

**"The Two Witnesses"**

**Part 2**

**Revelation 11:1-14**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Revelation we started into chapter 11 and as we stepped into this chapter we first looked at the command given to John to measure three things.

1. The Temple
2. The Altar
3. The Worshippers

I do not want to get back into these first two verses again but I will say again there is much to learn from these verses. Last week we looked at how the scene here is happening in the first part of the Tribulation because in this vision John sees Jews in the Tribulation Temple worshipping. We know this is at the beginning because in the middle of the 7-year Tribulation the Anti-Christ will break his covenant with Israel and it is then that the Jews will flee from the Holy City just as Jesus told them to in Matthew 24.

**Matthew 24:15-16**

*<sup>15</sup> When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)*

*<sup>16</sup> Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:*

We also looked at how there is a definite distinction here between the Jews and the Gentiles.

**Notice Revelation 11:1-2**

This tells us that the CHURCH AGE is over because of what is recorded in Galatians.

**Galatians 3:27-28**

*<sup>27</sup> For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

*<sup>28</sup> **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.***

In the church there is NO distinction for all are one in Christ. When the Bride of Christ is complete the RAPTURE will take place and God will then begin to work with the Nation of Israel again. That is exactly what will happen in the 7-year Tribulation.

Last week we also look at God's Two Witnesses. We were able to determine that their 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  year ministry will happen in the first 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years of the Tribulation.

### Notice Revelation 11:3-4

These two men are called Two Olive Trees and Two Candlesticks who stand before God. Last week we went back to Zechariah where they were spoken of by the prophet.

### Zechariah 4:2-6, 14

<sup>2</sup> *And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:*

<sup>3</sup> *And **two olive trees by it**, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.*

<sup>4</sup> *So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord?*

<sup>5</sup> *Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.*

<sup>6</sup> *Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.***

<sup>14</sup> *Then said he, **These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the LORD of the whole earth.***

These verses refer to Joshua and Zerubbabel who were empowered by God to spark a revival among those who returned from the captivity so they would finish building the Temple. But these verses cannot be limited to Joshua and Zerubbabel for they also point to the Two Witnesses of Revelation 11. These Two Witnesses will be empowered by the Holy Spirit and used by God to bring about a major revival in the Tribulation.

This now brings us to where we are today in our study.

### I. Who are these Two Witnesses?

There are two main beliefs concerning the identity of these two men.

1. **Enoch and Elijah**

Those who hold to this belief understand that neither Enoch nor Elijah experienced death. Both were taken from the earth before they died.

**Hebrews 9:27**

*<sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

Many will point to this verse and say, "It is appointed unto men to die once and Enoch and Elijah never died so they will get their appointment in the Tribulation." They believe it **MUST** be these two men because if it were any other Old Testament characters who had died then they would have to die twice.

Let me just say that while it is appointed unto men to die once not all will experience death. Those of the Church who are here when the Rapture happens will not experience death.

**1 Corinthians 15:51-52**

*<sup>51</sup> Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*

*<sup>52</sup> In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

Let me also say that while it is appointed unto men to die once there have been many saints who have died twice. Lazarus died twice and all those who came out of the graves when Jesus was resurrected would have died again.

**Matthew 27:52-53**

*<sup>52</sup> And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,*

*<sup>53</sup> And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*

2. **Moses and Elijah**

These two men are the most favored for the identity of the prophets. Let me show you why.

**Notice Revelation 11:6a**

They have power to stop the rain for 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  years which is the duration of their ministry and they will do so.

**James 5:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> *Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

<sup>17</sup> *Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.*

Then there are the words of Malachi.

**Malachi 4:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:*

<sup>6</sup> *And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.*

All of this seems to point to Elijah as one of the men.

**Notice Revelation 11:6b**

The end of this verse really seems to point to Moses because of how God used him to bring the plagues upon Egypt.

**Exodus 7:19-20**

<sup>19</sup> *And the LORD spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone.*

<sup>20</sup> *And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.*

So, based upon these verses about Elijah and Moses many believe this solves the identity of these two witnesses.

But there are other verses that need also to be considered. Let me show you what Jesus said about Elijah.

**Matthew 17:10-13**

<sup>10</sup> *And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?*

<sup>11</sup> *And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.*

<sup>12</sup> *But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.*

<sup>13</sup> *Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.*

John the Baptist was the fulfillment of Malachi's prophecy. It was not actually Elijah but one like him and that could be the same situation in Revelation 11.

Let me show you one more passage from Matthew.

**Matthew 17:1-3**

*And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart,*

<sup>2</sup> *And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.*

<sup>3</sup> *And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.*

Jesus revealed Himself on the Mount of Transfiguration in all of His glory. When He did Moses and Elijah both appeared with Him. This was all a picture of something that is yet future. It pictures the RETURN OF CHRIST TO THE EARTH at the end of the Tribulation and Moses and Elijah represent who will return with Him and that is those who have DIED IN CHRIST and those who were RAPTURED.

Now if Jesus was in His glory here then most likely Elijah and Moses were both in glorified bodies also and if that were the case then it would be impossible for them to die and therefore they could not be the TWO WITNESSES.

So, then who are the TWO WITNESSES? We do not know for God has not told us. They are most likely TWO JEWISH MEN who God will work through to bring about the revival

in the beginning of the Tribulation. **The fact that ministry of these two witnesses mirror that of Moses and Elijah probably means their ministry will be that of the LAW and the PROPHETS.**

## II. Their Message

We are not told exactly what these men will preach but we can do some searching and get a really good idea.

### Notice Revelation 11:3

We see here that these men are clothed in sackcloth. Sackcloth was an outward sign of inward sorrow.

### Jonah 3:4-5

*<sup>4</sup> And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.*

*<sup>5</sup> So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, **and put on sackcloth,** from the greatest of them even to the least of them.*

When the prophets of the Old Testament wore sackcloth, it was a sign they were broken over the message which they were proclaiming. These Two Witnesses will proclaim a message of coming Judgment. Let us remember they are starting at the beginning of the Tribulation and they will prophecy of what is about to happen. It will be a message that will break even their hearts because they realize so many will perish. Their message will have the same effect on them that the little scroll had on John.

### Revelation 10:10

*<sup>10</sup> And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, **my belly was bitter.***

The ministry of these two witnesses will be centered in Jerusalem but their message will reach around the globe. They will be mainly focused upon the Nation of Israel. Let me show you something from Romans.

### Romans 10:1, 14-15

*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.*

<sup>14</sup> *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*

<sup>15</sup> *And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, **How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!***

**These men will have a message of Judgment but within the message will be the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**Romans 11:1, 11**

*I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.*

<sup>25</sup> *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*

The ministry of the Two Witnesses will be used by God to turn the Nation of Israel away from ungodliness.

**Conclusion:**

Next week we will look at the powers given to these men and their death.

In closing today, I want to point to the heart of these two men. They will proclaim the Truth even though it is a message which the world will not want to hear. The only thing that will stop them from serving God is death. They will die for their message and their faith.

**Revelation 2:10**

<sup>10</sup> *Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: **be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.***

If believers today would grasp the message of the Bible as these Two Witnesses will in their day the world would be a different place. Too many believers today are afraid to stand for the Truth because of what others may say or how they will be treated. Let us ALL understand that if someone dies without Jesus Christ they WILL GO TO HELL! That is the TRUTH!