

**Passage:** Revelation 11:3-14

**Title:** The Two Witnesses

**Summary:** In our passage we will look at the Two Witnesses who preach for 3.5 years in Jerusalem. They will breath fire, shut the heavens from rain, and strike the earth with plagues. They will be killed, and all the earth will celebrate, but after 3.5 days God will raise them back to life, and call them Home. Who are they and why does it matter to us today, join us to find out.

*Revelation 11:1–14 (NKJV)* <sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." <sup>4</sup> These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. <sup>12</sup> And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. <sup>13</sup> In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. <sup>14</sup> The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

### **Blessing / John on Patmos**

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

*(Revelation 1:3 NKJV)* Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

### **John on Patmos / John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready**

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ. The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

*(John 20:31 NKJV)* but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

*(1 John 5:13 NKJV)* These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

*(Revelation 2:7 NKJV)* "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

### **Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne**

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

*(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV)* that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times **He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.**

### **Book of Revelation Outline**

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

*(Revelation 1:19 NKJV)* "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

### **Recap Outline**

- Chapter 1 is the revelation of the glorified Christ.

- Chapters 2-3 are the 7 churches, the current church period, this period known as the dispensation of grace. The church period ends with the Rapture as God takes us, His Bride, out of here for a 7 year honeymoon with Him. We can see from the signs around us that the rapture is very soon.
- Chapters 4-5 are the scene around the throne of God, before the dispensation of grace ends, and God pours His wrath out on a Christ rejecting world.
- Chapters 6-19, known as the 7 year Tribulation Period.
- Chapter 20, at the end of the Tribulation Period Satan is cast into the bottomless pit, and the saints will rule and reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs (Millennial Kingdom) over those that survived the Tribulation. Then at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed, believe it or not, people will chose to follow him, then Jesus will say enough and cast Satan all those who follow him into the Lake of Fire.
- Chapter 21-22, then will come the new heaven, and the new earth, and we shall live happily ever after – but there will be no end as we will spend all of eternity beholding Him, and fellowship with each other.

## **Recap / Seals & Trumpets**

### 7 Seals

Seal 1 – White Horse – the Anti-christ is Revealed. (6:1-2)

Seal 2 – Red Horse – War on the Earth. (6:3-4)

Seal 3 – Black Horse – Famine upon the Earth (days wage for loaf of bread). (6:5-6)

Seal 4 – Pale Horse – Pestilence and Death (1/4 world dies). (6:7-8)

Seal 5 – The Martyred Saints of the Tribulation. (6:9-11)

Seal 6 – Earthquakes & Upheavals upon the Earth. (6:12-17)

Seal 7 – The 7 Trumpets of God

Trumpet 1 – 1/3 of Trees and Grass burned up. (8:7)

Trumpet 2 – 1/3 of Sea turned to blood. (8:8-9)

Trumpet 3 – 1/3 of Water becomes undrinkable. (8:10-11)

Trumpet 4 – 1/3 of the Sun is blocked out. (8:12)

Trumpet 5 – Key to Bottomless Pit – Demons Released. (9:1-12)

Trumpets 6 – 200 million man Army – 1/3 Earth Killed (total now 1/2). (9:13-19)

Trumpet 7 – The 7 Bowls of God's Wrath

### **Break – Commentary before 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet (see Timeline)**

There are 7 seals, and the 7<sup>th</sup> seal has 7 Trumpets. The 7<sup>th</sup> Trumpet, will have 7 Bowls of Wrath. Now just as before we got into the 1<sup>st</sup> Trumpet we had a break with a commentary of other things that were happening (the 144,000 being Sealed and more Martyred saints), so too do we break with commentary before the 1<sup>st</sup> Bowl of Wrath is poured out, which isn't until Chapter 15. So some fascinating study here in chapters 10-14, as we will get filler information of what is happening on the earth such as:

- The Rebuilt Temple. (11)
- The 2 Witnesses Preaching in Jerusalem. (11)
- Satan thrown out of heaven for good. (12)
- Satan's attempt to destroy Israel – God protects Them (12)
- The details on the Beast (the Anti-christ – Satan incarnate), (13)
- The False Prophet arises, (13)
- The mark of the Beast demanded, (13)
- The angels preaching the everlasting gospel as God still offers salvation to man. (14)

### **The Blessings for Us – to See Rebuilt Temple**

We finished chapter 10 with the mighty angel saying to John you must prophesy again. Now what we have seen in the 7 seals and 7 trumpets, we can see the signs of birth pains and go wow. But the things we are getting into now, should leave us speechless, the things we see now are things that can only happen in our day – like this rebuilt temple. I pray after this study your heart will be quickened to see how close we are, how sure this word is, and how sure and how close these things are ready to break wide open before our very eyes. The resultant, I pray will be a strengthening of your faith, a realization of how

little time we have left, and that those realizations will change the way you live, that these next handful of studies will put your whole life into perspective - that you will seek first the kingdom of God, and that he who believes these things will keep himself pure before the Lord, and if you have questioned if God is real, that you will see Him as the Savior:

*(Revelation 10:11 NKJV) And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."*

*(Matthew 6:33 NKJV) "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*

*(1 John 3:2 NKJV) Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

*(1 John 3:3 NKJV) And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

### **Outline: The Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:3-14)**

- The Temple Stands, because Israel Stands (11:1-2)
- God's Witness to Man, Attached to the Vine (11:3-4)
- They/We Stand Until God Says Come Up Here (11:5)
- Who Are the Two Witnesses (11:6)
- What Happened to Jerusalem (11:7-8)
- The World Celebrates the Silence (11:9-10)
- The World is Silenced (11:11-12)
- Grace Shakes the World (11:13-14)

### **Prayer**

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

### **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*

### **The Temple Stands, because Israel Stands (11:1-2)**

**(Revelation 11:1 NKJV) 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.**

**(Revelation 11:2 NKJV) "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.**

### **Rebuilt Temple**

The Temple will be rebuilt by this time. I refer you to our last study on the Coming Temple, a wonderful prophetic picture showing just how close we are to the rapture. And may we walk in the power of the Word, that it cannot be undone, and every Word of God will come to pass, from Israel being rebirthed into the land after 2,000 year, to this Temple being built here in Revelation, to God making us His Temple and living inside of us.

*(1 Corinthians 3:16 NKJV) Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

*(Colossians 1:27 NKJV) To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

At the Temple, sweet incense was offered up, the word was read, worship would arise unto the Lord, and prayer.

At the Temple there was an altar for sacrifices, what does the Lord desire for us, the Lord calls us to be living sacrifices. That is a sweet is the sweet aroma before the Lord.

*Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)* <sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Beloved, if the Temple stands, if Israel stands, you too shall stand, because God's Word will not return void, and He will complete it until that day:

*Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)*<sup>11</sup> So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

*Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)*<sup>6</sup> being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

### **God's Witness to Man, Attached to the Vine (11:3-4)**

**(Revelation 11:3 NKJV)** "And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

**(Revelation 11:4 NKJV)** These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.

### **First Half of Trib / Mid-Trib Point**

1260 days, are the first half of the 7 year Tribulation, and the death of the 2 witnesses will bring us right to the middle of the Tribulation. Please note that when the Bible talks of years, it is based on 360 days. That is important when study our prophecy in both the OT and the NT.

### **Why 2 Witnesses / 2 Angels at Garden Tomb**

Why are there two witnesses? Because "in the mouth of two witnesses every word shall be established" (2 Corinthians 13:1). Remember there were 2 witnesses at the garden tomb, Moses and Aaron witnessing God's judgment before Pharaoh. So too we see 2 witnesses here:

*(2 Corinthians 13:1 NKJV)* This will be the third time I am coming to you. "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established."

### **Actual Men / Killed**

Now these are actual, real men, they are not symbolic; people will try to make them symbolic, spiritualize who they are to make this scene fit their theology. We will read that they will be killed, and then come back to life 3 ½ days later, You have to be alive to die – it is ashamed that I even have to say that, but you would be surprised at some of the twisted teaching that is out there.

### **Zech 4 / Olive Branch – Flood - Peace / Lampstand – Witness – Hope / Grace in Trib**

What does the Olive branch and lampstand represent? In Zechariah 4 we see it is olive oil that was poured into the lampstand branches that illuminated the temple – olive oil representing the Holy Spirit, and the branches were connected to the center of the stand (who is Jesus Christ), so these 2 witnesses are spirit-filled men tapped right into the source, Jesus Christ. After the flood waters subsided, when Noah sent the dove out, the dove returned with an Olive branch, which has since become a symbol of peace. These witnesses will be proclaiming the Word of God, and that peace can still be found with Him. The lampstands represents witness, a beacon of hope in these troubled times. God never stops offering peace with Him and man throughout the whole Tribulation. What a gracious and loving God. He must judge a Christ rejecting world, yet even to the end still identifies Himself as the Lamb, who will take away their sins and off them peace with the Holy God.

*Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)*<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

*(Zechariah 4:6 NKJV)* So he answered and 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.

It is recorded in historical writings that the Temple at the time of Jesus had engraved vines on the top of the Temple, large enough to see from a distance. I could see how Jesus used that common and well known imagery when He told the disciples, the Vine and the branches, and a branch attached to the Vine would produce much fruit. Christian we need not stress and strive to produce fruit, we simply need to be attached to Him, and let His life-giving nutrients flow into us and the fruit will come.

**John 15:1–4 (NKJV)**: <sup>1</sup>“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup> Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

**Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)**<sup>22</sup> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

Beloved, the same power given to these two witness is the same power given to us, and lives in us, and thus we can accomplish the calling given to us as parents, spouses, singles, ministry, personal witness and holiness. These two, are testaments to us, God supplies His called!

**Ephesians 1:19–21 (NKJV)**<sup>19</sup> and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power <sup>20</sup> which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

### **They/We Stand Until God Says Come Up Here (11:5)**

**(Revelation 11:5 NKJV)** **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.**

### **Talk about Being on Fire**

Talk about being on fire for the Lord.

### **People will want to Harm Them - Rapture / Skipped Generation / Great Witness to Jewish**

It is hard for us to believe that there will be many people who will hate them and want to harm them; but obviously the Anti-christ will hate them and want them silenced, for they will proclaim the glory of Jesus, not him. But consider this, the rapture has happened, the mature Christians are gone, so all the believers are new believers, who realized what we have been saying all these years is true – Jesus is the Christ and the rapture was coming. The people controlling the media, will be mostly unbelievers and they will be putting their slant on the situation. Just look today at how the bias media leaves out key pieces of truth, slants the truth, even lie, in order to promote their agenda. It is getting easier and easier in our day because we are seeing a skipped generation of church goers. What I see is many kids and teens in our country, their parents quit going, so you have a generation of kids being raised who know nothing about God, and can easily be misled by those who are against Him. I believe that these 2 witnesses greatest influence will be to the Jewish population there in Israel; they will lay the ground work for “all of Israel” to be saved as prophesied in Romans:

*(Romans 11:25 NKJV)* *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel **until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.***

*(Romans 11:26 NKJV)* *And so **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;*

*(Romans 11:27 NKJV)* *For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."*

### **A Note / Exciting**

A note about our skipped generation: this doesn't discourage me, for we seen this in missions in Europe, and it was like we got to start from scratch, we didn't have to battle religious dogma taught by errant teachers, we got to tell them something new, and they were drawn to hear something new, and then it is the greatest story ever told. Keep praying for our Youth Group, I believe we have the greatest opportunity for revival among the youth that is unparallel to anything in the last 40 years.

### **They Can't be Touched / Elijah**

These witnesses can't be touched. I can picture the first tough guy heading down there to deal with them. Illusions of grandeur, all of the world watching, CNN on site, I'll be the anti-christ's main man, and then poof – ashes. I wonder how many times that happens before men start saying, I'm not going, you go, I'm not going. Reminds me of when they came to seize Elijah. The first captain of the army comes with 50 men (funny to seize 1 guy – should have been an indicator from the start), the captain says lets go, Elijah

says I don't think so, and poof they are consumed. Then another captain comes with 50, lets go, poof, and then the 3<sup>rd</sup> captain comes and says sir, I have a wife and kids, I would really love to see them tonight, the king made me come, would you please come – God says go Elijah, this man gets it.

*2 Kings 1:8–11 (NKJV)<sup>8</sup> So they answered him, "A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist." And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."<sup>9</sup> Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men. So he went up to him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: "Man of God, the king has said, 'Come down!' "<sup>10</sup> So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. <sup>11</sup> Then he sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty men. And he answered and said to him: "Man of God, thus has the king said, 'Come down quickly!' "*

*2 Kings 1:13–14 (NKJV)<sup>13</sup> Again, he sent a third captain of fifty with his fifty men. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and pleaded with him, and said to him: "Man of God, please let my life and the life of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight. <sup>14</sup> Look, fire has come down from heaven and burned up the first two captains of fifties with their fifties. But let my life now be precious in your sight."*

Beloved, you as well cannot be touched, your ministry and calling as (spouse, parents, singles, ministries) cannot be undone by the devil.... You will finish, it will hold, you need only to stay in the calling until God says..... done, come up here!

### **Who Are the Two Witnesses (11:6)**

**(Revelation 11:6 NKJV) 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.**

### **Compounding the Problems with Drought**

Now, consider all the things we have see up to this point, with the 7 seals and so far 6 trumpets; wars, famines, pestilence, earthquakes, undrinkable water, and the problems are all compounded because during the first 3 ½ years there is a world-wide drought. Three and a half years of drought (the day the peace covenant is signed the drought begins), the earth would be a tinderbox, dried out grass, not to mention the problems of planting and harvesting crops – so increase the severity of the food famine, which effects both man and cattle. Reservoirs would be drying up, river banks, lakes and ponds.... A 3 ½ year drought would be Tribulation enough just today, let alone add all that we have read up to this point. Horrible times on the earth.....

### **Plagues of Egypt**

Notice how closely these things resemble what happened in the plagues of Egypt. Water turned to blood, and various other plagues.

### **Who Are They**

Who are these men clothed in sackcloth in Revelation 11, with power to bring about drought and scorch anyone who hassles them?

### **Joshua – Zerrubabel**

#### **Zech 4 / Used to Lead Israel Back to God / Problem**

Some say the two are Joshua and Zerrubbel, and they base it on Zechariah 4, for the description of the Olive branch and the Lamb stand fit them. These 2 men were used by God to lead the nation Israel back to God. The problem with that is that in Zechariah 4 it speaks of 2 Olive branches and just 1 lampstand, so it really isn't a perfect fit, and I think the evidence of 1 of these 2 witnesses is Elijah is pretty conclusive.

### **Elijah – Enoch**

#### **Appoint to Die Once / Enoch picture of Church**

Some think the 2 will be Elijah and Enoch. That was always my strongest opinion on this until just in the last few years. Many believe it is these 2 because of Hebrews 9 says it is appointed unto man to die once and then the judgment. Elijah nor Enoch have yet to die, both were taken up. Elijah never died, but instead rode to heaven in a fiery chariot (2 Kings 2:11), and Enoch walked with God and was not, for God took him (Gen 5:24). However, I believe that Enoch is a picture of the church, and we see that he was

taken off the earth before the flood came (which was God's wrath against the earth – same here in the Tribulation), and we know that God has not appointed us to wrath (1 Thess 5:9). Now, when we are raptured, we will not face physical death, just as Enoch did not.

*(Hebrews 9:27 NKJV) And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,*

### **Difference Between Wrath & Tribulation**

It needs to be noted, there is a difference between wrath and tribulation for the believer.

**1 Thessalonians 5:9–11 (NKJV)**<sup>9</sup> For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. <sup>11</sup> Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

**Revelation 6:16–17 (NKJV)**<sup>16</sup> and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! <sup>17</sup> For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

**John 16:31–33 (NKJV)**<sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? <sup>32</sup> Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. <sup>33</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

### **Reward Seat versus Judgement Seat**

It is appointed to man to die once. And then the judgment, so many will say, well, Enoch has to be one of the two witnesses because he has never died nor has Elijah. And so if you play it all the way through, those two have to die. However, we as Christians will not face the judgment seat. Our sin was judged on the cross. We as Christians face the bema seat. It's the reward seat for what we've done in faithfulness to the Lord, whether that's in ministry to the world, the community, our family, or just a ministry unto the Lord. A faithfulness we'll receive those rewards to which I believe will determine what we do with him in the millennial kingdom. As he rules and reigns from Jerusalem, we will reign with him. So it's not that Enoch has to die because he's a picture as we say, of the church being taken out before the wrath comes in the tribulation period.

**2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV)**<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

**Revelation 20:11–15 (NKJV)**<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

### **Malachi / Mount of Transfiguration – Elijah yet to come**

Most conclusively, the Old Testament ends promising Elijah's return (Malachi 4:5). In fact the Jewish Passover still sets a place for Elijah – in expectation of the fulfillment of Malachi 4. Now John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah, but wasn't actually Elijah, and on the Mount of Transfiguration Jesus confirms that Elijah is still yet to come.

*(Malachi 4:5 NKJV) Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.*

*(Malachi 4:6 NKJV) And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."*

*(Luke 1:17 NKJV) "He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*

*(Matthew 17:10 NKJV) And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?"*

*(Matthew 17:11 NKJV) Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.*

*(Matthew 17:12 NKJV) "But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands."*

### **Ministry of Elijah**

I should also note on the ministry of Elijah:

- Elijah called down fire from heaven that destroyed one hundred soldiers (2 Kings 1).
- Elijah prayed, and the heavens yielded no rain for three and a half years (James 5:17).

## **Elijah 1 / Anointed with Oil – Will Shine**

Thus, I believe Elijah is one of the two witnesses, who, anointed with the oil of the Holy Ghost, will shine as brightly as candlesticks in the midst of the Tribulation.

## **Elijah - Moses**

### **Plagues – Representing Law / Present on Mount of Transfiguration / Satan fights for Body**

Others think it will be Elijah (for above reasons) and Moses. We see some obvious parallels of the 2 witnesses and Moses. At Moses' command, Egypt was plagued with darkness, frogs, and death; at his command, the water of the Nile turned to blood (Exodus 7–12). Moses would be well experienced in calling out plagues upon the land, no additional training needed. Moses, representing the law, appeared with Elijah, representing the prophets, on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17). Some even believe that is why Satan fought with Michael the angel over Moses body, because he knew Moses would be 1 of the witnesses – interesting thought.

*(Matthew 17:1 NKJV) Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves;*

*(Matthew 17:2 NKJV) and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.*

*(Matthew 17:3 NKJV) And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.*

### **Result the Same**

I really am not sure, other than Elijah, but the result will still be the same.

### **What Happened to Jerusalem (11:7-8)**

**(Revelation 11:7 NKJV) 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 11:8 NKJV) 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.**

### **Until we run the Course / Will die on Time / Number Your Days**

Until we run the course God has set for us, we are untouchable. Everyone here will die on time, not a minute earlier, not a minute later. The Scripture does tell us to number our days, to number the days we have left to live for God. Count your days and you will see how it will effect how you relate to your spouse, your kids, what is important, and what is not.

*(Psalms 90:12 NKJV) So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

### **The Beast Ascends**

Notice here that the Beast (Anti-christ, Satan incarnate) cannot come upon them until they have finished their testimony. When he kills them he is a hero to the people.

The Beast is the Antichrist. The Dragon is Satan. The Beast is a man, the Devil is a fallen demonic angel. The Beast (a man) doesn't ascend from the bottomless pit, the devil does. What I believe we are seeing here is the Antichrist, becoming possessed by the devil. The Beast and the devil, the antichrist and Satan, are now one.

Note: Satan is not in the bottomless pit right now, he is roaming the earth. We are in a "parenthetical" part of our study where God is filling in details of what is happening on the earth as the Seals/Trumpets/Thunders/Bowls are being unveiled. Those "7's" happen sequentially, and the things we read in (chapter 7, 10-14, 16:15) are filler information. So the devil will "ascend" out of the bottomless pit after he is cast into it (20:1-2), and then will be released at the end of the 1,000 year reign of Christ (20:7). So that is how we get the "ascends" from the bottomless pit.

### **Sodom – Egypt**

The holy city (where Jesus crucified) is likened to Sodom and Egypt. Sodom representing carnality, and Egypt representing the worldly things. It has only been in the past 20 years that we have seen the things happening in Jerusalem that we have – such Gay Pride Parades through the streets right to the Wailing Wall. When I was there in 1995, the Jewish men would come up to the American woman that were part of our tour and ask them if they wanted to have sex (they watch American TV shows and think that's all



American woman are). The Holy City has become a place of carnality, but the witnesses will come.....

### **The World Celebrates the Silence (11:9-10)**

**(Revelation 11:9 NKJV) 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.**

### **Temple Can't Save**

One of the words these two witnesses will be giving to the Jewish people is.... The temple and sacrifices and religion cannot save you, you need Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away your sin.

*John 1:29 (NKJV)<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

### **What is Their Message – The Everlasting Gospel**

So what is their message that is so important, whether it's the two witnesses or the angel? The message is the message, the everlasting gospel. It's everlasting in that it doesn't change. It's everlasting in that it outlasts all the lies of the devil in the world. And it's everlasting because it brings everlasting life. So Christian, what gospel should we be preaching? We don't need to be preaching all these fringe things that the world wants to get wrapped up in all these distractions that it brings. We need to preach the everlasting gospel. And I'm reminded when they said, Jesus, tell your disciples to be quiet. And he said, the very rocks will cry out. And I say, may God never need a rock as long as I have a breath.

### **Old Commentaries / Only Our Day / Iraq War Real-Time**

It is great reading old commentaries, as they would say, we have no idea how this could happen, how the whole world would see. Some commentaries just skipped over it, had no idea about the things we take for granted every day. Only in the day that we live could this be possible, with all the satellites, internet, and news coverage that is before us. We watched the war in Iraq, live, we didn't wait days for reports of battles, we saw 5 different battle fronts all at the same time, live. Only in our day, that is scary and exciting all at the same time.

### **Leave Crew in Place**

A piece of advice for the news crews there in Jerusalem – leave your camera in place, your crews on-site, for the story is far from being, "in the can".

**(Revelation 11:10 NKJV) 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.**

Speaking the truth will torment people

### **Only Time Rejoice Used on Earth during Trib**

The only time people rejoice (on the earth) in the Tribulation is over the death of the two witnesses. "Hey, the guys who made us feel uncomfortable, who talked to us about stuff we didn't want to hear are dead! Leave them in the gutter, and let's celebrate!" What a sick world, this will be the Christmas of the Tribulation. You can be sure the debate that has started over Happy Holiday and Merry Christmas will be clearly settled once the Tribulation begins. Happy Dead Prophets Day they will be singing. How men love their sin. Men truly love darkness:

*(John 3:19 NKJV) "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

*(John 3:20 NKJV) "For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.*

### **Ever Beaten Down – Rejoice / Our Examples – We will Rise Again / Nothing like Witnessing**

If you've been beaten down or left out, rejoice. You're in good company. These witnesses are examples of what you can be in the last days in which we live. You're to share the gospel with people. Yes, you'll be beat up emotionally and verbally, ostracized, left out, not invited to the party. But you know what will happen? Three and a half days later, you'll rise. There will be a spring in your step and joy in your heart as you find yourself soaring emotionally. Truly, gang, there is nothing, nothing, nothing like sharing your faith. Even if you're put down, beat up, left out, you'll find yourself revived.

### **If Relationship Stagnant – Tedious / You'll be Caught-up**

If you feel your relationship with the Lord is stagnant or tedious—witness. I guarantee, like the two witnesses in Revelation 11, you'll be caught up into heavenly places. Witnessing is the single most important way I have found to see my own faith revived and renewed.

### **Preach not Miserable / Pressed down – Running Over**

Jesus didn't tell us to preach the gospel because He wants us to be miserable. On the contrary, He said, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again"

*(Luke 6:38 NKJV) "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."*

### **The World is Silenced (11:11-12)**

**(Revelation 11:11 NKJV) Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.**

**(Revelation 11:12 NKJV) And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.**

### **What an Awesome Sight – Look on Faces / Middle of Party / Screeching Halt**

To see this! I think this will be 1 of the most awesome sights to watch. To see the looks on their faces, right in the middle of their parties, right in the middle of opening presents, right in the middle of their speeches, right in the middle of their "high-fives", the party will come to a screeching halt.

### **Come up Here / Most Quiet Moment on Earth**

Imagine hearing those words, come up, booming over CNN.....I believe this will be one of the most quieting moments over the whole planet, at this one moment. Men will stand with jaw dropped, utter amazement at what they will be seeing.

### **Why not Keep Preaching / Signs don't make Gospel Believable / Luke 16**

Some may wonder why the two witnesses were not permitted to preach after their resurrection. But signs and wonders do not make the gospel believable, because "if [unbelievers] do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they will not be persuaded if someone rises from the dead" (Luke 16:31). After hearing the teaching and observing the miraculous ministry of the Son of God, unbelievers rejected and killed Him.

*(Luke 16:27 NKJV) "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house,*

*(Luke 16:28 NKJV) 'for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'*

*(Luke 16:29 NKJV) "Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'*

*(Luke 16:30 NKJV) "And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'*

*(Luke 16:31 NKJV) "But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"*

### **Grace Shakes the World (11:13-14)**

**(Revelation 11:13 NKJV) In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.**

### **Prominent Men**

"seven thousand people" – The form of expression is peculiar in the Greek: "names of men seven thousand." Many have believed this indicates prominent men.

### **1/10<sup>th</sup>**

Very interesting the Arab portion of Jerusalem including the Dome of the rock is about 1/10th of the city

### **Not Just Emotionally Shaken - Physically**

Not only is the world shaken up emotionally by the resurrection of the two witnesses but it is shaken physically in a great earthquake. Same thing happened after Jesus died, the earth quaked, then 3 days later He rose again.

### **Many Will Glory / See 1<sup>st</sup> hand the Resurrection – Ascension / No Worry of Anti-christ**

Many will give glory. The entire world will be witness of the truth of the resurrection and ascension. They will see first-hand, with their very eyes the resurrection and ascension, and they will come to a saving faith, they will become bold in their faith, they will be sure of their faith. They will give glory to God and say it matters not what the Anti-christ will do to me, even if he slays me, I am assured of the resurrection and ascension after death.

However, some will give God the “glory”, acknowledge His might and awe, truly attribute He is God, but they still will refuse to repent and receive Him for the forgiveness of sin. So true today, as many do not dispute there is a God, and Jesus is God, but for the love of this world and their sin, they will refuse to repent and receive.

### **Resurrection and Ascension – Proof God Accepted Sacrifice / Make part of Witness**

The resurrection and ascension is the power of the gospel. The resurrection and ascension is proof that God accepted the substitution sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Had Jesus not rose from the dead after taking on our sin, our guilt, our shame, then it would have meant that the sacrifice had not been accepted by the Father. But Jesus did rise again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, and He did ascend to the Father, all proof and example for us that so too will we, for all who put their trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin. That is the power of the gospel, Buddha died, Mohammed died, Krishna died, but none rose again, only Jesus Christ did. Don't leave that part out of your witnessing, for that is the power of the gospel.

### **OT Ends with Curse – the Law / NT is Grace**

Interesting, the last word of the OT is “curse”, the end of the law. The last words of the NT, is .....  
*(Malachi 4:6 NKJV) And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."*

*(Revelation 22:21 NKJV) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

### **We have that Confidence – Come up Here**

We today should give glory to God for the resurrection and ascension, that we have this promise. That when death comes to us, or the rapture, we will hear those words –

*Come up Here!*

The only words that God speaks during the Tribulation.

**(Revelation 11:14 NKJV) The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.**

11:14 – “quickly” – (Greek “tachy”) Lit. “shortly or in quick succession.”

### **Conclusion:**

#### **Outline: The Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:3-14)**

- The Temple Stands, because Israel Stands (11:1-2)
- God's Witness to Man, Attached to the Vine (11:3-4)
- They/We Stand Until God Says Come Up Here (11:5)
- Who Are the Two Witnesses (11:6)
- What Happened to Jerusalem (11:7-8)
- The World Celebrates the Silence (11:9-10)
- The World is Silenced (11:11-12)
- Grace Shakes the World (11:13-14)

## Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

*Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

## **In Every Study**

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

*Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need*