

The Testimony of The Two Witnesses

Revelation 11 : 3 - 14

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • SEPTEMBER 16, 2012

All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. Pastor Joe's personal commentary is in brackets modifying the biblical text underlined with dots. You can find this passage in your Pew Bible on page 1198.

1. Their Duty

Revelation 11:3, NIV84 -³ *And I will give power to my two witnesses [Gk: μάρτυς, MAR-tus, "Martyr" as so many witnesses of Jesus Christ in the early church paid with their lives], and they will prophesy [Gk: Lit., "proclaim" or "to preach"] for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.*"

2. Their Attitude

Revelation 11:3, NIV84 -³ *And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." [A rough, heavy, coarse, cloth worn in ancient times as a symbol of mourning, distress, grief, and humility; they will mourn because of the wickedness of the people, the desecration of the temple, the oppression of Jerusalem and the audacity of the antichrist.]*

3. Their Identity

Revelation 11:4, NIV84 -⁴ *These are the two olive trees [enigmatic descriptions of "God's anointing"] and the two lampstands [enigmatic description of "light" they proclaim] that stand before the Lord of the earth.*

4. Their Power

Revelation 11:5–6, NIV84 -⁵ *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.

5. Their Death

Revelation 11:7–10, NIV84 -⁷ *Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss [this reference to the antichrist, empowered by Satan is used 36 times in Revelation] will attack them, and overpower and kill them.⁸ Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city [i.e., Jerusalem—The Holy City], which is figuratively called Sodom [i.e., the sinful city] and Egypt [i.e., enemies of Israel], where also their Lord was crucified.⁹ For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial [in ancient times, exposing an enemy's dead body was the ultimate way of dishonoring and desecrating them. God forbade the Israelites to engage in this practice in Deut. 21:22-23].¹⁰ The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate [NOTE: This is the only referencing to "rejoicing" in Scripture in the time called "the tribulation"] by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.*

6. Their Resurrection

Revelation 11:11–12, NIV84 -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.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.*

7. Their Impact

Revelation 11:13–14, NIV84 -¹³ *At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed [lit., "seven thousand men of names" were a recognized group of some type] in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.¹⁴ The second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.*

Four Insights about All True Ministers Of God

1. It is God who calls the minister* to his/her duty.
2. It is God who calls the minister* for a set period of time.
3. It is God who calls the minister* both to preach against sin and for Christ.
4. It is God who supplies the minister* with power and protection.

* " **believers are the ministers of God!"**



Answers to "The Two witnesses" Sermon

Based on Revelation 11:3-14

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