

Olive Trees and Lampstands

Rev 11: 1-14

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- The main portion of our text today is found in Rev 11: 3-4.....(two olive trees/lampstands)
 - In these verses we are reminded again of the O.T.
 - Zechariah was the prophet to the Jews who are returning from exile in Persia.....
 - He arrives on the scene between Ezra and Nehemiah
 - Ezra had been tasked with rebuilding the temple....
 - But he has procrastinated.....
 - Zechariah arrives to give courage to Zerubbabel, the governor and to Joshua the High Priest

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- Zechariah receives a message from the Lord...
 - Zech 3: 8-10.....
 - The coming of the Branch.....Christ.....
 - Coming Millennial Kingdom of Christ
 - Zech 4: 2-6.....Two olive trees and a lampstand
 - This lampstand has a large bowl on the top
 - 7 smaller bowls (lamps)
 - Connected by 7 sprouts (tubes)
 - Zech 4: 6.....message to Zerubbabel.....
 - “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit” says the Lord of hosts....”

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- This directive given to Zerubbabel is still true today.....
 - When he (Zerubbabel) looked around, he saw.....
 - Discouraged people.....
 - Enemies.....Sanballet, Tobiah and Geshem the Arab
 - Mockings, and slander abounded.....
 - The walls of Jerusalem are broken down
 - How does that apply to you and me today?
 - II Tim 3: 1....But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.....

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- What have we heard in the last week?
 - Iran has sleeper cells in the United States
 - People who are running for office who literally hate America and its founding.....
 - The Brics nations and others are seeking to overthrow the dollar.....
 - Oil prices surging as the Straits of Hormuz.....
 - Flock cameras, digital currency, facial recognition software, data centers.....
 - The man who is responsible for the deaths of thousands, pleads the fifth amendment

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- Wars and rumors of war.....
 - Russia and Ukraine??
 - There were 200 armed conflicts in the world in the last 7 days (8 critical)
 - World wide persecution of Jews and Christians
 - Politicians who will not oppose Sharia law.....
- Then we hear the thundering promise of God
 - “It is not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit saith the Lord”
 - Ezek 47: 1-12.....
 - In this passage you will repeatedly see a phrase used which is.....”he led me” or “he brought me”

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- John 7: 38-39.....
 - Question.....
 - Am I thirsty for the things of God?
 - Is that river a mere trickle in my life?
 - Why are these important questions to ask ourselves?
 - Zech 4: 12....."Which empty the golden oil from themselves...."
 - The reason for a lampstand is to distribute light.....
 - Matt 5: 16....."let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

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- My dear friends the main purpose of these two witnesses was.....
 - To be living witnesses for Christ before a lost and dying world
 - That mission has not changed for you and me either II Cor 5: 20.....
- Note.....Rev 11:7....
 - “When they had finished their testimony”
 - In perfect harmony with His will “on earth as it is in heaven”

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- The result of their ministry was to hamper "the beast that comes up out of the abyss (Vs 7)
 - For 3 ½ years they stood in the gap.....
 - They have hindered and thwarted very plan of this "beast" but now he will over come them....
 - Dan 7: 24-27.....the sure Word of God.....
 - "But the court will sit in judgment"
 - His dominion will be annihilated and destroyed forever.....
- What we are seeing happen today is the "court" is being ushered in.....
 - "For it is not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit saith the Lord"

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- Eph 6: 10-20.....
 - Note.....finally....after all is said and done.....
 - “be strong in the Lord”
 - In the strength of His might
 - For our struggle is not against flesh and blood
 - But against spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places
 - What does this tell us?
 - “Not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit” says the Lord.....