

**"The Two Witnesses"**

**Part 4**

**Revelation 11:1-14**

**Introduction:** Today as we come back to our study of the book of Revelation we are again stepping into the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter where we are looking at the Two Witnesses who will be used of God in a mighty way during the Tribulation. I want to do a little review so we can grasp the context of what we are currently looking at.

I. **Their Ministry**

**Notice Revelation 11:3**

These two witnesses will have a ministry that will last for three and one-half years which is half the time of the Tribulation. When we looked at this before we noted that all evidence points to the fact that their ministry will take place during the FIRST HALF of the Tribulation. We know their ministry will be centered around Jerusalem and they will minister to the Jews and we also know that at the mid-point of the Tribulation all of Israel will flee the city of Jerusalem.

**Matthew 24:15-18**

*<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:*

*<sup>17</sup> Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:*

*<sup>18</sup> Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.*

This will take place in the middle so if the ministry of the two witnesses was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half there would be no Jews to witness to.

These two witnesses will come on the scene after the Rapture of the church and it will be through their ministry that the 144,000 Jewish men of Revelation 7 will get saved.

They are dressed in sackcloth so we know they will deliver a message of repentance and judgment.

II. **Their Identity**

**Notice Revelation 11:4**

They are called TWO OLIVE TREES and TWO CANDLESTICKS who stand before God.

This was also the two titles given to Joshua and Zerubbabel in the book of Zechariah.

**Zechariah 4:11-14**

*<sup>11</sup> Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof?*

*<sup>12</sup> And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?*

*<sup>13</sup> And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.*

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

Joshua and Zerubbabel were two men who were used of God in a mighty way to revive the Jews following the Babylonian captivity. They were pictures or types of the Two Witnesses found here in Revelation 11. Just as Joshua and Zerubbabel were used of God for a revival so will these Two Witnesses be used in the very same way. There will be many who will get saved through the message of these two men.

**Notice Revelation 11:6**

They have many of the same powers as Moses and Elijah but we are not told who they are. That is not important or God would have told us. Most likely their ministry will be that of the Law and the Prophets that is why we see the characteristics of Moses (THE LAW) and Elijah (THE PROPHETS).

III. **Their Power**

**Notice Revelation 11:5**

This must be seen as a literal fire that proceeds from their mouths. They will be given power that will exceed that of the anti-Christ and the false prophet.

**2 Thessalonians 2:8-10**

*<sup>8</sup> And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

<sup>9</sup> Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

<sup>10</sup> And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

Notice what is said concerning the false prophet.

**Revelation 13:13-15**

<sup>13</sup> And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.

<sup>14</sup> And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

<sup>15</sup> And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

The Tribulation will be a time of great deception and therefore the people will need to know the TRUE WITNESSES from the FALSE WITNESSES.

They will also have the power to stop the rain during their ministry and power to bring many plagues and the plagues will most likely be like those that were experienced in Egypt.

1. Water to blood.
2. Frogs.
3. Swarms of lice.
4. Flies.
5. Disease on cattle.
6. Boils/sores on man and animals.
7. Hail destroyed the cattle and the crops.
8. Locusts destroyed the crops.
9. Darkness.

10. Death of the first born.

**All of this now brings us to where we are today.**

#### IV. Their Death

##### Notice Revelation 11:7

At the end of their ministry which will be after three and one-half years which will be about the mid-point of the Tribulation the anti-Christ will be permitted by God to kill the Two Witnesses.

These two men were indestructible until this time. They had a mission and a ministry and their lives were in the hands of God and He would not permit them to die until their ministry would be complete. There are 2 points of application which we need to see here.

##### 1. God's Protection.

###### Application:

There is within this verse a great deal of comfort for each one of us who are saved. There may be people who revolt against us and there may be times when we are face to face with danger but our lives are in the hands of God.

##### Job 14:1-2, 5

*Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.*

<sup>2</sup> *He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.*

<sup>5</sup> **Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;**

God holds our lives in His hands. No one can harm us unless God permits it to happen. These Two Witnesses will be hated and confronted during the days of their ministry but they will be protected until the day the anti-Christ kills them.

We too are protected by God. But I also need to warn you that this Truth applies ONLY while we are walking in the will of God. I cannot live in a careless way outside the will of God and expect God to protect my life. That is known as FATALISM.

##### 2. There is a limited time entrusted to us.

These two men will only have three and one-half years to serve the Lord. We too are only entrusted with a certain number of days here on this earth. We are suited for the very day in which we are in. The words of Mordecai which he sent to Esther come to my mind here.

**Esther 4:10-14**

*<sup>10</sup> Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;*

*<sup>11</sup> All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.*

*<sup>12</sup> And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.*

*<sup>13</sup> Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.*

*<sup>14</sup> For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

Let us get back to our verse again.

**Notice Revelation 11:7**

They will be killed by the Beast who ascendeth out of the bottomless pit. This is an interesting statement when compared with what is recorded in Revelation 13.

**Revelation 13:1**

*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*

Here we are told that the anti-Christ rises out of the sea but in chapter 11 we are told he rises out of the bottomless pit. The question is then brought up, "Why are there two different references to his origin?"

In Revelation 13 John is pointing to how he will rise from among the Gentiles for the sea is symbolic of the Gentile nations.

Here in Revelation 11 this verse points to the source of his power.

It is believed that before he kills the Two Witnesses he will receive the deadly wound and Satan will counterfeit the resurrection of Jesus Christ by empowering the Beast to rise from the dead.

**Revelation 13:1-5**

*And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*

*<sup>2</sup> And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.*

*<sup>3</sup> And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.*

*<sup>4</sup> And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

*<sup>5</sup> And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.*

We are therefore told in Revelation 11:7 that he ascends from the bottomless pit for that is the source of his power and resurrection. This man will be Purely Satan driven and Satan empowered.

**Notice Revelation 11:8**

After they are killed their bodies will lie in the streets of Jerusalem for three and one-half days. This emphasizes the fact that these two men are Jewish. To the Jews it was the greatest dishonor to allow someone's body to lie on the ground and not be buried. The fact that they are left to lie in the streets speaks of two things.

1. It shows the hatred and depravity of the earth dwellers during this time. These two men are hated and to show their hatred the earth dwellers let them lie in the streets of Jerusalem to decompose.

2. They are left in the street because they are considered trophies of the power of the anti-Christ.

That is why those who worship the Dragon declare that no one can make war with the Beast. He has killed two men who seemed to be indestructible. The Two Witnesses are his trophies.

**Notice Revelation 11:9**

Here we see that people from all nations will be able to view their dead bodies as they lie in the street. This will be possible by TV and cell phones and other means of technology. Years ago, there were Bible teachers who believed this was a mistake by the translators but today we can clearly see how this will be possible.

**Notice Revelation 11:10**

These Two Witnesses will be hated because of the plagues which they brought upon the world during their ministry and so when they are dead people will celebrate just as if it is Christmas.

These Two Witnesses will be hated for the miracles which they do as well as the message which they preach.

Let us not miss a valuable lesson from the celebrations of the world here in this verse. In the Kingdom of the anti-Christ there will be tremendous hatred for those who follow Jesus Christ and those who stand for the Truth of His Word.

**Conclusion:**

Let me show you a little of what life will be like.

**Mark 13:8-13**

*<sup>8</sup> For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.*

*<sup>9</sup> But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.*

*<sup>10</sup> And the gospel must first be published among all nations.*

*<sup>11</sup> But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.*

*<sup>12</sup> Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.*

*<sup>13</sup> And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*