



Date: 09-20-2026

Faithful Witness in a Hostile World

Text: Revelation 11

1. God preserves His people for _____ .

Revelation 11:1–6 NLT

1 Then I was given a measuring stick, and I was told, "Go and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count the number of worshipers. 2 But do not measure the outer courtyard, for it has been turned over to the nations. They will trample the holy city for 42 months. 3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will be clothed in burlap and will prophesy during those 1,260 days." 4 These two prophets are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of all the earth. 5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire flashes from their mouths and consumes their enemies. This is how anyone who tries to harm them must die. 6 They have power to shut the sky so that no rain will fall for as long as they prophesy. And they have the power to turn the rivers and oceans into blood, and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they wish. ... 15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in

heaven: "The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever." 16 The twenty-four elders sitting on their thrones before God fell with their faces to the ground and worshiped him. 17 And they said, "We give thanks to you, Lord God, the Almighty, the one who is and who always was, for now you have assumed your great power and have begun to reign. 18 The nations were filled with wrath, but now the time of your wrath has come. It is time to judge the dead and reward your servants the prophets, as well as your holy people, and all who fear your name, from the least to the greatest. It is time to destroy all who have caused destruction on the earth." 19 Then, in heaven, the Temple of God was opened and the Ark of his covenant could be seen inside the Temple. Lightning flashed, thunder crashed and roared, and there was an earthquake and a terrible hailstorm.

Notes:

2. Faithful witness may look like _____.

Revelation 11:7–14 NLT

When they complete their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the bottomless pit will declare war against them, and he will conquer them and kill them. 8 And their bodies will lie in the main street of Jerusalem, the city that is figuratively called "Sodom" and "Egypt," the city where their Lord was crucified. 9 And for three and a half days, all peoples, tribes, languages, and nations will stare at their bodies. No one will be allowed to bury them. 10 All the people who belong to this world will gloat over them and give presents to each other to celebrate the death of the two prophets who had tormented them. 11 But after three and a half days, God breathed life into them, and they stood up! Terror struck all who were staring at them. 12 Then a loud voice from heaven called to the two prophets, "Come up here!" And they rose to heaven in a cloud as their enemies watched. 13 At the same time there was a terrible earthquake that destroyed a tenth of the city. Seven thousand people died in that earthquake, and everyone else was terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second terror is past, but look, the third terror is coming quickly.

Notes:

3. The kingdom ultimately _____ to Christ.

Revelation 11:15–19 NLT

15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices shouting in heaven: "The world has now become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever." 16 The twenty-four elders sitting on their thrones before God fell with their faces to the ground and worshiped him. 17 And they said, "We give thanks to you, Lord God, the Almighty, the one who is and who always was, for now you have assumed your great power and have begun to reign. 18 The nations were filled with wrath, but now the time of your wrath has come. It is time to judge the dead and reward your servants the prophets, as well as your holy people, and all who fear your name, from the least to the greatest. It is time to destroy all who have caused destruction on the earth." 19 Then, in heaven, the Temple of God was opened and the Ark of his covenant could be seen inside the Temple. Lightning flashed, thunder crashed and roared, and there was an earthquake and a terrible hailstorm.

Notes:

The sermon in three sentences

1. Keep witnessing when it is difficult.
2. Don't confuse opposition with defeat.
3. Remember that Christ's kingdom will prevail.

Closing:

“If I really believed that Christ's kingdom will ultimately triumph, what would faithful witness look like in my life right now?”

1. Speak Up
2. Stand Firm
3. Look Up

Closing Question

If I really believed that Jesus wins in the end, what would I do differently this week?

Life Group Questions — Revelation 11

1. Get to Know You — “Have you ever been in a situation where it looked like things were going badly, but later you realized the story wasn’t over yet?” How did that experience change the way you viewed the situation?

2. Digging Deeper — Read Revelation 11:3–13 and Revelation 12:10–11. What do these passages teach us about faithful witness, suffering, and victory?

3. **Application** — Which of these three actions do you most need to practice right now: Speak Up, Stand Firm, or Look Up? Why? What is one specific step you can take this week?

- Speak Up: Who is one person you could intentionally talk to about Jesus?
- Stand Firm: Where are you feeling pressure to compromise or remain silent?
- Look Up: What situation do you need to entrust to Christ and remember that He ultimately wins?



Expanded Notes:

Revelation 11:1–2

Historicist:

The Temple represents the true church. The measuring rod represents God's Word as the standard for the church. The 42 months represent a long period of persecution.

Preterist:

The passage points to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. Measuring shows that God knows and protects His faithful people while Jerusalem is judged. The 42 months may refer to the period of Roman attack on Jerusalem.

Futurist:

The Temple is a future rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem. The 42 months are a literal three-and-a-half-year period during the future Tribulation.

Spiritual / Idealist:

The Temple represents God's people. Measuring shows that God knows and spiritually protects His people. The 42 months represent a limited period of persecution.

Simple Summary

- **Historicist:** The church during history.
- **Preterist:** Jerusalem's destruction in AD 70.
- **Futurist:** A future Temple and Tribulation.
- **Spiritual:** God's people facing persecution.

Revelation 11:3-6 NLT**Historicist:**

The two witnesses represent faithful Christians who stood against corruption in the church, especially before the Reformation. Their power represents God working through their witness and bringing judgment on those who opposed them.

Preterist:

The two witnesses represent faithful messengers who warned Jerusalem before its destruction in AD 70. Their ministry resembles Moses and Elijah and emphasizes God's warning before judgment.

Futurist:

The two witnesses are usually understood as two future prophets who will minister during the Tribulation. Some believe they may be Moses and Elijah, but the text never names them.

Spiritual / Idealist:

The two witnesses represent the church faithfully sharing God's

message throughout history. Their power shows that God protects and empowers His people as they proclaim the truth.

Simple Summary

- **Historicist:** Faithful Christians opposing corruption.
- **Preterist:** God's witnesses warning Jerusalem before AD 70.
- **Futurist:** Two future prophets during the Tribulation.
- **Spiritual:** The witnessing church throughout history.

Revelation 11:7-10 NLT

Historicist:

The death of the witnesses represents attempts by the Roman Catholic Church to silence faithful Christians before the Reformation. Their enemies believed they had finally defeated them.

Preterist:

The beast represents forces such as Rome and apostate Israel that opposed God's messengers before the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. Jerusalem had become spiritually corrupt like Sodom and Egypt.

Futurist:

The beast kills the two future prophets after they finish their ministry. The world celebrates their deaths and leaves their bodies exposed for three and a half days.

Spiritual / Idealist:

The beast represents anti-Christian powers that try to silence the church. The church may appear defeated for a short time, but evil's victory will not last.

Simple Summary

- **Historicist:** Persecution of faithful Christians before the Reformation.

- **Preterist:** Opposition to God's messengers before AD 70.
- **Futurist:** Two future prophets are killed by the beast.
- **Spiritual:** The church appears defeated by evil for a short time.

Revelation 11:11-14 NLT

Historicist:

The witnesses coming back to life represents the **Protestant Reformation**, especially beginning with Martin Luther. The earthquake represents the political and religious changes that followed.

Preterist:

The witnesses' resurrection represents the **victory of God's testimony despite opposition**, connected with Christ's resurrection and the events surrounding Jerusalem's fall. The earthquake represents judgment on Jerusalem.

Futurist:

The two future prophets **literally rise from the dead and ascend to heaven**. A literal earthquake then strikes Jerusalem, killing 7,000 people.

Spiritual / Idealist:

The resurrection represents the **church being restored and vindicated after appearing defeated**. Ultimately, God will completely vindicate His people when Christ returns.

Simple Summary

- **Historicist:** The Reformation restores the church's witness.
- **Preterist:** God's testimony survives and Jerusalem is judged.
- **Futurist:** Two prophets literally rise and ascend.
- **Spiritual:** God restores and vindicates His church.

Revelation 11:15-19 NLT

Historicist:

The seventh trumpet points to the **final victory of Christ and the end of the age**. God judges His enemies and vindicates His people.

Preterist:

The seventh trumpet points to the **fall of Jerusalem in AD 70**. With the old Jewish system judged, Christ's kingdom moves forward into the world.

Futurist:

The seventh trumpet announces the **Second Coming of Christ and His future kingdom**. Christ takes His authority and ultimately judges the nations.

Spiritual / Idealist:

The seventh trumpet pictures the **final victory and eternal reign of God**. God judges evil, rewards His people, and proves His faithfulness.

Simple Summary

- **Historicist:** Christ's final victory at the end of history.
- **Preterist:** Christ's kingdom advances after Jerusalem falls.
- **Futurist:** Christ returns and establishes His kingdom.
- **Spiritual:** God ultimately defeats evil and reigns forever.