

“And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.” – Revelation 11:10

Overview:

No matter how dark and evil the world gets, God always has His witnesses proclaiming the truth of God to an evil and hostile world. Here in Revelation 11, we see two witnesses of God that are standing before God (11:4) that receive power from God to prophesy 1,260 days (11:3). They are clothed in sackcloth (11:3), protected by fire (11:5). They have power to stop rain, turn water to blood, and strike the earth with all plagues as often as they desire (11:6). No power can harm these men until they have finished the work that God has given them to do (11:7).

When these men have completed their work, only then does God allow Satan to overcome and kill them (11:7). Their dead bodies will lay on the street of Jerusalem for 3½ days and a great celebration complete with the exchanging of gifts, “antichrist(mas)” breaks out around the world (11:10).

The party comes to a sudden end when the two witnesses are resurrected (11:11), a loud voice from heaven is heard calling the two witnesses of God to “Come up here” (11:12), and the witnesses then ascend to heaven in a cloud while their enemies are watching (11:12). Within the hour Jerusalem is rocked by a great earthquake which destroys 1/10 of the city and kills 7,000 people (11:13). At the end of all this, all men were afraid and all gave God glory but as we will see, not all men were saved (11:13).

References:

Rev. 11:1 – Prophetic object lesson -Jeremiah 18:1-7; Jeremiah 32:6, 11-12, 15

Rev. 11:2 – Prophetic time-line – Revelation 13:5, Daniel 9:27; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Matthew 24:15

Rev. 11:3-8 – Who are the two witnesses – Elijah, Malachi 4:5, Matthew 17:10-13; 17:3; 16:28, 2 Kings 2:11; Enoch, Genesis 5:24; Moses

Rev. 11:3 – Two witnesses (power) – Daniel 9:27; Malachi 4:5

Rev. 11:4 – Two witnesses (position) – Zechariah 4:4-14

Rev. 11:5 – Two witnesses (protection) – 2 Kings 1:10-12

Rev. 11:6 – Two witnesses (purview) – Shut heaven James 5:17, Luke 4:25; Water to blood Exodus 7:20-21

Rev. 11:7 – Antichrist is the Beast – Revelation 17:8; star fallen from heaven Revelation 9:1 – Satan opens the abyss

Rev. 11:10 – Those who dwell on the earth – Philippians 3:19; Tested by the tribulation Revelation 3:10; Receive the vengeance of the Lord Revelation 6:10; Recipients of the 3 woes Revelation 8:13; Focus of destructive work of Satan Revelation 12:12; Worship the antichrist Revelation 13:8; Deceived by the false prophet Revelation 13:14; Receive the gospel again Revelation 14:6; Enter into idolatry Revelation 17:8

Rev 11:10 – Rejoicing – Occurs 4 times in Revelation – 3 times in heaven – Revelation 12:12, 18:20, 19:7 – Once on earth – here

Rev. 11:11 – Breath of life entered them – 2 Timothy 3:16-17 Spiritually happening today

Rev. 11:12 - “Come up here” - Revelation 4:1; Acts 1:8-11

Questions:

* According to Rev. 11:3 where do the two witnesses receive their power? What power(s) are they given?

* According to Rev. 11:7, when will these two witnesses be killed?

* What will be the earth's reaction when these two witnesses are killed?

* What is the final outcome of these two witnesses (Rev 11:12)?

* According to Rev. 11:13, how does the world respond to these events?

* Read Acts 1:8-11, Psalm 23:4, 1 John 4:4 – Based on these scriptures and what we have learned in our study of Revelation, who do we need in our lives to be a witness to the world of Christ Jesus? Who is greater? What comfort does this bring you?

Additional Study:

Rev 11:7

* Make war – (polemos)

* Overcome – (nikaō) to have victory over

* Kill them – (apokteinō)

Rev 11:10

* Those who dwell on the earth – (katoikountes); (katoikeō) – verbal root

Rev 11:10 (Cont)

* Make merry – (euphrainō) euphoria, elation, happiness, delight

* Tormented – (basanizō)

Rev 11:11

* The breath of life – (pneuma zoēs) from God