

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study #49: The Two Witnesses
Revelation 11: 3 - 10
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Revelation 11:1

In our previous study we learned that Revelation 11 opens the fourth vision. In a heavenly scene John was given a measuring stick to measure the Heavenly temple, the altar of incense, and the people within the temple. In the physical world, there are different standards to measure the length, height, or width of something depending on what part of the world you come from. But spiritually there is only one standard of measurement. Remember it is God's standard of righteous, His Holy Ten Commandments, that is used to measure our characters.

The Ten Commandments perfectly reflect the character of Jesus and vice versa. When you dwell in Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives you power to keep all the commandments of God.

When John measured the heavenly temple of God and the altar, they were perfect in their dimensions and matched the standard of God's law. Those who are measured within the temple of God represent all those who confess their sins and profess Jesus as their Savior. Each person's character is measured with the character of Jesus and His Ten Commandments. Have they gained the victory over all their sins that they confessed? Are they living in Christ? or Are they trying to eat from the table of Jesus and Satan? Impossible.

We also learned that each professing Christian will be measured in three main areas: 1) How you treat your body temple, the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit; 2) If you have made a complete sacrifice to God; 3) How you truly worship God? Do you worship Him in Spirit and in truth? These are assessments to determine if your character measures up to the character of Jesus Christ and His Ten Commandments.

Remember the main theme of Revelation 11 that we learned about so far is the standard that we are ALL measured by is Jesus Christ and the Ten Commandments.

Don't forget that the Ten Commandments define sin, revealing we need grace, and pointing us to Grace, Jesus Christ to save us from sin and death.

Ten Commandment Official eternal document

Remember the law of the Ten Commandments is the official document of the everlasting covenant with Jesus' signature in the fourth commandment about the seventh day Sabbath. The whole word of God from Genesis to Revelation is a witness or testimony of the revelation of Jesus Christ, His purpose, mission, and work in the past, present, and future.

Revelation 11:2

In Revelation 11:2 John was told not to measure the Gentiles who were outside of God's temple. The Gentiles represent those who totally reject God, His worship, and His Truth. It was prophesied that they would persecute God's faithful in the "holy city" for 42 months, 1260 days / years.

Revelation 11 Dual Prophecy

1) Revelation chapter 11 is a dual prophecy that applies to the 1260 years of the fifth empire since Babylon, Papal Rome from 538 AD to 1798 AD. During 1260 years, the rejecters of God's truth, Papal Rome, persecuted and killed millions of God's faithful

2) Based on Daniel 12:6 -7, the **1260 prophecy repeated at the end of time: The true people of God will be persecuted by the papacy after they are "set up" as the seventh empire. 1260 literal days (3 ½ years).**

Notice again: In the past God's true people who measured up to the standard of Jesus and ALL His Ten Commandments were persecuted and slaughtered by the papacy in the past, 1260 years, and again by the papacy during the 1260 days (3 ½ years) at the very end of time.

During this time of persecution for 1260 years of the past and 1260 days at the end of time, what did God do and what will He do at the end of time when it comes to His standard of the Ten Commandments and the testimonies of Jesus Christ?

Revelation 11:3

3 And I will give *power* unto my **two witnesses**, and **they shall prophesy** a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days (1260 years), **clothed in sackcloth**.

Satan is the enemy behind all the persecution of the faithful people of God. Satan's main objective is to stop their witness of Jesus Christ and His Ten Commandments.

God's faithful live by the law and testimonies in which Satan hates!

Isaiah 8:20

20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

During the 1260 times of persecution God gives His two witnesses power to prophesy.

Prophesy (Greek) = prophēteuō [prof-ate-yoo'-o] "to foretell events, divine, speak under inspiration, exercise the prophetic office." - Strong's Greek Dictionary

Why were the two witnesses clothed in "sackcloth" as they prophesied?

Sackcloth (Hebrew origin) = śaq [sak]

From H8264; properly a mesh (as allowing a liquid to run through), that is, coarse loose cloth or sacking (used in mourning and for bagging); hence a bag (for grain, etc.): - sack (-cloth, -clothes).

In the Bible "sackcloth" was worn as a sign of humility and mourning.

For example, Mordecai and many others put on sackcloth as a sign of mourning when the Haman's decree went throughout Media Persia to kill all the Jews..

Esther 4:1-3

1 When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;

2 And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

3 And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

For example, David also refers to the sackcloth as a sign of his humility

Psalms 35:13

13 But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom.

God gives power to His two witnesses during the 1260 period to prophesy in sackcloth.

During these 1260 time periods of deep spiritual darkness and persecution these two witnesses are in deep mourning because of the apostasy and loss of the life of the faithful in Jesus Christ, but they in humility push forward in proclaiming God's truth.

Who are the two witnesses? Who do they represent symbolically? Let's look at some Bible clues that will help us accurately identify the two witnesses of Revelation 11.

First clue: In verse 3 we see that the two witnesses are given prophetic authority to reveal future events as expressed by God.

Second clue: The two witnesses are "witnesses". Witnesses are those who testify of what they saw based on first hand information either by a verbal or written testimony. Their testimony is not based on heresy, but first hand knowledge based on direct experience.

Because the two witnesses are given direct prophetic authority, it is clear that these two witnesses have a close relationship and experience with God.

Let's look at some more clues in Revelation 11:4 -6

Revelation 11:4 - 6

- 4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.
 5 And if any man will hurt them, **fire proceedeth out of their mouth**, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.
 6 These have **power to shut heaven**, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have **power over** waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

Third clue: Based on verses 5 and 6 these two witnesses are NOT humans, it is obvious that they have Divine authority and power. They can do things that ONLY God can do!

A) They have the power judge others and execute God's Law -

It says in verse 5, "if ANY man will hurt them" they will be killed by the two witnesses by fire.

Hurt (Greek) – adikeō [ad-ee-keh'-o]

From G94; **to be unjust**, that is, (actively) **do wrong** (morally, socially or physically): - hurt, injure, be an offender, be unjust, (do, suffer, take) wrong.

What do the two witnesses use to determine if someone "hurts" them unjustly? Remember, God's measuring stick, God's Law! It defines sin, the breaking of God's law. The wages of sin is eternal death. Those in sin are guilty and reject God's truth

If ANY man offends the two witnesses unjustly or does them wrong, they have the power to judge and execute God's judgment to destroy ALL who are guilty by fire that come from them. No human being has this divine right to judge and destroy.

B) The two witnesses have power and authority over the earth! They can pour out plagues on the earth, stop the rain falling, and turn the water into blood. These are some of the things that we learned about will happen when the seven trumpets blow the seven last plagues on this planet.

Fourth clue: In verse 4 these two witnesses are compared to **two olive trees** and **two candlesticks** standing before God.

Did you know that the prophet Zechariah had a similar vision about the two olive trees and a candlestick of all gold?

Zechariah 4:1-3

1 And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep,
 2 And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold **a candlestick all of gold**, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his **seven lamps** thereon, and **seven pipes** to the **seven lamps**, which are upon the top thereof:
 3 And **two olive trees** by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. Remember the candlestick with seven branches with seven lamps is on the southside of the holy place and the only source of light. In Zechariah's vision it is clear that the two olive trees feed the candlestick with its oil as fuel to keep the lights burning.

Zechariah wanted to know who these two olive trees represented**Zechariah 4:4-6**

4 So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, **What are these, my lord? [two olive trees]**
 5 Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.
 6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the **word of the LORD** unto Zerubbabel [rebuilding of temple in Jerusalem] , saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**

The two witnesses are compared to two candlesticks standing before the Lord. The fuel that keeps them shining bright is the olive oil that comes from the two olive trees.

The olive oil from the two olive trees that feeds the candlesticks represents the Holy Spirit. Let's continue..**Zechariah 4:11-14**

11 Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these **two olive trees** upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof?
 12 And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?
 13 And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.
 14 Then said he, These are the **two anointed ones**, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

Two olive trees = Two anointed ones

Zechariah 4:14 reveals that the two olives trees are the two anointed ones that stand before the Lord. This is exact same description as it is Revelation! The two anointed ones are full of oil.

Go back: Revelation 11:4 "These [two witnesses] are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth."

Oil

Throughout the Bible, oil is symbolic of the anointing and the work of the Holy Spirit to do a great work for the mission of Christ.

Clues.... Two Witnesses

- Prophecy
- Witnesses – direct experience
- Divine Power
- Two Olive Trees = Two Anointed

Two Great Lights

Going back to Revelation 11:4 the two witnesses described as two olive trees are two anointed ones who have Divine authority that is full of the Holy Spirit, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and directed by the Holy Spirit. But remember that the two witnesses of Revelation 11 are also described as two candlesticks or lamp-stands shining bright as **two GREAT LIGHTS** to the world with Divine authority!

Again, who do these two witnesses represent as two great lights who are anointed by the Holy Spirit that have divine power to shut up the heavens with power over land and sea?

Psalms 119:105

105 Thy **word** is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalms 119:130

130 The entrance of thy **words** giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Who is God's Word? Who is the Light that shines

John 1:1-14

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 The same was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
- 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.
- 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
- 7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.
- 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.
- 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
- 10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
- 11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
- 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
- 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Who are the literal two witnesses of the Light that have Divine authority that bear witness of Jesus Christ?

What did Jesus give us as a gift as a witness to his mission, purpose, and power?

His complete Word in the Bible.

The Bible is divided into two main parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament!

Two witnesses = Old and New Testaments of God's Word! The Bible!

In order to have an established testimony of the truth you must have at least two witnesses that witness the same thing. Their testimonies must collaborate.

Jesus says....

Matthew 18:16 (end of)

16 ... in the mouth of two or three witnesses **every word** may be established.

The Old and New Testament are witnesses of Christ revealed in the Old Testament and Christ fulfilled in the New Testament.

Testament (Greek) = Contract or covenant

Both the old testament and the new testament reveal the everlasting covenant of Jesus Christ! The everlasting covenant is both old and new! The old and new testaments are a witness of its eternal existence and power. Old refers to the longevity of the covenant of God, it has always been around. New reveal that God's covenant is old but never wornout, it like new from the beginning.

The new testament, never canceled the old testament they are both equal in power as a witness to Jesus as the Word! They are inspired by God!

2 Timothy 3:16, 17

16 All scripture *is* given by **inspiration of God**, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Peter 1:21

21 For the prophecy (testimonies!) came not in **old time (OLD TESTAMENT) by the will of man**: but holy men of God spake as *they were* **moved by the Holy Ghost**.

Don't miss this. **These two witnesses, OT and NT are actually the written testimony of God himself, a record inspired by God to man pointing to the law and the testimonies!!! The two witnesses have first hand testimony of Jesus Christ.**

That is why Jesus says....

John 5:39

39 Search [or examine] the **scriptures**; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which **testify** [bear witness] of me. (Old and New Testament!)

What does John say about Revelation?

Revelation 1:1-2

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

What is the testimony of Jesus Christ?

Revelation 19:10 (Last part)

10 ...worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Remember, the spirit of prophecy is the Divine authority of the two witnesses of the old and new testament.

During the 1260 years Papal Rome's Empire, what two key Bible doctrines were cast out to keep the people in darkness? This was actually prophesied in Daniel 8

Little Horn of Daniel 8 = Papal Rome

Daniel 8:11

11 Yea, he (Papal Rome) magnified *himself* even to the prince of the host (Jesus Christ), and by him the daily (power) *sacrifice* was taken away, and the **place of his sanctuary was cast down (thrown out!)**.

12 And an host was given *him* against the daily *sacrifice* by reason of transgression, and it **cast down(throw out!) the truth to the ground**; and it practised, and prospered.

Two key things that Papal Rome cast down during 1260 years: the Christ Sanctuary and the TRUTH!

Christ's Sanctuary Message points to the past, present, and future ministry of Jesus. The sanctuary message of both the OT (Earthly Sanctuary) and NT (Heavenly Sanctuary) is the testimony of Jesus! So Papal Rome cast down the testimonies. (Papal Rome's priest was a replacement of Christ.... etc... confessionals... etc... sanctuary message pointed to the testimonies....).

Then in verse 12 it says that it cast down the TRUTH to the ground. Jesus is the way the TRUTH and the life. God Word is TRUTH.

But what was the second key doctrine that was cast down to the ground?

Psalm 119:151

151 Thou *art* near, O LORD; and all thy commandments *are* truth.

The Ten Commandments, God's LAW was cast to the ground!

Matter of fact Papal Rome “changed” the ten commandments. First they cast out the second commandment about bowing down to images and the fourth commandment (made to the third) and said “Remember to keep Holy the Sabbath.” Papal Rome “changed” the Sabbath, seventh-day to Sunday as we already learned in previous studies.

So based on Daniel 8:11 and 12 during the Dark Ages of deep spiritual darkness, Papal Rome cast down to the ground both the LAW and TESTIMONIES!

During the darkness of the Papal Roman Empire God still had a people who where in the mountains and secret places who were keeping both the law and testimonies. They were keeping the seventh-day Sabbath and looking forward to the second coming of Jesus. Because of Papal Rome the great majority were in spiritual darkness of the truth of God's Law and Testimonies. The truth about the seventh-day Sabbath and the second advent of Christ's second coming was lost. The two witnesses message that was established by Jesus in the OT and NT appeared to gone forever.

Who is Satan at war with during the 1260 in the past and the end of time?

Revelation 12:17

17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman (God's pure church), and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

What did God do in the past and the future during the 1260 periods against Satan's wrath as a dragon?

Revelation 12:13-16

13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is **nourished for a time, and times, and half a time (1260)**, from the face of the serpent.

15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood.

16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

Even though Satan persecuted in the past 1260 with all his might, God was still able to preserve his two witnesses of His law and testimonies by the faithful who had to hide in the caves and mountains. The same will be truth during the 1260 days at the end of times.

What did Satan do to the two witnesses after they prophesied the 1260 periods?

Revelation 11:7

7 And when they shall have finished their testimony (after the 1260 years / literal days in “sack cloth”) , the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

The beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless is the same beast that was identified during our study of the fifth trumpet.

Revelation 9:11

11 And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

Abaddon = Destroyer.

So after the two witnesses, the Old and New testimony, the Holy Bible, finished its testimony wearing sackcloth, it appears here that as soon as the Holy Bible is about to come out of darkness and mourning, and spread the light of truth so the whole world can see, a beast comes out and kills the Bible – trying to stop it from spreading its truth to the world.

Remember, beast in Bible prophecy represents nations. So it is obvious that Satan actually uses a nation to kill the two witnesses.

How did Satan “kill” the two witnesses? What happened?

Revelation 11:8

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.

In verse 8 - Spiritually Sodom represents a corrupt, vile, and abominable nation. Spiritually Egypt represents a nation that totally rejected God like the Pharaoh of Egypt at the time of Moses.

Historically, France accurately fulfills the prophecy of Revelation 11:8 – 11 near the time end of the Papal Roman Empire.

History tells us that before the Roman Papal Empire lost its power, the monarch of France was one of Papal Rome's greatest financial contributors to their church system. Well, the common and middle class people of France were tired of this because the monarch of France would heavily tax them in order stay in good standing with Papal Rome. The common and the middle class people of France were highly upset. They could not take it anymore. Over taxed and economically deprived the French people eventually revolted and overthrew the monarchy of France. And around 1793 they established a new government in France weakening the power of Papal Roman Empire. Matter fact in 1798 they captured the pope of Rome taking away Papal Rome's world dominance.

But in 1793 when it appeared that the people of God living in France would be totally free from Papal Rome's persecution and oppression for living and teaching according to the Holy Bible, the new France government shocked the people of God. The new government in France did not want anything to do with God or His Bible because of how the Papal Roman Empire so grossly misrepresented God and His Bible. The new French government's heart was hard toward God and His Bible. They were atheist in all their views. They publicly

denounced God's existence and accepted the goddess of Reason as their new god. They did not tolerate any one talking about God and the Bible. Matter of fact, they had public burnings of the Bible. In 1793 the new government of France passed laws to try to totally wipe out the Bible and God for the consciousness of the people. They made it illegal to own a Bible. This newly formed government of France fits the prophecy of the beast that killed the two witnesses, the Holy Bible, and symbolically left them for dead on the streets of Sodom and Egypt.

France at the time fit the characteristics of spiritual Egypt and Sodom in which like Pharaoh of Egypt in Exodus 5:2, they proudly boasted, "There is no real God" and like the city of Sodom they totally corrupted the law and character of God. So symbolically Sodom represents sin and Egypt represents atheism. During this time the two witnesses lied dead on their streets.

In verse 8 it says that they laid dead were Christ was crucified. So, what does this mean?

No Christ was not crucified on the land of France but hundreds of year before, France was the ground where over 100,000 French Protestants (faithful uncompromising Christians) [men, women and children] were massacred by the command of the king over a seven day period known as the St. Bartholomew Massacre which started on August 24, 1572. They were in a sense crucified for the faith in Christ. It was horrible and very brutal.

How long did this last in which the "two witnesses" were dead on the streets? In other words how long was the Bible outlawed and denounced in France?

Revelation 11:9-10

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.

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.

In verse 10 – The people of this nation are excited to see these two witness (aka two prophets) dead on the street for "three and half years". They were celebrating! Partying! Do what thy wilt!

Now according to this passage of Scriptures the two witnesses [OT and NT] would lay in the streets of France, outlawed publicly, for three and one half years. During this time many in France celebrated on the streets claiming that they were free from the laws of the Bible. They stepped on and ridiculed the Bible for three and a half years.

Remember all that happened in the past 1260 will happen again at the 1260 at the end of time!

What happened next as France was celebrating over the death of the two witness for three and a half years? To be continued...