



THE BOOK OF REVELATION – Chapter 11 Pt.2

God's Message To A Sleeping Church

“THE TWO WITNESSES and THE LAST WOE”

Revelation 11:11-13 (NKJV) ... **“11 Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. 12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. 13 In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.”**

The Parallels Between the Witnesses and Their Lord

But a mere three days later the celebrations of the world turn sour, and the gifts are returned. Well, the celebration turns to fear actually! ***It was that way with the world, and the fallen unseen world ... when the Lord Jesus rose and conquered death after three days as well!*** NOTE: Some very interesting parallels that can be seen between the life and ministry of the two witnesses and their crucified and resurrected Lord:

The Two Witnesses	The Lord Jesus
Their Ministry - On a God-given mission to witness to God's truth.	Was the Light, Truth and Witness from God.
Response to their ministry - Were hated by the world though they spoke the truth from God.	Was hated by the religious authorities though He only spoke what was true!
Ministry Length - After a 3½ year ministry, they were put to death by a Satanically possessed Antichrist.	Was put the death (crucified) by Satan working through evil men after a 3½ year ministry.
Response to their death - The world celebrates as they think they have seen the end of the witnesses.	The enemies of Jesus rejoiced as they thought their plan was accomplished.
Life after death - After 3 days their life was restored as they rose from the dead!	After 3 days the Lord Jesus rose from the dead!
Physical bodily ascension - In the sight of those around they ascended up into heaven.	Jesus ascended into heaven in front of His disciples.

Because God always controls events and timing, these two witnesses remained dead for only three and a half days (11:9). Their bodies had been left out for all to see, but then suddenly ... a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet. ***Just as Christ had died and had been buried for three days before being resurrected, so these witnesses were dead for three and a half days and then were resurrected.*** Later, the Antichrist will try to copy this resurrection (13:3).

Obviously, the merriment surrounding their death stopped, and terror struck those who saw them. Next, a voice from heaven said, ***“Come up here.”*** Then the two witnesses went up to heaven in a cloud. At that very same hour, with all the world watching on ... a severe earthquake hits Jerusalem, a tenth of the city collapses and seven thousand people are killed. And in one of the very few positive reactions to a judgement given in Revelation, we read that ***‘the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.’*** This will be survivors in Jerusalem. It will be Jews. They will recognize that the God of Israel is in this.

- He was the One who sent these two witnesses.
- He was the One that raised them from the dead.
- He was the One ***who caught them up*** by His power, into Heaven.

And He was the One who sent the earthquake as a sign ... that He is not pleased with the treatment of His servants. Those who saw all this in Jerusalem were terrified... and gave glory to the God of Heaven. ***People acknowledging God is a good, way after a judgement ... is a rare event in Revelation.*** But there will be a remnant of Jewish believers who come to see their need for their Messiah ***Yeshua, and cry out for Him.*** And this event will be one that starts making them sit up and take notice!

The Last Woe and The Seventh Trumpet

Revelation 11:14-18 (NKJV) ... ***“14 The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly. 15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” 16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, 17 saying:***

***“We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty,
The One who is and who was and who is to come,
Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.
18 The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come,
And the time of the dead, that they should be judged,
And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints,
And those who fear Your name, small and great,
And should destroy those who destroy the earth.”***

So, as well as seeing that Jesus will soon begin His reign on earth at this time ... we see other key events that occur. **In order they will be:**

- **The nations were angry** - Leading up to and including the second coming ... anger, violence and rage will increase. People will be shaking their fist at God. We see that growing today as many can't put up with sound doctrine or even common sense anymore! *Ultimately this leads to a greater wrath - one from God!*
- **Destroy those that are said to 'destroy the earth'** – Oh, what man has done with this beautiful creation God gave us! Humanity, often in the ever increasing search for profits, put poisons in our soils and on our crops, genetically modified our foods, sprayed chemicals and particles into the atmosphere, played God with our immune systems ... Humanity has literally thought it knows better than God with our food and environment. **And it should also be stated that this word for 'destroy' also means to corrupt and defile.** Do you think we live in a corrupted and defiled world? *Man in his corrupted wisdom corrupts everything ... and God will repay them!*
- **The servants are rewarded** - The saints who died during the tribulation are raised and rewarded. The day that many have longed for, going back thousands of years, will be seen. All of God's people from every age will rejoice in the long-awaited Kingdom age ... where Jesus will fulfill His prophesied name of **'Immanuel - God with us!'**

Revelation 11:19 (NKJV) ... **“19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.”**

The final thing that John saw at this time ... is an opening of the temple in heaven, **and the revealing the Ark of the Covenant.** This is very interesting.

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT REVEALED

The Ark was a sign of God's presence, power and purity. It was at the Ark that men, on the day of Atonement, could find forgiveness for their sins. But also judgment if they would not heed God's command to find forgiveness. The Ark itself was made of shittim wood, overlaid both within and without, of pure gold. Thus, it is a wonderful pointer to the One who had both humanity (the wood) and divinity (the gold) - Jesus Christ. The Ark contained the following items:

- The law of God - unlike the 10 commandments which Moses broke, this was the second stone set written by God and pointing to Jesus as the One who didn't break the commandments!
- The manna from God - this was the provision of God for His people and points to Jesus as 'the bread of heaven' who came down to fill and sustain humanity.

- The rod that budded - this was a sign of God's power where that which was dead could still bring forth life and fruit! This is a pointer to resurrection and new life in Jesus Christ!

So why is the temple in heaven opened at this dramatic stage, revealing the Ark of the covenant?

Because when the 7th trumpet sounds, the presence, power and purity of the real Ark, Jesus Christ, will be manifest. His presence will be seen because He will come and every eye will see Him!

His power will be revealed because Jesus, amongst lightning, thunder and an earthquake, will take this world by force. And His purity will be revealed for unlike humanity, the One coming is called '*Faithful and True*'. The Ark points to God's ability and faithfulness in keeping His covenant ... and that is what Jesus does when He comes at the 7th trumpet blast!

CONCLUSION

So... how do we conclude this chapter? There are some strange days coming in the tribulation period. God will be doing radical things through two men straight from the Old Testament, complete with sackcloth and judgements. And it all happens in Jerusalem.

God has big plans for the city of Jerusalem and for the nation of Israel in general. And they all involve His Son, their Messiah, Jesus. **God does not forget a promise or go back on His word. Not for Jerusalem, the nation of Israel, the Church or for the promises He has made to you!**

So these are amazing days in which to be alive! Saints from all generations going right back to the day that Jesus left ... have literally longed to see this day.

So don't be fearful, but hopeful. Don't be sleepy but alert. For all these things that we see taking place around us, remind us ... that it is nearly the time of the coming of our Lord and Resurrected Savior Jesus Christ!

NEXT ... REVELATION CHAPTER 12 ...