the Father by the works He did in the earth. Afterwards, the Father glorified Himself in Christ through the resurrection. Unfortunately, we assume doing the works of God makes us exempt from suffering. Therefore, we resist, fight and try to maneuver out from under any opposition. We see opposition as a sign of defeat. However, sometimes opposition is sign that we are nearing the end. If we will simply *take up our cross* (i.e. lose our life), we’ll be victorious

## [Revelation 12:11](#)

Notice how victory came, not by force, but by death! Some of us only know how to fight our way out of trouble. (In fact, this is the reason why some of us KEEP losing!) We haven’t understood that we can sometimes win and overcome opposition through death.