IN THE WORD
WITH MICHELE TELFER

Faithful Witnesses, a Sovereign God.

Revelation - Lesson 9

Read Revelation 11

Two witnesses. A world in rebellion. A victory that will not last. When the beast strikes and the world celebrates, the story is far from over. Life returns. The earth shakes. Heaven announces a kingdom that will never end. Step into Revelation 11, where apparent defeat meets a dramatic reversal—and the question of faithfulness becomes personal. What does it mean to stand for Christ when everything seems lost?

REFLECTION 1:

In Revelation 11:1–2, John is told to measure the temple and count the worshipers, while the holy city will be trampled. What might this contrast suggest about God's care for His people in times of suffering? Does His protection always mean being spared hardship? How does this passage challenge or confirm your own expectations of His protection?

REFLECTION 2:

In Revelation 11:3–4, the two witnesses prophesy in sackcloth, a sign of mourning, and stand before the Lord of the earth. What might their mourning suggest about their attitude toward the people receiving their message? When you speak about your faith, how can you recognize whether you are motivated by concern for the other person or by a desire to win an argument?

REFLECTION 3:

How do you tend to measure success in serving God? In Revelation 11:7, the witnesses finish their testimony before the beast is allowed to kill them. How does their experience challenge or confirm your expectations of what a faithful life should look like?

REFLECTION 4:

In Revelation 11:8–10, the inhabitants of the earth celebrate the witnesses' deaths because the prophets had tormented them. What might their celebration reveal about their attitude toward God and His message? How do you respond when God's truth confronts something you would rather not face?

REFLECTION 5:

In Revelation 11:11–13, the witnesses' resurrection brings terror, and the survivors of the earthquake give glory to God. What does the passage tell us about their response, and what does it leave unanswered about their faith or repentance? In your own life, how have moments of fear or awe affected your relationship with God after the immediate experience has passed?

REFLECTION 6:

In Revelation 11:15, heaven announces that Christ will reign for ever and ever, following scenes in which evil appears to triumph. How might this promise shape your response to troubling events? What do your reactions to those events reveal about your trust in Christ's reign and the fears you still carry?

REFLECTION 7:

In Revelation 11:16–18, the elders worship God while the nations respond to His reign with anger. Spurgeon observed that people may put off salvation rather than reject it outright, deciding to be saved "tomorrow." How can delaying our response to God become a way of resisting His authority? Is there an area of your life where you are postponing something God has called you to do?

REFLECTION 8:

In Revelation 11:19, the ark of God's covenant appears amid lightning, thunder, an arthquake, and hail. What might the ark's presence remind us about God's character and His covenant promises in this unsettling scene? When the way God works differs from your expectations, how do you respond? What helps you distinguish what He has promised from what you have assumed?