

A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

December 20, 2020

Revelation 11

The Two Witnesses

- **Picture # 4** – “my two witnesses”
- Who are the “**two witnesses?**”
- They are “standing before the God of the earth.”
- They are spokesmen for God. verse 5
- They would prophecy. verses 3-6
- They are enemies of “the beast.” verse 7
- They would be killed. verses 7-10
- They would be resurrected. verses 11-14; cf. Ezekiel 37

Revelation 11

The Two Witnesses

- **Picture # 4** – “my two witnesses”
- Who are the “**two witnesses?**”
 - Some suggest two specific people (i.e. Moses and Elijah).
 - Others suggest the Old and New Testaments.
- Two witnesses necessary to **establish credibility**. (Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15; 1 Timothy 5:19)
- Contextually, the “two witnesses” refer to the church, God’s people who would carry forth the gospel in the midst of persecution.
 - God calls them “my two witnesses” (verse 3).

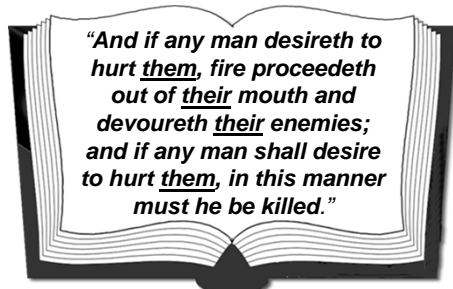
Revelation 11

The Two Witnesses

- **Picture # 4** – “my two witnesses”
- Who are the “**two witnesses?**”
- Lampstands **give light**, and the olive trees provide **oil for the lamps!**
 - **Candlesticks** have represented the churches. (1:12; Chapters 2-3)
 - **Olive trees** (Zechariah 4:3-6)
- The Lord will **support their efforts** and success in the mission! (**Philippians 2:15**)

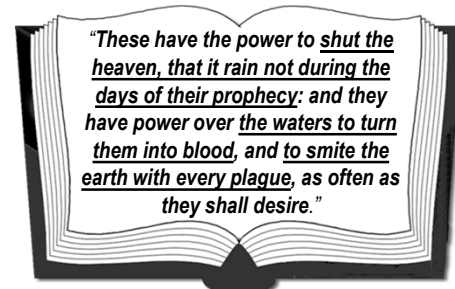
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Revelation 11:5



Revelation 11

Revelation 11:6



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The Ability of the Two Witnesses

- **Picture # 4** – “my two witnesses”
- “**Fire**” represents the gospel message they preach (Romans 1:16,17). Words would put the enemies to flight. (cf. Jeremiah 5:14; 23:29)
- Fire **purifies** those who heed it (1 Peter 1:22)
- Others will judge themselves **unworthy** (Acts 13:46)
- All who reject will suffer God’s eternal vengeance. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9)

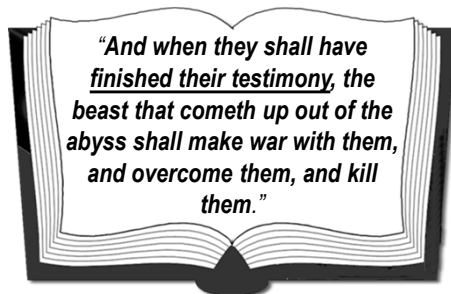
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The Ability of the Two Witnesses

- **Picture # 4** – “my two witnesses”
- The church’s work **cannot be stopped** until the mission is complete.
- God’s power to **protect** the witnesses assures their success.
- **Isaiah 55:8-11**
- **Allusions** are drawn from faithful ancients of old:
 - Moses (Exodus 7:20)
 - Elijah (1 Kings 17:1-18:45)
 - Daniel’s three friends (Daniel 3:22)

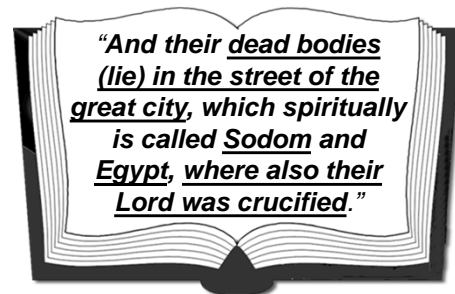
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Revelation 11:7



Revelation 11

Revelation 11:8



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The Work of the Two Witnesses

- **Picture # 4** – “my two witnesses”
- The church’s work **cannot be stopped** until the mission is complete.
- The gospel extended to all the **known world** – (Colossians 1:6, 23)
- Clear messages, **confirmed** with miracles, and the messages came from God!
- Wait – did the “**beast**” win when he “killed them?” **NO!**

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The Work of the Two Witnesses

- **Picture # 4** – “my two witnesses”
- First reference to “**the beast**” (described in chapter 13, verse 2 as receiving great power and authority from Satan)
- Beast “**comes from the abyss**” abode of hellish creatures; it did not come from God!
- Attempts to “**crush**” gospel preaching!
- He will “**Make war**” with the witnesses – the saints of this period.

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The Apparent Defeat of the Two Witnesses

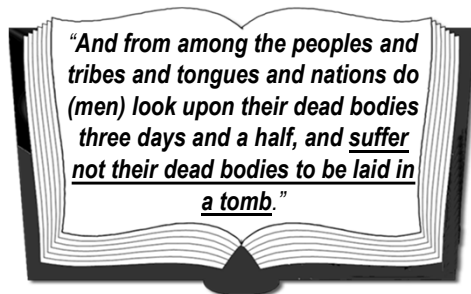
- **Picture # 4** – “my two witnesses”
- The beast “**overcomes**” them; they appear to be silenced by Satan’s workers.
- The victorious (apparently) beast “**kills them.**”
- In this dramatic scene, he seems to have **conquered the church** ...
- He “**ascends out of the bottomless pit**” to execute his plans to defeat them!

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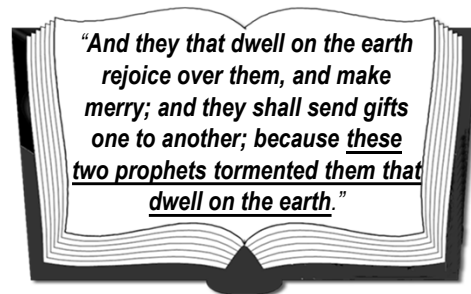
The Apparent Defeat of the Two Witnesses

- **Picture # 4** – “my two witnesses”
- “**Dead bodies lie in the street,**” a place of killing
- Where is this place? Is it **Rome** or **Jerusalem**?
- A “**great city**” in her day
 - “**Sodom**” – corruption/wickedness (Genesis 13:13; 19:27-28; Isaiah 1:9)
 - “**Egypt**” – oppression/bondage (book of Exodus)
 - “**Where also their Lord was crucified**” – Apostate religion; those who hated Jesus’ work and teachings rejected Him and His message! Place filled with **spiritual** corruption!

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Revelation 11:9

Revelation 11

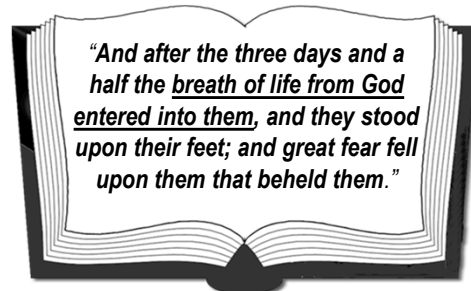
Revelation 11:10

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Apparent Victory and Celebration

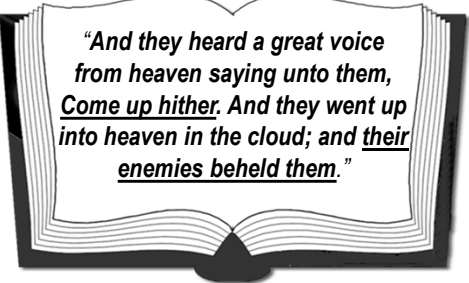
- **Picture # 4** – “my two witnesses”
- The beast’s **apparent** victory.
- The **contempt** the city’s people held for the **truth the martyrs proclaimed** was seen in how they treated their corpses!
- Left them in the open to look at as testimony of the **defeat of their cause.**
- **Disquieting, but the victory is short-lived!**
 - John 3:19-21 the world has a party ...

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Revelation 11:11

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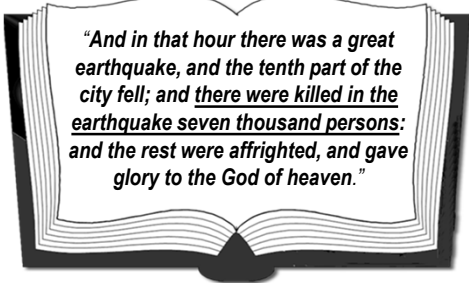
Revelation 11:12



*"And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, **Come up hither.** And they went up into heaven in the cloud; and **their enemies beheld them.**"*

Revelation 11

Revelation 11:13



*"And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell; and there were killed in the **earthquake seven thousand persons:** and the rest were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven."*

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Vindication – Resurrection of the Gospel!

- It only "**appeared**" as if the beast had won!
- Enemies can trample for a while, but in the end the **truth wins** out!
- God gave them **life** – raised them from the dead (*figuratively*).
- **Great fear** fell on those who sought to conquer God's word.
- The **church** is not dead; she is still alive.
- The **gospel message** is still being preached!

Revelation 11

Vindication – Resurrection of the Gospel!

- Partial judgment on God's enemies
- Another piece of "**cement**" falls out of the Roman wall ...
- The humiliation had been public – now the **exaltation** is also visible!
- Great **earthquake** – a **tenth** of the city fell; destruction is not yet complete! **7,000 died**.
- **Upheavals** of civil governments wrought by political powers? (*Isaiah 24:19-20*)

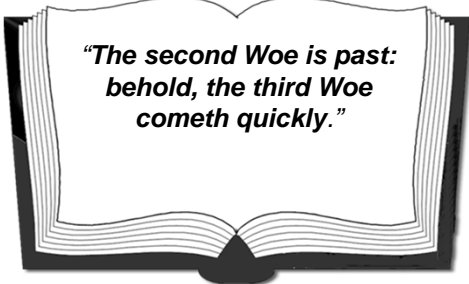
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Vindication – Resurrection of the Gospel!

- During terrifying circumstances and/or imminent danger, men are **prone** to turn to God ...
- They were so entrenched in paganism that their fear was **only superficial**.
 - God's word preached – persecution
 - God's cause vindicated by divine retribution
 - Men cannot defeat God's plans
 - Whatever trouble awaits, God will always have the last say!

Revelation 11

Revelation 11:14



*"**The second Woe is past: behold, the third Woe cometh quickly.**"*

Revelation 11

**Interlude – Second Woe Past;
Third Coming Quickly**

- Remember the *“cry of the eagle”* (8:13)
- The **fifth** and **sixth** trumpets signaled the first **two woes**.
- Now the time for the sound of the **seventh trumpet** is **approaching quickly** ...

Revelation 11

Revelation 11:15



*“And the seventh angel sounded; and there followed great voices in heaven, and they said, **The kingdom of the world is become (the kingdom) of our Lord, and of his Christ: and he shall reign for ever and ever.**”*

Revelation 11

Seventh Trumpet – Third Woe

- **The seventh trumpet** sounded, and there were *“Loud voices in heaven!”*
- *“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord.”*
- This section **anticipates** the fall of Rome – fourth kingdom in Daniel’s prophesy (Daniel 2:37-45; 7:14, 27).
- **The kingdom of God cannot be destroyed!**
cf. Hebrews 12:28
- God’s kingdom has **won!**
- He will reign **forever!**