

**One True Church Series**  
**Resurrection Of The Two Witnesses**  
**Sermon Bible Notes by Pastor O. Cary Rodgers, Jr.**

**Matter of fact going back to Revelation 11, it prophesied that after the 1260 years that Satan would “kill” the two witnesses, the Word of God! It appeared that God's truth would be lost forever!**

**Revelation 11:7**

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

After the two witnesses, the Old and New Testament of the Holy Bible, finished their 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 – stopping it from spreading its truth to the world.

**Beast in Bible prophecy represents nations. So it is obvious that Satan actually uses a nation to kill the two witness.**

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

**Revelation 11:8 – 10**

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.

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 8 – The two witnesses lay dead in the street of the great city which is spiritually Sodom and Egypt.

The **Great city** is referring to a city with great influence and power. For example, Sodom was a great and corrupt city that was part of the kingdom of Satan. It was destroyed by God because of the rebellion and abominations that were committed within the city.

Babylon of Revelation is the spiritual city that is also known as a great city like Sodom that will be totally destroyed by God.

**Revelation 18:21**

21 And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast *it* into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

**The heavenly kingdom New Jerusalem is also known as a Great City.** This great heaven city is pure without corruption and sin.

**Revelation 21:10** And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

Which **great city** is your residency established in today?

### **Back to Revelation 11:8 - 10**

In verse 9 - 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.

In verses 10 – The people of this nation are excited to see these two witness dead on the street for “three and half years”. They were celebrating! Partying! Do what thy wilt!

Historically, France accurately fulfills the prophecy of Revelation 11:8 – 11 near the end of the Papal Roman Empire. France was vile like Sodom and rejected God and His Word like Egypt. Also it was in France that many Christians were killed for Christ during Papal Roman Empire.

**In France during the French Revolution that lasted between 1789 and 1799 Napoleon overthrew the French government and took away Papal Rome’s governmental Empire by 1798, with the capturing of the pope.** In 1793, the newly established government of France wanted NOTHING to do with God nor the Bible! They publicly denounced God and the Bible and also made laws to outlaw God and His Holy Bible. France was the nation after the two witnesses testimony who “killed” them by passing laws to keep God's Word dead. In the place of God and his Word they celebrated the “goddess of reason.” One day they made a great public display of the “goddess of reason.” They got a prostitute off the streets of France and lifted her up high so all could see, pointing to her as the “goddess of Reason.” France was only going to follow the reason of men and defy God.

### **The resurrection of the two witnesses was prophesied in Revelation 11:11 – 12**

#### **Revelation 11:11, 12**

**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.

**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.

**Not only does Jesus reveal in this prophecy that they are alive, but they are thriving! - to the point that the enemies behold them! This parallels to the resurrection of Jesus Christ after He was crucified.**

**How long did this last?** Prophecy says in verse 9 that it will last for only 3 ½ days. Historically, since the passage of the laws that outlawed God and His Word, France got worst. The nation was very unstable. It was in danger of totally falling apart so around 3 ½ years later they rescinded their laws that outlawed the Bible and allowed the citizens to have Bibles They accepted Protestantism and the Bible was freely open to all people. This happened in June of 1797. It is also interesting to note that after they allowed Protestantism and the Bible in 1798 France was able to capture the Pope of Rome!

### **What did God prophesy about these two great lights, OT and NT, coming out of darkness as time got closer to the end?**

#### **Isaiah 60:1 - 3**

1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.

2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.

3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

God reveals that His Word would be fully restored. Remember, in the deep spiritual darkness God's law and testimonies were lost. The seventh-day Sabbath and the second advent of Christ was forgotten.

Near the end of Papal Rome, the reformation was still moving forward to greater light that was lost for so many years. Jesus did not reveal all the light at one time; He gradually, during the time of the reformation and protestant movement, gave the light of His truth so he would not blind and overwhelm the reformers.

After 1798, the two witnesses were NO longer in sackcloth, no longer witnesses undercover, no longer witnessing as a mourner, but a herald of TRUTH shining brightly to the world.

Historically, it was around the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century [early 1800's] in which the British Bible Society and American Bible Society was created. For the first time in history the Bible (Old and New Testament) totally emerged out of darkness. Other Bible printing and distribution ministry emerged since then. No longer was God's word suppressed!

In 19<sup>th</sup> Century world ,men and women around the world for the first time were able to read the Word of God without restriction. As a result a great revival and reformation of God's truth began to emerge worldwide! God was opening the eyes of the blind and taking them out of gross darkness.

Remember, in the Dark Ages God's Law and Testimonies were lost. The Sabbath and the second advent of Christ had gone out of the minds of the people.

**How did God restore the Law and Testimonies, specifically the Seventh-day Sabbath and the Second Advent of Christ in the minds of his people?**

First - **Great Awakening:** In British colonies in America that were free from the Papacy, God sparked a "Great Awakening" that was a movement that rejected worldliness and embraced God from the 1730 to 1740s. One of the most popular ministers at this time was George Whitefield who toured many colonies preaching to thousand people to turn to God instead of worldliness.

This Great Awakening in America prepared the way for the next phase of total restoration of God's law and testimonies. **The Great Shake Up and Wake UP!**

**Second - God shook up a couple of generations of people with fulfilled prophecy that was clearly revealed in His Word especially in America where this new nation was free from the great oppression of Papal Rome.**

**Revelation 6:12, 13**

12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

God revealed that these things would happen in order before the second coming of Christ, 1) Great Earthquake 2) Sun blacken and a moon appearing as blood and 3) Stars falling from heaven.

**Between 1755 and 1833 all these things happen as prophesied! (78 year span)**

1<sup>st</sup>) **On November 1, 1755**, this earth experienced the largest earthquake known as the Lisbon Earthquake that violently shook an area of about 4 million square miles causing thousands of deaths.

2<sup>nd</sup>) **May 19, 1780**, the sun turned into darkness and the moon appeared to be red as blood. And reports explained that the sun did not become dark that day by an eclipse, but was unexplained. Also it was reported that in the evening when the moon became visible it had the appearance of blood.

3<sup>rd</sup>) **November 12 & 13, 1833** that the most extensive display of falling stars or meteors fell from the sky about 60,000 per hour. The meteor shower was so large that it was seen from Canada to Mexico. This event was known as the great Leonid Meteor Shower of 1833.

All these things happened in order as the Bible prophesied. As the Bible became more available during the 1800's worldwide many eyes were opened to this fact, Jesus is coming again!

**Before the Law and the seventh-day Sabbath, God first restores the testimonies of Jesus Christ that He was soon to come.**

**Third - The Advent Message! A Great message to the world. Remember America was the hub of religious freedom. And God used America in a powerful way to restore the testimonies and later the law of God.**

An American Reformer, William Miller, was one of the great forerunners restoring the testimony of Jesus that Jesus was soon to come. God used him in a powerful way to awaken in the minds of the people the second Advent of Christ!

**William Miller (February 15, 1782 – December 20, 1849)**

- Born on February 15, 1782, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts
- Parents were Captain William Miller, a veteran of the American Revolution, and Paulina, the daughter of Elnathan Phelps.
- A Baptist
- Later became a Diest

Miller served in the War of 1812, and while in service saw evidences that there was a God, after all, who intervenes in human affairs.

After the war he was converted and began a systematic study of the Bible to find answers to his former questions. The prophecies of Daniel really got his attention.

**Daniel 8:14**

And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.

The traditional teaching of Miller's day was that the earth was the sanctuary to be cleansed by fire at the second coming of Jesus.

He, as well as many others, carefully studied the interpretation of Daniel 8:14 and Daniel 9:24 – 27 and saw that the 2300 days (year) time clock started with the decree to rebuild Jerusalem by king Artaxerxes in 457 BC.

Miller and his associates at first preached that the cleansing of the Sanctuary would take place in 1843 but later revised it to October 22, 1844. The Adventists in American and others worldwide preached the second coming of Jesus Christ with power and might. The Holy Spirit was truly moving.

Many accepted the message also many rejected it.. It was sweet for those who accepted the message. But October 22, 1844 came and went, no second coming of Jesus. Oh what a bitter disappointment. This was known as the GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT. A great majority of the movement left! They were ridiculed. But there were a group of faithful believers from Methodists to Baptists who did not lose the faith in the soon coming of Christ. They studied and restudied the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation and God revealed to them their error. They got the date right, but the event was wrong, Jesus went to the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanctuary – a time of cleansing and judgment.

**Why did God allow the Great Disappointment?** To weed out the fake with wrong motives. They were not truly ready for the second coming of Christ. God wanted to test and prepare a people to give His last day message. The Seventh-day Adventist Movement was birthed from this.

#### **Fourth - Seventh-day Adventists Movement, Law and Testimonies RESTORED!**

After God restored the testimonies through the preaching of the second coming of Jesus, after the great disappointment and after the faithful realized their error that Jesus was still soon to come but not in 1844 as they thought (again they got the date right but the wrong event), God then opened the Adventists movement to the Sabbath truth by way of a seventh-day Baptist.

**After 1844 both God's Law and Testimonies were completely restored** - he seventh-day Sabbath and the second coming of Christ. Those from the Adventists movement who accepted both the Sabbath and the second coming were later known as the seventh-day Adventists movement. This name was chosen not as a denominational identity but as a testimony to the world that God's law and testimonies have been restored!

Like the OT and NT churches, the Seventh-day Adventists movement keep both the law and testimonies that were lost during the Dark Ages of the Papal Roman Empire.

**Appeal: Are you on the Mountain of Truth! Keeping both the law and the testimonies. This truth must be told to the world, God's seventh-day Sabbath is a great blessing and that Jesus is coming very soon!**

Let all your relatives and friends know about the great coming of Jesus and the seventh-day Sabbath. The restoration of the Sabbath before the coming of Jesus is prophesied in Isaiah 56.

#### **Isaiah 56:1, 2, 6, and 7**

- 1 Thus saith the LORD, Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for **my salvation is near to come**, and my righteousness to be revealed.
- 2 Blessed *is* the man *that* doeth this, and the son of man *that* layeth hold on it; that **keepeth the sabbath from polluting it**, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil.
- 6 Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that **keepeth the sabbath from polluting it**, and taketh **hold of my covenant (law and testimonies)**;
- 7 Even them will I bring to my holy mountain (Mountain of Truth!), and make them joyful in my house of prayer...