

1. Last week I taught Rev 11:1-6. Most of the hour last week was spent describing Israel's history as it related to their Temple and an identification of the two witnesses described in the eleventh chapter of the Apocalypse. Tonight we will begin a study of Rev 11:7-10.
2. Before continuing, I want to provide "1Jo 1:9 time" as may be necessary.
3. Let's begin with an expanded translation of Rev 11:1-6.

### **Expanded Translation**

**Rev 11:1 I was then handed a ten foot long measuring rod and told to measure the Temple and the altar, and to count and evaluate the worshipers there.**

**Rev 11:2 I was also told to exclude the outer court; I was informed I was not to measure it because it had been given to the Gentiles. They will, I was told, control the Holy City for the last three and one-half years of the Tribulation.**

**Rev 11:3 The angel then told me about two witnesses, he said they will live and prophesy during the first three and one-half years of the Tribulation; he further noted they will dress in sackcloth like characters from an Old Testament period piece.**

**Rev 11:4 The two lampstands who stand before the Lord of the earth represent Elijah and Moses; they are supported by the power of God the Holy Spirit, represented by the two olive trees. They will shine like the light of Christ in the darkness of that first 1260 days.**

**Rev 11:5 If anyone tries to harm these two, God will cause fire to come out of their mouths; the fire will devour their enemies. There will be many who will want to harm them.**

**Rev 11:6 The two will also have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain; the angel also said they will have power to turn the earth's waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague; this he said they would often do.**

4. Now let's see what we can learn from verses seven, eight, nine and ten.

KJV

Rev 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottom less pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

Rev 11:8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Rev 11:9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

Rev 11:10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

NIV

Rev 11:7 Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.

Rev 11:8 Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

Rev 11:9 For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.

Rev 11:10 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.

Principles:

1. The beast from the bottomless pit is none other than Satan himself.
2. Satan will work directly through the Antichrist and his side-kick The False Prophet to rid the world of God's special witnesses.
3. No doubt the two witnesses will follow the Antichrist and False Prophet around addressing them face to face in order to expose their "blasphemous reign."
4. These two "anachronisms" in their 1st century garb will no doubt be ridiculed by the international media and blamed by Rome's world government as the cause of all the world's problems.
  - 4.1 The two will be designated as leaders of Christianity, a religion of intolerance and bigotry, a cult unwilling to accept the good in all religions and lifestyles.
5. No doubt Moses and Elijah make the life of the Antichrist and his "side kick" miserable; their personal and televised rebukes together with their awesome demonstrations of power will make for quite a spectacle.
  - 5.1 Not to be outdone however, the False Prophet will call down fire from heaven, heal people and generally portray himself as "Elijah" the forerunner of the messiah Antichrist.

6. Recall all of this is occurring in the first 1260 days of the Tribulation when the Antichrist is portraying himself as the leader of a developing new world order and the ultimate utopia.

7. He will become so infuriated at their straightforward gospel witness and rebuke that he repeatedly "makes war against them" but time and time again his efforts fail. Moses and Elijah have plenty of divine tricks up their "camel hair sleeves."

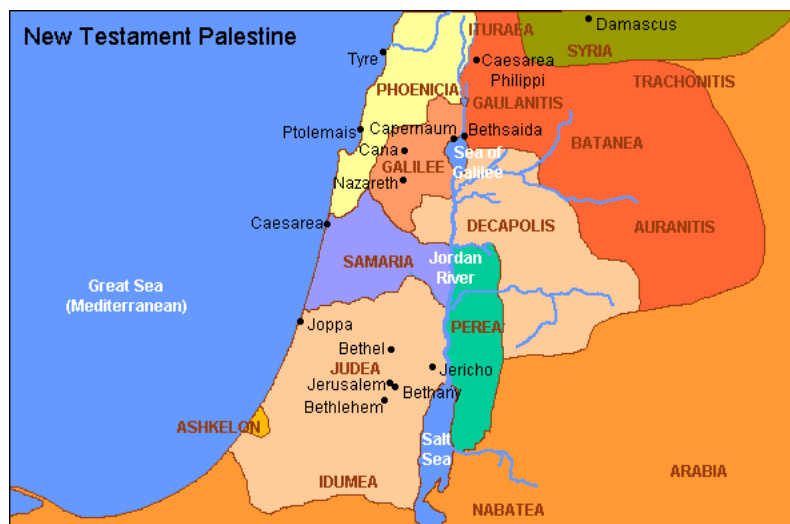
8. As in the case of many other great prophets of God however, when their ministry is finished, God permits their enemies to overcome them.

8.1 Soldiers of the Antichrist, just before the "death" of the Antichrist and just before Satan is cast out of heaven, are successful in somehow killing the two men of God.

8.2 Immature Christians will weep while the mature believers will rejoice in the fulfillment of yet another prophecy.

8.3 Mature believers in Jerusalem will prepare their belongings for a trip to the mountains of Idumea; they will know soon to come will be the erection of the "Abomination That Brings Desolation." (Mar 13:14)

Mar 13:14 "When you see 'the abomination that causes desolation' standing where it does not belong -- let the reader understand -- then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."



8.3.1 From the Wycliffe Encyclopedia we learn, "The Idumaeen period was the last time of any greatness in the history of the Edomites, from c. 100 B.C. to A.D. 70. Judas Maccabaeus had defeated the Idumaeans and recaptured Hebron in 164 B.C."

8.3.2 “John Hyrcanus warred against them successfully, subjected them, and forced them to adopt Judaism and be circumcised c. 120 B.C. Yet it was the rise of the Herodian dynasty that lends a prominence to the Idumaeans that otherwise they never would have earned. In A.D. 66-70 they fanatically helped to defend Jerusalem over whose fall their ancestors (the Edomites) had gloated some 600 years earlier. The last of the Idumaeans were slaughtered by Titus in A.D. 72.”

9. So great is the victory over the two witnesses and so significant to their enemies that their dead bodies are allowed to lie in the street of the city described as "the great city," which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt;" the place where our Lord and Savior was crucified.”

10. This city therefore is unquestionably the city of Jerusalem in which these two witnesses complete their prophetic ministry and fulfill their martyrdom.

11. In the effort to capitalize as much as possible on their death, their bodies are exhibited in the streets for three and one-half days; an act so contrary to all reasonable laws of humanity.

12. Hal Lindsey has written of the city: "Their bodies will lie in the street of "the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified." This is a derogatory reference to the apostate city of Jerusalem. "Sodom" refers to its immorality and "Egypt" to its worldliness, while the reminder of its crucifixion of Jesus emphasizes “a rejection of the witnesses ...”

13. Great throngs of people come to view the bodies lying in a state of decay.

13.1 According to verse ten their death is the occasion for great rejoicing.

13.2 The expression "they that dwell upon the earth" seems to refer to those who are not only dwelling on the earth in their physical bodies but whose hope is limited to their present life.

13.3 For three and one-half days ungodly people from every nation on earth will gaze gleefully at the unburied bodies of God's great witnesses. Whether this is by a Satanic miracle or Satellite Television no one really knows. It seems strange that people who believe in miracles and answered prayer would spend time with “conjectures;” but since they do let’s humor them.

13.4 Some men who wrote commentaries on the Book of The Revelation a hundred or so years ago tried to discredit a literal worldwide viewing of the corpses by simply asking the obvious:

13.4.1 "How will the whole world be able to watch their "resurrection"?"

14. Billy Graham in speaking to the question of the truthfulness of the Book of Revelation has said:

14.1 "How can all the people in the world possibly look at the bodies of these men lying in Jerusalem?" How will so many people be able to view the two corpses? Through television, of course!"

15. The phrase "they that dwell upon the earth" is a reference to those who refuse God's grace overtures.

15.1 The phrase "they that dwell upon the earth" or a like paraphrase is repeated often in the book of the Revelation. Two examples:

Rev 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Rev 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

16. Apparently the celebration is worldwide.

16.1 By means of television and the transmission of pictures by satellite, or one of God's other miracles, the entire earth will see graphically the dead bodies of the two witnesses.

17. Their death serves for many as a symbol of victory for the Antichrist and those who oppose God.

17.1 They will have festive celebrations and even send gifts one to another, certain that their fear of God's wrath and power is no longer justified.

17.2 People will toast the "gods" of Rome believing "global peace and prosperity" can now flow freely under the program of big international government from their beloved political and religious leaders.

18. A righteous prophet is always a torment to a wicked generation.

18.1 The two witnesses are an obstacle to wickedness, unbelief, and satanic power prevalent in the Tribulation.

19. The Word of God makes it clear that it is often possible to silence a witness, but such action often does not destroy the truth that has been announced.

20. The power of God will be ultimately revealed.

21. Lindsey has written of the celebration and its ramifications:

"The murder of the witnesses will be followed by a sort of Satanic Christmas celebration. Verse 10 says that people will celebrate and give gifts to each other. It'll be a big bonus day for Santa! But after three and one-half days the joyride will be over, for all of a sudden the bodies come to life again! Right in front of the dumbfounded onlookers the resurrected men rise up to heaven in a cloud! Then an earthquake strikes the city of Jerusalem and kills seven thousand people. Those who live are terrified, and give glory to the God of heaven (verse 13). Finally many of the Jews in Jerusalem get the point about God and turn in faith to Him."

Rev 11:13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

22. Walvoord has written: "In Rev 11:7 we also have the first of several references in The book of the Revelation to the beast (Greek **Therion**)."

22.1 The beast out of the pit here is Satan.

22.2 The beast out of the sea is the world dictator (Rev 13:1).

Rev 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.

22.3 The beast out of the land is the false religious leader of that day. (Rev 13:11)

Rev 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

22.4 This unholy trinity is the satanic counterfeit of the divine Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Rev 13:1-4)

NIV

Rev 13:1 And the dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. He had ten horns and seven heads, with ten crowns on his horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.

Rev 13:2 The beast I saw resembled a leopard, but had feet like those of a bear and a mouth like that of a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power and his throne and great authority.

Rev 13:3 One of the heads of the beast seemed to have had a fatal wound, but the fatal wound had been healed. The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.

Rev 13:4 Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

23. Now I want to give you an expanded translation of Rev 11:7-10.

**Expanded Translation:**

**Rev 11:7** Toward the end of the first 42 months of the Tribulation after Moses and Elijah had said all God would have for them to do and say, Satan himself develops a plan and the Antichrist attacks them with a vengeance. Under the permissive will of God the two are overpowered and destroyed.

**Rev 11:8** Their bodies lie in the street of the great city. The Antichrist refuses numerous requests to bury them; he instead makes sure they lie in their own blood there in Jerusalem a city now figuratively called Sodom and Egypt because of their immorality and rejection of God's prophets. This is the same city in which our Lord was crucified.

**Rev 11:9** For three and a half days men from all over the world will travel to Jerusalem to gaze on their bodies; the officials from both Rome and Jerusalem refuse to permit their burial.

**Rev 11:10** The Global Citizens will rejoice in their deaths and will celebrate by sending each other gifts; people are overjoyed thinking the source of their problems has now been eliminated. The two prophets who had resisted the programs of their world leaders were now a thing of the past and like a bad dream they can now be forgotten. "World peace and universal prosperity can now become a reality."

24. Let's now see what we can learn from Rev 11:11 and 12.

**KJV**

Rev 11:11 And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.

Rev 11:12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.

**NIV**

Rev 11:11 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.

Rev 11:12 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.

## Principles:

1. The merrymaking of those who rejoice in the death of the two witnesses is cut short after three and one-half days by the witnesses "restoration to life."

2. As they stand on their feet before the startled gaze of those who watch, it is recorded that great fear descends upon the crowds.

3. Their amazement increases as they hear a voice from heaven saying to the witnesses, "Come up hither."

3.1 As they watch, the two witnesses ascend up into heaven.

4. Though there are similarities between this event and the rapture of the church, the contrast is also evident.

4.1 The rapture will take place in a moment, and further, the rapture will most likely not be seen by the unbelieving world.

5. The parallel here is better suited to the ascension of Christ on the Mount of Olives, when the disciples beheld Him ascending into heaven, and, like the two witnesses, He was received by a cloud.

6. This act of raising the witnesses is a special act of God addressed to those who reject His grace and designed as a final warning of the supreme power of God over man whether in life or in death.

6.1 It also serves as a positive witness for many who hopefully become believers.

7. This act of catching up into heaven is distinct from any other mentioned in the Bible in that it occurs after the rapture and before the events of chapters nineteen and twenty of the book of The Revelation.

8. John Walvoord has written:

"From the fact that the resurrection takes place three and one-half days after the martyrdom some have attempted to construct an interpretation that the three and one-half days represents three and one-half years as in Daniel's seventieth week where each unit does represent a year. Under this interpretation, those who minister on the earth as the two witnesses are on earth the first three and one-half years of the seven-year period, are dead for the next three and one-half years, and then are raised at the end. Though possible it is an unlikely interpretation ..." (Dan 9:27)

8.1 Unlikely indeed!



9. If the 1,260 days of verse 3 are literal days, it would seem strange to have days mentioned immediately thereafter and taken in another way.
10. It is preferable to understand the word day to refer to a twenty-four hour day.
  - 10.1 It does not seem possible to allow the bodies of the two witnesses to lie in the streets of Jerusalem for three and one-half years.
11. The Scriptures seem to imply that it is a short period and that the people are still in the process of rejoicing when the witnesses are restored to life and caught up to be with the Lord.
12. Just as their ministry on earth is a literal 1,260 days, so their period of experiencing death is a literal three and one-half days.
13. Likewise also their resurrection from the dead and their being caught up to heaven are literal events.
14. Now let me give you an expanded translation of verses eleven and twelve:

#### **Expanded Translation**

**Rev 11:11 After the three and a half days God again breathes the breath of life into them and they slowly rise to their feet, seeing this extraordinary phenomena, the people who had come to celebrate are awe struck and many are terrified.**

**Rev 11:12 Then from heaven came a loud voice which could be heard all over the city of Jerusalem, it boomed "Come up here." And both Elijah and Moses went up to heaven in a cloud in full view of their astonished enemies who looked on in abject terror.**

15. Now for a study of Rev 11:13 and 14:

#### **KJV**

Rev 11:13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.

Rev 11:14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

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Rev 11:13 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.

Rev 11:14 The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.

1. As an aftermath to the resurrection of the two witnesses, the Scriptures record that a great earthquake occurs in which a tenth part of the city of Jerusalem falls and seven thousand men are killed.

2. These dramatic events bring great fear to those who remain, and it is recorded that they "gave glory to the God of heaven." The reference to "the God of heaven" is one of two in the New Testament. (compare also Rev 16:11)

Rev 16:11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

3. "The God of heaven" is a familiar phrase in the Old Testament where it is used to distinguish the true God from pagan deities.

4. It would seem that many recognize our Father as the true God as over against the blasphemous claims of the two beasts. Said another way, "many seeing and experiencing the power of God are saved." John Walvoord speaking against such an interpretation has written:

"Even though they recognize the power of the God of heaven, it does not seem to indicate that they have come to the point of true faith in Christ."

5. Such a postulation is no doubt possible. With this event, the second woe is brought to its completion. John Walvoord must have been having a bad day.

6. The third woe contained in the seventh trumpet is announced as coming quickly. The end of the age is rapidly approaching. We must wait for chapter sixteen for a description of the third woe.

7. Now for an expanded translation of Revelation eleven verses thirteen and fourteen:

### **Expanded Translation**

**Rev 11:13 Immediately after the two were caught up into the air a severe earthquake occurred and a tenth part of the city collapsed in a state of rubble. Seven thousand people were killed in that section of Jerusalem. Those who did survive were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.**  
**Rev 11:14 The second woe had now passed but the third woe was just around the corner.**

End Lesson Taught 3-22-2017

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