

John found himself caught up into heaven before the throne of God

Revelation chapters 1–10 do not begin with fear. It begins with Jesus. The risen King Jesus stands among His churches, speaks with authority, opens the scroll of history, and shows us that even when the world seems out of control, He is not, and nor is heaven.

Jesus Christ is alive, reigning, and worthy of it all. So today, as we open this book, we are not stepping into confusion or fear; we are stepping into revelation.

History is not spinning wildly out of control. It is moving steadily toward the triumph of the Lamb

The last three trumpets bring such terrible things to the earth that they are called the **three** “woes”.

As we pick it up today we are in a period of time between the second and third “woes”.

Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. 2 But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. 3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. 6 These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.

On May 3rd, we looked at these two amazing individuals who will show up during the first half of the tribulation. They are called the “Two Witnesses”

One of the things that the witnesses will be known for is how they deal with their enemies, 2 Kings 1:10 NKJV and Luke 9:54–56 NKJV

Revelation 11:7-10 Two Witnesses Killed

When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them Revelation 11:7 NKJV

After the two **witnesses complete their testimony**, a beast from the bottomless pit kills them

The book of Revelation refers to this “beast” 36 times; the beast is the Antichrist

This is the first time the term “beast,” is used

A beast in prophetic literature portrays two things: a king and a kingdom, **Daniel 7**. This beast represents world government

So, these two witnesses stood against the beast's religious and political system

The source of the beast's authority is straight out of the pit, which is a satanic system

This satanic system goes to war against the two witnesses

When they finish their testimony- This is important. The beast cannot touch them until their God-given mission is complete

finish – teleo – to bring to a close, to end; to perform, complete, fulfill

The phrase shows divine sovereignty over their ministry and their death

the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit- He rises from the abyss, showing a connection to demonic evil and rebellion

will make war against them- Faithful witnesses provoke spiritual conflict

The world does not passively ignore the truth of Jesus forever

Eventually, even in our world today, evil is aggressive toward the name of Jesus

overcome them, and kill them- This is a temporary outward victory, not an ultimate one

The beast can kill their bodies, **but he cannot cancel their witness or defeat God's purpose**

Grace- No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is from Me," Says the Lord Isaiah 54:17 NKJV

Faithfulness does not always mean earthly comfort; sometimes obedience to God leads to conflict, rejection, and loss

When a believer **takes a biblical stand at work** and loses influence or opportunity. **That does not mean they failed.** Sometimes finishing your testimony means standing firm even when it costs

The enemy cannot take you one moment before God is finished with your assignment, **Ecclesiastes 3**

And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified Revelation 11:8 NKJV

their dead bodies will lie in the street- This is great public humiliation. **The "beast" does not simply kill them; it dishonors them.** There is no burial, no dignity, and no respect

the great city- This most likely points to the city of Jerusalem, because the phrase where also our Lord was crucified

spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt- These names are symbolic descriptions of the city's moral and spiritual condition

Sodom speaks of corruption, wickedness, and rebellion. God obliterated this city along with Gomorrah

Egypt speaks of oppression, bondage, and hostility to God. Egypt" reduced Israel to slavery

So, Jerusalem is being described **not by covenant privilege, but by a spiritual condition**

That is noteworthy because **a town, a church, and a person** with significant biblical history can still become spiritually dead, perverted, and corrupt

Grace- "Religiousness" or acting religiously does not guarantee spiritual faithfulness

A town, a church, and a person can have history, tradition, and biblical heritage and still be spiritually compromised. It is something for believers to be aware of..

Someone may grow up in church, know Christian language, and participate outwardly, yet still have a heart far from God

Jesus judges our hearts, not just our "religious" reputation

Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves Revelation 11:9 NKJV

peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations - This shows the global scope of the event. The whole world is watching

Television cameras will focus on them as the party continues; they will gloat over the beast's victory

three-and-a-half days - This is a limited time. Even their humiliation has boundaries

not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves - **This is deliberate contempt.** The world not only rejects their message but also rejoices in their shame

This government of the Antichrist exhibits barbarism and ghoulish behavior by allowing the dead bodies to lie in the street for 3 ½ days, which is appalling

Grace - The **world often dishonors what God honors**, what our God values; the world will mock

What God calls faithful, our culture calls foolishness, and our culture will try to shame what God commends

And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth Revelation 11:10 NKJV

those who dwell on the earth - In the book of Revelation, this phrase often refers to those settled in rebellion against God, it is intentional rebellion against God

will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts - This is a grotesque counterfeit celebration

The world throws a party because God's witnesses are dead. It is almost like a satanic holiday

People worldwide will throw a party because of the defeat of the two witnesses

They will even give each other gifts in celebration of the victory of the beast

because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth - The message of the two prophets tortured the people of the world mentally and caused them great distress

They could not bear the message of Jesus because they hated the objective truth

That is why they were so glad to get rid of them

Religiousness is full of sweetness and light until you oppose it. Conviction feels like torment to someone who has hardened their heart

People who refuse repentance often resent the messenger who exposes their sin

Grace - The truth disturbs people who love the darkness

Observation: God has a plan for us as long as we are alive

God has a plan for all Christians, and we are invincible until that plan is done

Before we go out to witness for Christ, we pause to remember that Christ first gave Himself for us

Communion brings us back to the cross, where our hope was secured, our sin was paid for, and our Savior proved faithful to the very end