

“God’s Two Powerful Witnesses”
The Revelation of Jesus Christ—Part 17
Revelation 11

1. The introduction and ministry of God’s two witnesses.

I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

Revelation 11:1-4

- This is not an effort to discover its physical dimensions.
- It seems by the context that God is measuring off Israel for salvation, special protection and preservation.
- The prophecies yet to be given to John distinguish between God’s favor toward Israel and His wrath toward the pagan world.
- The presence of this temple in John’s vision of the great tribulation, brought him the encouraging realization that the temple destroyed by the Romans will be rebuilt.
- “those who worship in it” depicts a remnant of believing Jews.

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son...” On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity.

Zechariah 12:10 and 13:1

“In the whole land,” declares the Lord, “two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it. This third I will bring into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The Lord is our God.’”

Zechariah 13:8-9

“So when you see standing in the holy place ‘the abomination that causes desolation,’ spoken of through the prophet Daniel — let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.”

Matthew 24:15-20

- The prophets are not identified specifically.
- The 1260 days of their ministry corresponds to the 42 months of the Gentiles trampling on Jerusalem.
- The two witnesses will proclaim to the world that the disasters occurring are the judgments of God.

- They will preach the gospel, calling people to repentance.
- They will warn of God's final outpouring of judgment and eternal hell to follow.
- The witnesses will lead a national revival in Israel.

2. The power and death of God's two witnesses.

If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want. Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

Revelation 11:5-10

- The witnesses will have power similar to Elijah and Moses.
- The ministry of the witnesses is centralized in Jerusalem.

3. The resurrection and impact of the two witnesses.

But after the three and a half days, a breath of life from God entered them and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Revelation 11:11-13

- Their resurrection will strike fear in people of the world.
- Many will be saved because of their death and resurrection.
- Giving glory to God is the mark of genuine repentance (Rev. 4:9; 14:7; 16:9; 19:7; Luke 17:18-19).

4. The blowing of the seventh trumpet.

The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon. The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence

your name, both small and great—and for destroying those who destroy the earth." Revelation 11:13-18

- The blowing of the 7th trumpet ushers in the violent bowl judgments and the return of Christ to establish His kingdom.
- “kingdom of the world” introduces an important truth.

5. God's Temple and the Ark of the Covenant.

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm. Revelation 11:19

- Heaven is the source of blessing for believers and judgment on unbelievers.

Life Response: Have you personally trusted in Christ? Do you know for certain that you have a personal, intimate relationship with God and will be delivered from the coming wrath? Never forget, if you have accepted Christ as Savior, you have direct access to God.

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16