



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Chapter Eleven

- **1 Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, “Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it. 2 Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations; and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months. 3 And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.” 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. 6 These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.**

Two Olive Trees and Lampstands



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- **So when John writes that the two witnesses are olive trees and lampstands, he is not saying that they are Joshua and Zerubbabel.**
- **He is saying that they stand their prophesying because God has ordained the redemption of His people, Israel, in the end times just as He did at other times in History.**
- **And that redemption will happen because Rom 11:29 says “for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.”**

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- **When God used Joshua and Zerubbabel as described in Zachariah's prophecy, a great statement was made about the power of the Holy Spirit even when man is uncooperative.**
- **God had His redemption plan in place and it was not dependent upon the will or cooperation of men.**
- **He uses men, so, at a certain point, He calls Joshua and Zerubbabel for His purposes, but all of the time His people were in Babylon He was nourishing them silently by the power of the Spirit. (some things are just constant)**

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- Of the two witnesses, Rev 11:5 says *And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way.*
- Imagine Anti-Christ, his demons, and the unsaved of the Earth wanting to silence these two so badly, but when they try they are always unsuccessful.
- Furthermore, not only are they unsuccessful at killing the two witnesses, but those who try are fried by the very breath of the two.

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- **6 These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.**
- **So who are the two witnesses?**
- **Most people believe they are Moses and Elijah based on the powers they are said to have in verse #6, but honestly, that is insufficient evidence for such a conclusion.**

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- Verse #6 tells us they have power to shut off the rain and send plagues as often as they desire – *and they may well have been exercising those very powers.*
- After all, they are so hated that people will try to kill them during the 42 months of their ministry.
- The anger at them may be for preaching the gospel, for explaining why all of the judgments are falling, or for exercising these unusual powers they have.

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- **Malachi 4:1** For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” 5 **“Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord.** 6 He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.”
- So hear we have more evidence that Elijah will make an end times appearance.

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- **Deut 18:17** The Eternal told me, “They’re right. 18 I’ll send them another prophet like you from among their own people. I’ll put My words in the mouth of this prophet who will tell them everything I command him to say.”
- **And here are some hints about a return of Moses.**
- **Both prophecies are confirmed by John 1: 21** when John the Baptist shows up They asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?”

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- **Matt 17:1** Six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. **2** And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. **3** *And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.*
- If the Matt 17 account is a preview of Jesus in His glorified state at the second coming, and I think that it is, then this might further support the identities of the two witnesses as being Moses and Elijah.
- And then add to the evidence that both Moses and Elijah were used by God to bring judgment on His people in the past with the goal of bringing them to repentance.

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- And lastly, both Moses and Elijah departed in unusual ways.
- **2nd Kings 2:11 *As they were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.***
- **Deut 34:5 So Moses, the Eternal's servant, died there in the land of Moab, just as the Eternal had said. 6 *He (God) buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is.***
- So who are the two witnesses? Without naming them, God gave enough information throughout the scriptures that He did not have to name them here.

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- **7** When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them. **8** And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. **9** Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations will look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb. **10** And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth. **11** But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. **12** And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them. **13** And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. **14** The second woe is past; behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

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- **7 When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them.**
- **Try as they may, no one will be able to harm the two witnesses until God says so – when their work on Earth is done. (see also Job Chapters 1 & 2)**
- **We could spend the rest of our time applying this verse to ourselves and our lives – *we are indestructible until we've finished our testimony.***

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- **We should be careful how we apply this truth – it would be a mistake to assume that a Christian who dies at a young age has a lessor purpose, or testimony, than a Christian who lives to an old age.**
- **Jesus died in His early thirties – does anyone want to argue that His testimony was less than others who lived to older ages?**
- **Only God can sort out all of the nuances of our testimonies and we should not try to do His job. 😊**

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- Nevertheless, at one point, when their work was done, this one called the “beast” comes up out of the abyss and kills them.
- This is the first mention of the “beast”, but there will be 35 more references to it, or perhaps him. In chapter 13 we will see a recap of all his doings during the great tribulation.
- The ‘beast’ is none other than Anti-Christ who is said to come up out of the abyss, a synonym for hell. He is a Satan powered, demon possessed, man and nothing more.

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- **So the beast prevails, probably after 42 months of attempts, and kills the two witnesses.**
- **Their bodies are not buried, a ancient sign of contempt for one's enemies, but they are said to lie in the street of the great city called Sodom and Egypt.**
- **The actual city is the gentile occupied Jerusalem, and the reference to Sodom and Egypt is a pointer to the kinds of wickedness that will prevail in the end time.**

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- **The city of Sodom and the country of Egypt were metaphors for evil in the ancient times.**
- **Both were filled with sins like violence against the innocent, murder, oppression, injustice, and sexual sins of the worst kind.**
- **So why is Jerusalem in Israel called “Sodom and Egypt” – because the country and the city will be under Anti-Christ’s and the gentile world’s control in the last days, and sin of all sorts will mark the culture.**

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- **10 And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.**
- **To rejoice over the death of the very ones who were proclaiming the truth of God, and the way to Him, is the very height of foolishness.**
- **This is more evidence of the power of sin – that men would despise the very ones who could help them.**

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- **Think about it this way – the world at this time will have seen all sorts of spectacular judgments from God.**
- **They will have seen demons released from the bottomless pit with stingers to inflict pain for 5 months without relief, and they will have see another 200 million creepy looking demons released to kill 1/3 of the Earth's population.**
- **And what are they angry at the most? Two preachers who are telling them the truth and inviting them to be saved. (more evidence of the power of sin)**

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- **11 But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them. (ya think!)**
- **Now we see a resurrection – the two witnesses will be raised from the dead right before the very eyes of the world.**
- **If these events would happen over the next 7 years you can imagine all of the “snapchats”, “tweets”, and “Facebook” postings that will include pictures of these two men.**

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- **12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them.**
- **And next, the two witnesses have their own little two-man rapture for they are told what we heard in Rev 4:1 when the church is raptured, “Come up here”.**
- **Some have raised the question about why didn't they preach again before going to Heaven? Wouldn't the world be open after seeing them raised from the dead?**

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- I think we can answer the question about why they didn't preach again after their resurrections –
- **Luke 16:27** And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house— **28** for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' **29** But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' **30** But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' **31** But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'”

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- **13 And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe is past; behold, the third woe is coming quickly.**
- **Just after their ascension, we have another great earthquake hit Jerusalem – it was so powerful that a tenth of the city of Jerusalem fell and 7,000 people were killed.**
- **But these are probably not just any 7,000 people that are killed, but most likely the power players of the one world church under Anti-Christ.**

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- **“Now it is observed by some, that the smallest name of number belonging to men is a centurion, or captain of an hundred men; and supposing that to be meant, then seven thousand names of men will imply, that in an hour, or about a fortnight's time, may be slain throughout all Europe, in battles and massacres, about seven hundred thousand men, which is a very large number: or names of men may signify men of name, of great renown, as in (Numbers 16:2) ;and then if seven thousand men of name, officers in armies, should be slain, how great must be the number of the common soldiers? Some have thought, that these are ecclesiastical dignities, or men distinguished by names and titles, such as cardinals, archbishops, bishops, priests, etc.. and the whole rabble of the antichristian hierarchy, which will now fall, and be utterly demolished, are intended.” John Gill (1697-1771)**

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- **“seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.”**
- **Now notice the reaction this time to the earthquake – before we saw calamity and men shook their fists at God.**
- **Here we see a huge number of “spiritual” dignitaries wiped out and “the rest” were terrified and gave glory to God. Now that is an important change.**

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- It is at this point that many believe that the prophecy of Romans 11:25-27 will become a reality.
- Rom 11:25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation—that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.” 27 “This is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins.”
- Could Rev 11 be the time when Israel finally sees the error of their ways, and the power of God, and turn to Him?

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- **For sure something extraordinary happens because the scriptures tell us that God was given glory.**
- **Now most of you know my rules for glorifying God – there is nothing we can do that is so wonderful so as to add glory to God, but all we can do is see more of Him and then He becomes more glorious to us.**
- **When these Jews turn to God they will see the nail prints in His hands, know they erred 2,000 years ago, and believe upon Him.**

Questions