

THE TWO WITNESSES

REV. 11:1-12

Introduction:

- A. John is to measure the temple of God.
 - 1. v1, "And there was given me a reed like unto a rod; and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein."
 - 2. reed = kalamos = a surveyor's rule, a cane.
 - 3. rise = egeiro = to rise, to get up.
 - 4. temple = naos = temple, sanctuary.
 - 5. measure = metreo = to measure.

- B. v2, "But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not."
 - 1. without = eksothen - outside, outer court, exclude.
 - 2. leave out = ekbale - to cast out, leave out.

- C. "for it is given unto the Gentiles, and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months."
 - 1. This is the literal temple on the literal earth.
 - 2. The city of Jerusalem has become an International city, mainly religious, housing shrines of the three major religions of the world, Judaism, Islam, Christianity.
 - 3. The Jews will control the sanctuary.
 - 4. given = didomi - to give, to present.
 - 5. tread = pateo - to walk upon, trample on.
 - 6. 42 months - 3 1/2 years - 1st half of the 7 years.

I. THE TWO WITNESSES. v3

- A. The length of their witness. v3
 - 1. "and I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days. clothed in sackcloth."

2. power = of me = didomi = give.
3. Prophecy = propheteuo - to prophesy,

I shall give, and they shall prophesy.

4. 1,260 days divided by 30 equals 42 months divided by 12 equals 3 1/2 years.
5. They will prophesy = to speak forth in declaration, warning, or exhortation, as directed by the Holy Spirit.
6. in sackcloth = symbolic of repentance, for 3 1/2 yrs

B. Their identification. v4

1. "These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth."
2. Jeremiah 11:16, "The Lord called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit."
3. Rom. 11:15-17.
4. Zechariah 4:1-14, 11-14, [848 B.C.]

These are two literal men who will prophesy to the world.

Identity: unknown. Enoch? Elijah?

C. Their protection. v5

1. "And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouths, and devoureth their enemies."
2. hurt = adikeo - to do wrong, to injure.
3. proceed = ekpneuomai = to pass out of.
4. devour = katesthio - to eat down, swallow up.
5. enemy = echthros - hated, odious, adversary.
6. "And if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed."
7. hurt = (same as #1)
8. manner = houto - on this wise; dei = it is binding.

D. Their power. v6

1. "These have power to shut heaven that it rain not in the days of their prophesy."
 - a. power = eksousia - authority to do anything.
 - b. shut = kleio - to shut, to close.

2. "and have power over water to turn them to blood."
3. "and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will."

E. Their death. v7

1. "And when they shall have finished their testimony."
 - a. finished = teleo - to complete.
 - b. testimony = marturia - a bearing witness.
2. "the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them."
 - a. beast = therion - a savage beast of prey.
 - b. ascendeth = anabaino - to climb up, mount.
 - c. war = polemos - fight, battle, war.
 - d. Rev. 13:4, 9:11.
 - e. overcome = nikao - to be victorious.
 - f. kill = apokteino - to kill.

II. THE DESECRATION OF THEIR BODIES. v8,9

- A. "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."
 1. dead bodies = ptoma - that which is fallen.
 2. street = plateia = wide street, open street.
 3. Sodom = wicked.
 4. Egypt = bondage.
- B. "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 bodies to be put in graves."
 1. they of the people = ek ton laon = Some of the people. And from among the peoples, and tribes and tongues and nations do men look upon...
 2. suffer = aphiouein - to allow not.

III. THE WORLD-WIDE HOLIDAY. V10

- A. "And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another."
1. rejoice = chairō - to be delighted, to be glad.
 2. merry = eupheainō - to cause to rejoice.
 3. gifts = donon - a gift, an honorary gift.
- B. "because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth."
1. tormented = basanizo - to rub upon the "basanos" (touchstone) to put to the test, as metal on the stone, to examine closely, to prove.
 2. The two witnesses put the pressure on the world and the world could not touch them!

IV. THEIR GLORIOUS RESURRECTION. V11

- A. "And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet;"
1. entered = eiserchomai - to come or to go into.
 2. stood = histemi - to stand, not fall.
 3. life out of the God = zoes ek tou theou.
- B. "and great fear fell upon them which saw them."
1. great fear = megas phobos.
 2. saw = theoreo - to behold, to watch.

V. THEIR HEAVENLY ASCENSION. V12

- A. "And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto the, Come up hither."
- a. great voice = phones megales.
 2. "And they ascended up to heaven on a cloud."
 - a. ascend = anabainō - to go up.
 - b. cloud = nephele - a particular cloud.

3. "and their enemies beheld them."
 - a. enemies = echthros - hating another.
 - b. beheld = theoreo - to look at, gaze upon.

The overwhelming majority of the governments of the world do not recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. This is not a collective venture in anti-Semitism. It has to do with U.N. resolution that gave birth to the state of Israel. That resolution called for the internationalization of Jerusalem. In the ensuing hostilities, the western half of Jerusalem was occupied by the Israelis, the eastern half by Jordan; and 19 years later Israel won the eastern half by force of arms.

VI. SACRED RELIGION. U13

- A. "And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell."
 1. In the same hour of resurrection there is a great earthquake.
 2. One tenth of the buildings of the city fell.
- B. "and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand"
 1. slain = apokteino - to kill outright.
 2. of man = onomata = names, people, persons.
 3. seven thousand.
- C. "and the remnant affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven."
 1. remnant = loipos = left, remaining, the rest. This is not "the remnant" of Rom. 9:27 [kataleimma], a secret remnant.
 2. affrighted = emphobos - in fear, terrified.
 3. Luke 4:14-15, 22, 28-29.
 4. Luke 7:15,16.

VII. BEING SCARED MAY HELP, BUT IT WON'T SAVE!

