

Two Witnesses

Rev 11: 3-13

Two Witnesses

- There is perhaps no greater display of the sovereignty of God over all things seen and unseen than this rendition of Scripture we just read.
 - Here we have two witnesses who will preach....
 - Not only to Israel but to the whole world
 - They have been given “authority”(vs 3)
 - This was prophesied by Zechariah...(Zech 4: 1-6)
 - “not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit”
 - Centuries did not diminish the prophecy

Two Witnesses

- What do we know about these two witnesses from this passage
 - First....we know that they are men and not angels
 - How do we know this?
 - Vs 7....they will be killed
 - Angels cannot die.....they are immortal
 - Secondly...we know from Scripture that “two” is a requirement for witnesses...
 - Deut 19: 15...“A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.”

Two Witnesses

- Third.....Jesus sent out His “witnesses” two by two.....
 - Mark 6: 7.... And he called *unto him* the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;
- Finally....we know that they are not resurrected men.....
 - Heb 9: 27..... And as it is appointed unto men **once to die**, but after this the judgment.
 - Rev 21: 4.... And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and **there shall be no more death**, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

Two Witnesses

- Since they cannot be resurrected men....
 - Who are these two?
 - While we cannot be sure of their identity, there are things we can surmise.....
 - Some say they are Elijah and Moses??? (Matt 17: 3)
 - Symbolic of the Law and Prophets.....
 - Elijah seems to make sense based on the O.T.
 - Malachi 4: 5-6.....
 - I am going to send you Elijah???
 - Matt 17: 10-13.....
 - Luke 1: 17....."in the spirit and power"
 - John 1: 21-23....testimony of JTB

Two Witnesses

- What other things do we know about Elijah?
 - He is/was a major prophet to Israel in a time of great wickedness.....(Ahab and Jezebel)
 - We know he did not die....rather he was taken to heaven
 - II Kings 2: 11..... And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, *there appeared* a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind **into heaven.**
 - We will also see that these two witnesses (Vs 4) "stand before the Lord" ...
 - I Kings 17: 1...And Elijah the Tishbite, *who was* of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, **before whom I stand**, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.
- And since Elijah did not die, he could not be resurrected

Two Witnesses

- What about Moses? Could he be the other witness?
 - Moses was exclusively a prophet to the Israelites.....
 - Didn't Moses appear with Elijah on the mount?
 - Wasn't Moses a "worker of miracles/plagues?"
- Here is what we know about Moses from Scripture.....
 - First, we know that Moses died...
 - Deut 34: 5-6.... So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.
 - Rev 11: 7.....This creates a huge problem in that Moses would have to die twice (Heb 9: 27)

Two Witnesses

- Heb 9: 27....requires that we ask this question..
 - Who else besides Elijah in Scripture did not die?
 - Gen 5: 24....
 - “And Enoch walked with God: and he *was* not; for God took him.”
 - Heb 11: 5.... By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.

Two Witnesses

- We also have insight into what Enoch preached
 - Jude 14-15.... And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied ***of these (men)***, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.
 - Question....."Who are these men?"
 - We must note that Enoch preached to Gentiles/non-Jewish people....

Two Witnesses

- Knowing all this does not answer this question?
 - Why could Enoch and Elijah be these two witnesses?
 - First....they were translated and did not die....
 - Consequently, they have not yet received immortal bodies.....
 - Secondly.....I Cor 15: 22-23.... For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Two Witnesses

- Here is what the Bible teaches regarding bodily resurrection(s)
 - There is a sequence laid out....
 - First.....Jesus Christ was raised from the dead....
 - Rom 6: 9.... Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.
 - Secondly....the Church age saints (living and dead) will be raised in the Rapture (I Thess 4: 13-18)
 - The bodily resurrection of the O.T. saints will occur at the 2nd coming of Christ (Dan 12: 2; Isa 26: 19; Job 19: 25-27)

Two Witnesses

- Then the bodily resurrection of the martyred Tribulation saints will occur (Rev 20: 4)
 - Then the bodily resurrection of the Millennial saints (Rev 20: 5)
 - Finally, the bodily resurrection of the wicked dead (Rev 20: 11-15)
- Why am I telling you all this?
 - It because the resurrection of the body is assured throughout Scripture.
 - No one is exempt....

Two Witnesses

- Old Testament.....Dan 12: 2...And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.
- These two witnesses bare witness as well to this bodily resurrection.....
 - Rev 11: 11-12.....And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

Two Witnesses

- Finally we should remember history....
 - For the first 2,000 years of history, God dealt with mankind as a whole.....
 - The next 2,000 years from Abraham to Jesus, He dealt primarily with the nation of Israel.....
 - The last 2,000 years, the Church age, the Gospel has been preached to Jews and Gentiles alike...
- It is only fitting that during the Tribulation period when the Church is in heaven that God sends His two greatest prophets to warn of the coming judgments.....the third woe....bowl judgments