

## Two Witnesses

### Revelation 11:1-14

#### I. Introduction:

##### A. Witnesses

1. Throughout human history God has always preserved for Himself witnesses.
2. In every human dispensation God has raised up men to declare His message.
3. Noah: In the antediluvian generation, before the flood, there was Noah.
4. Noah preached for 120 years before God's judgment fell on that wicked generation and they were all destroyed by a flood. God gave them opportunity to repent and be saved.
5. Prophets: After the flood, O. T. has witnesses which include men like Job, Abraham, Samuel, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, & all who testified of true & living God
6. Neither Israel nor the lost world around them heeded the warning of God's witnesses.
7. Church Age: Jesus came, died on the cross, rose again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, & ascended back to heaven. Church was born at Pentecost.
8. For 2,020 years God's given us preachers, teachers, & witness of the faithful church.
9. Application: If you've never been saved, pay attention this morning to the gospel.

#### II. Tribulation (Revelation 11:1-2)

- *In last ½ of tribulation God raises up 2 special & powerful witnesses, who along w/ 144k sealed Jews, & those saved during tribulation, will testify giving witness to the Gospel.*

##### A. Take some measurements

1. John is commanded to take part in the vision he has been seeing.
2. He is told to take a measuring rod & measure temple that will be in Jerusalem during the tribulation. In 1<sup>st</sup> ½ of tribulation, antichrist will enable Jews to rebuild the temple.
3. It can't be done today for on the temple mount is the Muslim Dome of the Rock, which is sacred to Muslims because they believe Mohammad ascended to heaven there.
4. But during the first ½ of the tribulation, Antichrist will allow the temple to be rebuilt.
5. Measurements: They are to mark off ownership with regard to God's remnant in Israel.
6. The alter and inner court where people worshipped were Jewish only. In Jesus' day a Gentile who entered beyond the outer court was put to death for desecrating the temple.
7. Measuring the inner court meant there's remnant of Jews God had marked out as His.
8. God would preserve these Jews and protect them from the antichrist.
9. Those in outer court, John wasn't to measure, represent those not belonging to God.
10. Given Over to the Gentiles: The outer court & the city would be trampled by the Gentiles for 42 months. (3½ years or 1,260 days) All represent last ½ of the tribulation.

##### B. God's remnant today

1. God has a remnant today, in the church age.
2. All who are saved by faith in Jesus are part of God's remnant in this world.
3. The majority of the world rejects God, defile His holy name & do all in their power to break His holy commandments. His redeemed are His remnant out of this lost world.

#### III. Two witnesses (Revelation 11:3-4)

##### A. Two men

1. God will raise up two men in the last half of the tribulation who will prophesy.
2. Prophecy can mean to tell the future, but it often means to proclaim.
3. These two men will be powerful preachers of the Gospel.

4. Olive Trees & Lamp Stands: Picture or metaphor is drawn from **Zachariah 4:1-14**.
5. Olive oil was used for as lamp oil. These witnesses would burn bright for God.
6. It means a limitless supply of oil, God's power to be manifested in them as they preach
7. Application: We have the same today in the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### **IV. Their power (Revelation 11:5-6)**

##### **A. Hated by antichrist**

1. These two witnesses will be hated by antichrist and the wicked world that follows him.
2. Antichrist will try to kill these men, but he will not be able to.
3. Anyone who tries to do them harm will be incinerated.
4. These two witnesses will be well known & hated by the world, but some will see the power of God in them and hear the Gospel message to the saving of their soul.

##### **B. Who are they?**

1. God did not choose to tell us their names; however, they have been here before.
2. Moses: Moses is the one who turned water to blood in Egypt. He is the one God used to bring many plagues upon Egypt.
3. Elijah: To shut up the rain is something for which Elijah was known. Elijah prophesied & it did not rain in Israel for three and a half years.
4. Both of these men appeared with Jesus on the mount of transfiguration in (**Matt.17:3**).
5. Possibly Moses & Elijah will return & preach in the last ½ of the tribulation.

#### **V. Death of these Witnesses (Revelation 11:7-10)**

- *Near the end of the tribulation, God will allow these two witnesses to be killed.*

##### **A. End of their ministry**

- *At the end of their ministry, antichrist will be allowed to overcome & kill these two men.*
  1. – In Jerusalem
    - a. These men will be killed in Jerusalem.
    - b. The literal & spiritual wickedness in Jerusalem at the end of tribulation is likened to the wickedness of Sodom & Egypt. The city of God will be utterly defiled.
  2. – Contemptuous world
    - a. In utter contempt for them & their message, their bodies will lay openly in the street
    - b. The whole world will see these men die & will see their bodies lay in the street.
  3. – The world will rejoice
    - a. These men tormented the wicked by their preaching and their power.
    - b. Their preaching & condemnation of sin will infuriate antichrist & all his followers.
    - c. The world will celebrate their deaths & rejoice that these two men were murdered.

#### **VI. Resurrection (Revelation 11:11-14)**

##### **A. Raised from the dead**

1. After 3 ½ days of their bodies lying in the street, God will restore life to those bodies.
2. The 2 witnesses will stand up & world rejoicing over their deaths will see it & be afraid
3. The world will witness these 2 witnesses ascend to heaven in a cloud of God's glory.

##### **B. Great earthquake**

1. In the same hour as the resurrection of the 2 witnesses, a great earthquake will strike Jerusalem killing 7,000. One tenth of the city will be destroyed.

##### **C. Some will give glory to God**

1. The remnant of Jews who believe God and are saved will rejoice.

##### **D. The third woe comes quickly.**

1. The 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet will sound soon and bring the end of the tribulation quickly.