

"The Two Witnesses"

Part 5

Revelation 11:1-14

Introduction: In the past 4 studies of the book of Revelation we have looked closely at the Two Witnesses of Revelation 11. We have determined these are two Jewish men whom God will raise up after the rapture of the church and they will be His Two Witnesses empowered by the Holy Spirit. Their ministry will take place during the first half of the Tribulation and it will be through their ministry that many will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The 144,000 Jewish men of Revelation 7 will most likely be saved through the ministry of these two men. We are not told who they are but there is much speculation concerning their identity. They will be given miraculous powers that will exceed the powers of the anti-Christ and the false prophet. Let us keep in mind the deception during the Tribulation will be far greater than it is today. The people will need a way to know the True Witnesses from False Witnesses. Therefore, God will empower these men to breathe fire, stop the rain for three and one-half years and to bring many, many plagues upon the earth.

These men will be completely indestructible during the time of their ministry.

Notice Revelation 11:5

Once their ministry is finished they will then be killed by the Beast/anti-Christ. This will happen at the mid-point of the Tribulation and his ability to kill these Two Witnesses will help promote him to a position where people will worship him as God.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

³ *Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;*

⁴ *Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.*

This will all take place after he has been resurrected 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.

² *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.*

³ *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.*

⁴ *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?*

⁵ *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.*

The question is asked, "Who is able to make war with the Beast?" This expects a negative answer meaning NO ONE. The reason the question is asked is because he has killed the Two Indestructible Witnesses.

When he kills the Two Witnesses their dead bodies will lie in the streets for all the world to see for three and one-half days. The EARTHDWELLERS will celebrate and send gifts to one another in celebration of their death.

Notice Revelation 11:7-10

In their deaths anti-Christ looks to be the overcomer. But that is not the case.

1 John 5:4-5

⁴ *For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*

⁵ *Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

God will permit their deaths for a purpose.

I. The Resurrection of the Two Witnesses

Notice Revelation 11:11

We can only imagine what this scene will be like. I can see them flying people in from all over the world to see the dead bodies of the Two Witnesses who had tormented them with their message and their plagues for three and one-half years. I can picture the crowds gathered around trying to get a personal glimpse of these two men. Then it happens. The limbs that were stiff and the hands and feet that were motionless begin to

move. The bodies which had started to decay now have the color back in their flesh and while the world watches on they stand to their feet. The gasps will be heard through the crowd. The site is unbelievable. They had been dead for over three days and now they are alive. But that is not all.

Notice Revelation 11:12

These two men then turn their faces toward heaven and they ascend into the clouds right before the eyes of the world.

This makes me ask a question concerning the resurrection of these two men: "What is the purpose of their resurrection at this time?" There will be many people killed for their faith during the Tribulation but they will not be resurrected until the end of the Tribulation.

Revelation 6:9-10

⁹ And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

Revelation 7:9, 13-14

⁹ After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

¹³ And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

¹⁴ And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Revelation 20:4-5

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

⁵ *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

Back to the question, "Why are the Two Witnesses resurrected at the mid-point of the Tribulation?"

I believe the answer is twofold.

1. **It will be a great encouragement to those who have believed the message of the Two Witnesses as the second half of the Tribulation is about to begin.**

The people within the Tribulation that are saved and who survive will be weary from the struggle to survive. Then along with that will be all the deception. They will question if the message they have believed is the Truth.

Remember John the Baptist and the doubts he battled with?

Matthew 11:1-6

And it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities.

² *Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,*

³ *And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?*

⁴ *Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:*

⁵ *The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.*

⁶ *And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.*

John questioned if Jesus was really the Messiah this was after he had taken such a strong stand earlier. The saints in the Tribulation will also grow weary and after these Two Witnesses are killed many will wonder if they were True servants of God. The resurrection of these two men will be a great boost to the saints as they enter the GREAT TRIBULATION.

Application:

We all grow weary at times as we press forward and serve the Lord. God knows what we are going through.

Hebrews 2:9-10

⁹ *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

¹⁰ *For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

Jesus has been made perfect in experience and therefore He knows when we doubt and when we are weary and He will give to us what it is that we need to continue to press forward for Him.

Hebrews 4:15-16

¹⁵ *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*

2. It is an extension of God's grace to the unsaved of that day?"

This will be an act of God's grace when He allows the world to see the resurrection and the ascension of these Two Witnesses. But it will not turn their hearts. The EARTH DWELLERS will not repent!

Let me take you to the bowl judgments and we will see the people who witnessed this event here in Revelation 11.

Revelation 16:10-11

¹⁰ *And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,*

¹¹ *And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.*

Now the question comes up, "WHY WILL THESE PEOPLE NOT REPENT AND TURN TO GOD?"

This answer is also twofold:

- a. They have hardened their hearts. When a person rejects for so long their hearts continues to grow harder and harder.

2 Corinthians 6:2

² (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

- b. They are under a strong delusion.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-12

⁸ 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:

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

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

¹¹ And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

¹² That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

This is very frightening. As they reject the message of the Two Witnesses and the message of the 144,000 God will then reject them and He will send them a strong delusion and they will receive the mark of the Beast and follow him to their destruction.

Notice Revelation 11:13

When this happens, there is a GREAT Earthquake. I find it interesting that John calls this earthquake GREAT after the quake in Revelation 6 that moved every island and every mountain out of its place. This quake therefore must be very severe. This again is God shaking the earth.

Haggai 2:6-7

⁶ For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and **I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;**

⁷ And **I will shake all nations,** and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

Back to Revelation 11. When God shakes the earth here one-tenth of the city of Jerusalem will fall and 7000 people will die.

John also refers to a REMNANT who were frightened and they give glory to God. This may be those who will be in Jerusalem and are saved Jews. They will give the glory to God for they have believed the message of the Two Witnesses and now their faith has been solidified.

Conclusion:

All of this helps us to see the need for people to be saved today for delay is very dangerous. Let me explain why you need to be saved.

1. **You have sinned against God.**

Romans 3:23

²³ For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

2. **Your sin has separated you from God.**

Isaiah 59:2

² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

3. **Your sin must be paid for.**

Romans 6:23a

²³ For the wages of sin is death;

4. **You cannot pay your own sin debt.**

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.

5. **God loves you and He provided a way for you to be saved.**

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

6. Jesus died for you to pay your sin debt.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

7. Salvation is a FREE gift from God.

Romans 6:23

²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

8. You MUST receive Him as your Savior.

John 1:12

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: