

# Revelation 11

# Two Witnesses



# The Two Witnesses

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# The Two Witnesses

## Introduction

From Pentecost to the rapture is the dispensation of grace, which God has used to provoke Israel into jealousy (*Romans 11:11*). After Jesus removes the church from the earth and the tribulation begins, God's primary plan and purpose is to bring the nation of Israel to salvation and judge the Gentile nations. That follows a pattern that is similar to Israel's Exodus from Egypt. Israel, under the leadership of two prophets, Moses and Aaron, confronted Pharaoh, a type of antichrist, with ten miraculous plagues of judgments against the gods of the Egyptians. Israel experienced a tremendous deliverance from bondage and came out to inherit a land flowing with milk and honey, a mere shadow of how the future Israel will inherit a regenerated earth, beautiful like the garden of Eden during the millennial Kingdom.

The deliverance of Israel from the great tribulation will be greater than Israel coming out of Egypt; after nearly 2,000 years without their homeland and scattered around the world, a greater deliverer than Moses will come, the Messiah, Christ at his second coming. The Bible has around 800 prophecies that speak of the miraculous events that will occur around Christ's second coming. Many of those events happen during seven years of chaos and destruction. God will send two Jewish prophets out of the Old Testament mold, wearing sackcloth and pronouncing God's wrath and judgments against the nations with fire from heaven, droughts, and plagues. They are messengers who go

before the Lord's return to turn the hearts of Israel back to God. They are also forerunners to the restoration of the Old Testament priesthood and laws that the Jews will observe in Christ's reign for 1,000 years on the earth.

## **Time Frame**

We have some clear facts about the two witnesses; we know their activities, their ministry will be for 3 1/2 years, they get killed by the antichrist, and the world will witness their resurrection after 3 1/2 days. But the scripture doesn't expressly state the starting point for their ministry. There are two traditional viewpoints of when their ministry will occur. Because they minister for 3 1/2 years, most people place the start of their mission either from the beginning or the middle of the seven years of tribulation. Let's read the account.

***Revelation 11:1-2** Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, **"Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months [3 1/2 years]."***

We first notice that the temple court and Jerusalem will get trampled by the Gentiles for 3 1/2 years, which can only happen in the second half of the tribulation. First, the tribulation period begins with the Jews confirming a peace covenant with the antichrist, which he honors for the first 3 1/2 years. But in the middle of the seven-year covenant, the antichrist breaks the covenant defiling the temple and trampling the courts

of the temple. That is called the abomination of desolation; it is an event prophesied by Daniel and quoted by Jesus, describing when the antichrist enters the temple of God, declares himself god, sets up an image of himself, and demands the world to worship him or die.

**Daniel 9: 26-27** *And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week [7 years]; But in the middle of the week [3 ½ years], He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."*

**Matthew 24:15-16** *"Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand), "then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

**Revelation 13:15** *He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast [antichrist], that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed.*

We notice that when the abomination of desolation happens, Jesus commands all the residents of Jerusalem and Judea, Jewish people, to flee to the mountains. However, the two witnesses do not run anywhere; they will die in Jerusalem at the hands of the antichrist, maybe in a confrontation to prevent

him from entering the temple to defile it.

Both the antichrist and the two witnesses hold power for 3 1/2 years of the seven-year tribulation, and most likely, they do not hold power not at the same time. So, the two witnesses will have power and authority in the first 3 1/2 years, and the antichrist will receive power to kill the saints in the second 3 1/2 years.

After the abomination of desolation, in the middle of the tribulation, people will ask, who can make war with the antichrist? People would not be asking that question if the witnesses were still alive. Most likely, people will be in awe of the antichrist because he has killed the two witnesses who were powerful prophets of Biblical importance.

***Revelation 11:3 "And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days [3 ½ years], clothed in sackcloth."***

***Revelation 13:4-7 So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?" And he was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for forty-two months [3 ½ years]. Then he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven. It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.***

Also, at the end of the tribulation, Christ makes war, and the people will be hiding from the wrath of the Lamb, Jesus. The antichrist will be immediately apprehended and thrown alive into the Lake of Fire. At the end of the tribulation, nobody will question who could war against the antichrist because the real Christ will annihilate him instantly.

**Revelation 17:14** *"These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."*

**Revelation 6:16** *And said to the mountains and rocks, fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:*

**Revelation 19:20** *Then the beast [antichrist] was captured and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

Also, note that until the two witnesses finish their testimony, they are bulletproof and cannot die until God says their mission is over, and not a minute before. The antichrist cannot kill the two witnesses until they complete their assignment, and the antichrist receives power and authority to kill the saints in the second half of the tribulation. All that confirms that the witnesses start their ministry at the beginning of the tribulation and get killed by the antichrist in the middle.

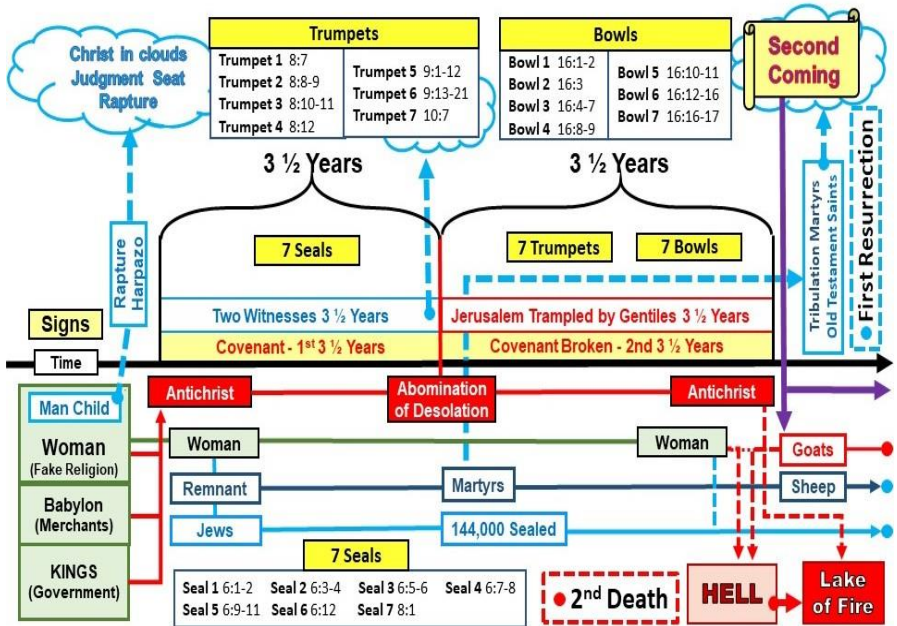
There is another aspect of the timing between the witnesses and the antichrist that would make it unlikely for the antichrist to kill the witnesses at the end of the tribulation. After the antichrist kills the two witnesses, the world rejoices and sends gifts to each other.

So, by the end of the seven years of tribulation, the survivors would have been traumatized by experiencing 1/4 of the world's population dying first, and another 1/3 of the people killed later, with 1/3 of ocean life dying, 1/3 of all drinking water poisoned, 1/3 of all plants burnt up, attacks from 200 million ferocious demons, with boils, plagues, torments, starvation, untold suffering, people will seek death but be unable to commit suicide, men will hide in the rocks and caves to escape from the wrath of God, and much more in the worst time in human history. So, at the end of all that, do you think people will be joyful, rejoicing, and exchanging gifts over the death of the two witnesses? I don't think so. But they will celebrate the murder of the witnesses at the halfway point of the tribulation before the last 5 woes get released.

***Revelation 11:7-10, 14*** **When they finish their testimony, the beast [antichrist] that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.** *And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and -a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. **And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send***



**gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth ... The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.**



We have made the case for the timeline of the two witnesses in the first half of the tribulation, so now, let's identify who these prophets might be.

### Who are they?

Many speculate on who these two witnesses are, and the most popular candidates are Moses, Elijah, Enoch, and the apostle John. The main verse people use to determine who these two witnesses might be says that it is appointed for men to die once and get judged afterward. So, teachers compile lists of people who did not die according to the scriptures. The theory is that the two witnesses will be Biblical saints who never died but will return to minister and die as martyrs.

**Hebrews 9:27** And as **it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,**

## **Enoch**

First, we will identify which Biblical characters did not die and are candidates to be one of two witnesses. The first example we will look at is Enoch, who lived before Noah's flood. Enoch walked with God, and while still alive, he was raptured, caught up to heaven, and never saw death. Another interesting point is that he prophesied about the second coming of Christ.

**Genesis 5:24** And **Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.**

**Hebrews 11:5** By faith **Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death,** "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken, he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

**Jude 1:14-15** Now **Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes** with ten thousands of His saints, "to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

## **Apostle John**

Another person mentioned as a potential witness is John the Apostle. This rumor began after Jesus deflected a question from Peter about John. Jesus responded to Peter's question about John by saying if he abides until my return, what is that to you? In essence, Jesus told Peter to mind his business, but

some considered it a prophetic statement that John would live until the second coming.

***John 21:20-22** Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved [John] following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, **"But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."** Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, **"If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"***

They combine the previous verse with a verse from Revelation where an angel tells John that he must prophesy again. Some people take that to mean John will prophesy during the tribulation as one of the witnesses.

***Revelation 10:10-11** Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. **And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."***

## **Moses**

When Moses was about to die, he wandered off to an unknown location and died, and no other human being knew where his body got laid to rest. But Satan knew where the body was and fought Michael, the archangel, for it. We can only imagine what nefarious scheme Satan had for Moses' body. When Moses died, he was at full strength, his eyesight was good, and he was still

vigorous. Moses is similar to the two witnesses in his ministry, and the plagues against Egypt in the Exodus of Israel are similar to the trumpet and bowl judgments in the book of Revelation. Those and other similarities point to Moses as being one of the witnesses.

***Deuteronomy 34:5-7*** So ***Moses the servant of the LORD died*** there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. And ***He [Michael the archangel?]*** buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day. ***Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.***

***Jude 1:9*** Yet ***Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"***

We have much more to say about Moses, and we will bring him back into the conversation after we look at the next potential witness.

## **Elijah**

Elijah has numerous Biblical mentions as a forerunner before the coming of the Lord. Elijah was taken alive by a chariot and horse of fire to heaven without seeing death. Even after his departure, Malachi and Jesus prophesied that the Lord would send Elijah before the Day of the Lord, which makes him a prime candidate to be one of the witnesses.

**2 Kings 2:11** Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly **a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.**

**Malachi 4:4-6** "**Remember the Law of Moses**, my servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. **Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.** And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

**Matthew 17:10-11** And His disciples asked Him, saying, "**Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?**" Jesus answered and said to them, "**Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things.**

## **Two Witnesses & Jesus**

Once John the Baptist and Jesus appeared on the scene, all the Jews questioned whether they were either Elijah or "the Prophet." The prophet referred to a prophecy by Moses of one who would come like him, emphasizing "Him shall you hear."

**Deuteronomy 18:15** "**The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me [Moses] from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,**

Malachi prophesied the return of Elijah before the dreadful day of the Lord, a reference to the second coming of Christ. Also, note that Malachi puts Moses with Elijah together.

**Malachi 4:4-5** **"Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.**

The Jews were looking for Jesus' second coming to judge and reign over the nations, but they didn't recognize his first coming to conquer sin and death. And it seems that the consensus among everyone in Israel at the time of Jesus was that two witnesses would precede the arrival of the Messiah, Christ, and the day of the Lord. The Jews came to John the Baptist and asked if he was Elijah or the Prophet.

**John 1:19-25** Now **this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ... And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"**

Later, Jesus called Peter, Andrew, and Philip to follow him. Philip went to Nathanael and brought him to Jesus, saying this is the one prophesied about in the Law and the Prophets, associating Moses with the Law and Elijah with the prophets.

**John 1:45** Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom **Moses in the law, and also the prophets,** wrote Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

One monumental event tied Moses and Elijah together as witnesses; they appeared with Jesus during his first coming of Christ. Jesus told his disciples they would see the Son of Man, referring to himself, coming into his kingdom, and six days later, Jesus led Peter, James, and John up to a high mountain. Then Jesus was



transfigured before them, his face shining like the sun, and Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus, speaking with him. Then God the Father spoke from heaven, saying this is my beloved Son; speaking of Jesus, Hear Him, a direct reference to Moses' prophecy about "the Prophet."

God the Father proclaimed Jesus is the Christ, and his words override and bear more weight and authority than all the Law and the prophets represented by Moses and Elijah. That is why Jesus spoke with authority regarding different topics, saying; you heard it said of them of old, but I say unto you, overriding the Law and the Prophets for a higher standard, the Law of the Spirit. (*Matthew 5:17, 21-44*).

**Matthew 17:1-5** Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and **He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.** Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." **While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"**

Twice after the resurrection of Christ, he mentioned how he was the fulfillment of all the Law and Prophets, which again reinforced the idea that the two witnesses speak of Moses and Elijah. First, Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road, then later to the disciples gathered in Jerusalem, and he said the following.

**Luke 24:25-27** Then He said to them, **"O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!**" Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" **And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.**

**Luke 24:44-45** Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.**" And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.



## Passing the Mantle

Besides their appearance with Jesus, another important aspect of Moses and Elijah that distinguishes them from the other candidates as witnesses is that God took the "Spirit" that was upon Moses and Elijah and transferred that Spirit to others to do the ministry. God took the Spirit from Moses and put it on seventy elders.

**Numbers 11:16-17** So **the LORD said to Moses: "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel,** whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you. **"Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them;** and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.

**Numbers 11:24-25** So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD, and **he gathered the seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tabernacle. Then the LORD came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied,** although they never did so again.

Elijah transferred a double portion of his spirit to his disciple Elisha.

**2 Kings 2:9-10** And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" **Elisha said,**

***"Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me. So, he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so."***

When Elijah was taken to heaven, Elisha took Elijah's mantle, and the spirit of Elijah came upon him.

***2 Kings 2:14-15*** Then ***he took the mantle of Elijah*** that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over. ***Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him, and bowed to the ground before him.***

The point here is that God could bring back Moses and Elijah to be the witnesses as he did on the mount of Transfiguration, or he can anoint two people with the same Spirit that rested on Moses and Elijah. One thing is clear; the Spirit will use the two witnesses with the same characteristics as Moses and Elijah.

Jesus demonstrated this principle by saying that John the Baptist was "Elijah the Prophet" who must come. John was not an incarnation of Elijah but walked in the same power, Spirit, and function as Elijah.

***Matthew 11:11-14*** "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women ***there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist;*** but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. "And ***from the days of John the Baptist until now*** the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take

it by force. **"For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. "And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come.**

Jesus said that Elijah would come first and restore all things, but also that Elijah had arrived in the person of John the Baptist.

**Matthew 17:10-13** *And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. "But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise, the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.*

A possible further confirmation of Moses and Elijah is that they were standing with Jesus in the mount of transfiguration, which might signify that they are the anointed ones who stand before the God of the whole earth in the account of the two witnesses.

**Revelation 11:3-4** *"And I will give power to **my two witnesses**, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." **These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.***

Again, God can bring some Old Testament saints back from eternity to be the two witnesses. God can do anything. But most likely, he will anoint two prophets in the power and spirit of Moses and Elijah.

There are examples of others who imbibed the spirit, actions, and character of others and became identified by the person they mirrored. Jesus addressed the spirit of Jezebel that manifested in "that woman" who was in the church of Thyatira. The woman Jesus addressed as Jezebel wasn't the actual Jezebel brought back from eternity to time, but was a church woman, or the church as a whole, walking in the same sins and demonic influence as Jezebel did.

**Revelation 2:20-23** *"Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because **you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.** "And I gave **her** time to repent of **her** sexual immorality, and **she** did not repent. "Indeed, I will cast **her** into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with **her** into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. "I will kill **her** children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.*

We also see how the King of Tyre embodied the spirit of Lucifer, so much so that the description of one is synonymous with the other. Some things spoken of the king of Tyre could only represent Satan before and after his fall. The king of Tyre was not the anointed cherub, was not the seal of perfection, and was born by parents, not a unique creation, which describes Satan before his fall. But the king of Tyre fell to the same sins as Satan, so he became identified with him.

**Ezekiel 28:12-15** *"Son of man, **take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to***

**him, "Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. "You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.**

**Isaiah 14:12-15 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High." Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.**

## **Two Olive Trees & Lampstands**

Jesus said he would give power to "my two witnesses," the Greek word for witness is *martus*, the root word for martyr. Their destiny is sealed and cannot be changed; they will have power for 3 1/2 years, finish their assignment, become martyrs, and get resurrected in real time in the eyes of the whole world. They are called olive trees and lampstands, referring to the prophecies of Zechariah.

**Revelation 11:3-4 "And I will give power to **my two witnesses**, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days [3 1/2 years], clothed in**

sackcloth." **These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.**

Everything in the Old Testament ministry got anointed, rubbed, or smeared with olive oil, dedicating them to God's service. The Tabernacle and its furnishings, the Priests, prophets, and kings got anointed with oil. The anointing represents the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit.

The two prophets will not operate by their physical might or power but by the power of the Holy Spirit. Since they are called olive trees, they will have an abundant supply of the oil or the anointing of the Holy Spirit to carry out their tasks.

**Zechariah 4:2-6** And he said to me, "What do you see?" So, I said, **"I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left."** So, I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, **"What are these, my lord?"** Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." So, he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: **'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.**

**Zechariah 4:11-14** Then I answered and said to him, **"What are these two olive trees-at the right of the lampstand and at its left?"** And I further answered and said to him, **"What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of**

***the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?" Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." So, he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."***

The olive tree is a national symbol for Israel; the witnesses are Jewish prophets. The church age ends at the rapture, the dispensation of grace and the times of the Gentiles will end, and Israel is at the forefront of God's agenda. The Gentiles (non-Jews) were wild branches grafted onto the Jewish Olive tree for their salvation. But God will remove Israel's blindness in the tribulation, and the nation will experience saving faith in Messiah, Christ, and have their sins forgiven at the second coming of Christ.

***Romans 11:24-27 For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree? For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."***

Jesus began his ministry after his anointing with the Holy Spirit and power. After being baptized by John and 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, he left in the power of the Spirit and entered the synagogue and

proclaimed that he was the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy about the anointed one, aka the Messiah or Christ.

**Luke 4:18-19** *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

**Acts 10:38** *"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."*

The anointing of the Holy Spirit will equip the two Jewish witnesses to fulfill their miraculous ministry.

## **Ministry**

Let's take note of the similarities between Moses' and Elijah's ministries compared to the activities of the two witnesses and all the judgments prophesied in the book of Revelation. In many ways, the Exodus of Israel with Moses' confrontations with Pharaoh and 10 plagues, and Elijah's 3 1/2-year drought, calling fire down from heaven, and confrontations with Ahab and Jezebel are shadows of the events of the tribulation.

These witnesses will be wearing sackcloth, implying they are preaching a message of repentance. And, if anyone attacks them, they will call down fire from heaven to destroy them as Elijah did.



**Revelation 11:3-5** "And I will give power to my **two witnesses**, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days [3 ½ years], clothed in sackcloth." ... And if anyone wants to harm them, **fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies.** And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.

When the king of Israel sent messengers to inquire of Baal-Zebub, aka the Lord of Flies, aka the Devil, to ask if he would get healed of an injury, on their way, Elijah stopped them. He sent them back with the message that the king would die for inquiring from Baal-Zebub. In anger, the king of Israel sent fifty soldiers to apprehend Elijah and bring him back to face the king. Two groups of fifty soldiers went to take Elijah with the same result, Elijah called for fire from heaven, and the fire consumed the soldiers.

**2 Kings 1:9-12** **Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty with his fifty men.** So, he went up to him; and there he was, sitting on the top of a hill. And he spoke to him: "Man of God, the king has said, 'Come down!'" So, Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, **"If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men."** And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. Then he sent to him another captain of fifty with his fifty men. And he answered and said to him: "Man of God, thus has the king said, 'Come down quickly!'" **So, Elijah answered and said to them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.**

Two disciples of Jesus, James, and John, nicknamed the sons of thunder (*Mark 3:17*), wanted to call fire down on some Samaritans just as Elijah did. But Jesus disapproved of their motives and declined their request.

***Luke 9:54-55*** *And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?" But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.*

Next, the two witnesses can stop the rain and create droughts. Elijah began his ministry by stopping the rain for 3 1/2 years, the same time frame as the two witnesses' ministry.

***Revelation 11:6*** *These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy ...*

***1 Kings 17:1*** *And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."*

***James 5:17*** *Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.*

The two witnesses will turn water into blood and strike the earth with plagues, as Moses and Aaron did to Pharaoh and the Egyptians in the Exodus from Egypt.

<b>Moses</b>	<b>Elijah</b>	<b>2 Witnesses</b>	<b>Trumpets &amp; Bowls</b>
<b>Snakes</b> Ex 7:8-13	<b>Prophecy Jezebel</b> 1 Ki 21:17-24	<b>Calls for plagues</b> Rev 11:6, 16:19	<b>That Old Serpent – Satan</b> Rev 12:9
<b>Nile to Blood</b> 7:14-22	<b>Water/Drought</b> 1 Ki 17:1-4	<b>Water to Blood</b> Rev 11:6	<b>1/3 Fish/Ships/Water Blood</b> Rev 8:8-9, 16:3
	<b>Drought 3.5 yrs.</b> 1 Ki 18:1-4, Jas 5:14	<b>Drought 3.5 yrs.</b> Rev 11:6	<b>1/3 Waters/Poison Blood</b> Rev 8:10-11, 16:4
<b>Frogs</b> 8:1-14	←-----→		<b>3 Frog Spirits - false trinity</b> Rev 16:13
<b>Flies</b> 8:20-30	<b>Elijah rebukes Ahaziah for seeking help from Baalzebub - Lord of Flies, 2 Ki 1:1-3</b>		<b>1/3 Plants/Hail-Fire-Blood Sores</b> Rev 8:7
<b>Fire Kills Priest</b> Num 16:35	<b>Calls' fire/kills men</b> 1 Ki 18:38, 2Ki 1:9-12	<b>Calls' fire/kills men</b> Rev 11:5	<b>Sun Scorches men</b> Rev 16:8
<b>Boils</b> 9:8-10	←-----→		<b>Sores on those with mark</b> Rev 16:1-2
<b>Hail, Fire</b> 9:13-33	←-----→		<b>100 Pound Hailstones</b> Rev 8:7, 11:19, 16:20
<b>Locust</b> 10:1-20	←-----→		<b>Demonic Locust from pit</b> Rev 9:1-12, 16:10
<b>Darkness</b> 10:21-29	←-----→		<b>Darkness / beast kingdom</b> Rev 8:12, 16:10-11
	←-----→		<b>1/3 Sun Darkened</b> Rev 8:12, 16:8-9
<b>Thunder/Hail</b> Ex 9:23 24	←-----→		<b>Thunder Lightning</b> Earthquake Rev 16:17-19
<b>Red Sea Crossing</b> Ex 14:16, 22	<b>Plagues on Egypt not on Israel</b> Ex 8:22, 9:4-6, 11:6-13		<b>Euphrates River dried</b> <b>Kings of East cross</b> Rev 16:12
<b>Moses Body</b> Jude 9	<b>Elijah Raptured</b> 2 Ki 2:11	<b>Witnesses Resurrected</b> Rev 11:12	<b>Antichrist/false prophet</b> <b>Lake of Fire - Rev 19:20</b>

**Revelation 11:6 ... and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues,** as often as they desire.

**Exodus 7:19** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, **Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. And there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in buckets of wood and pitchers of stone."**

The other plagues Moses and Aaron pronounced against Pharaoh, who is a type of the antichrist or Devil, were frogs, boils, hail mingled with fire, locusts, darkness, thunder, and giant hailstones, which are all plagues that will come upon the antichrist kingdom during the tribulation.

The antichrist and the world will hate the two witnesses because of the plagues and torment the witnesses inflict on them. Then the antichrist makes war with the witnesses and kills them. The people are so callous and hard-hearted that they leave the bodies of the witnesses in the street for three and a half days while they rejoice and send gifts to celebrate.



**Revelation 11:7-10** When they finish their testimony, the beast [antichrist] that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and -a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

They hated the witnesses because their hearts became hardened, and they refused to repent, just like Pharoah in Moses' time. With all the pain and suffering, plague after plague, these people only become more bitter and blasphemous against God and refuse to repent.

**Revelation 9:20-21** But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

**Revelation 16:9** And men were scorched with great heat, and they blasphemed the name of God who has power over these plagues; and they did not repent and give Him glory.

**Revelation 16:11** They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores,

***and did not repent of their deeds.***

After three and a half days, God raises the two witnesses from the dead, and they ascend to heaven while the world is watching. The two witnesses will receive an eternal martyr's crown and their rewards in heaven. But back in Jerusalem, an earthquake will destroy one-tenth of the city, and seven thousand people will die. However, there will be a remnant who see the witnesses' resurrection, the quake, and become frightened and give glory to God. They are the inhabitants of Jerusalem, a remnant of Jews.

***Revelation 11:12-13*** *And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, **Come up hither. And they [the two witnesses] ascended up to heaven in a cloud;** and their enemies beheld them. And **the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.***

This remnant of Jews gave glory to God, which is part of the everlasting gospel that will get preached by an angel in the second half of the tribulation. These Jews from Jerusalem may have repented and received salvation by faith. So, the two witnesses will have a spiritual impact on the Jews but inflict physical torments on the nations who are enemies of God.

***Revelation 14:6-7*** *Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having **the everlasting gospel** to preach to those who dwell on the earth to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people saying with a loud voice, **"Fear God and give glory to Him, for the***

***hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."***

***Jeremiah 30:7-9*** *Alas! For that day is great, So, that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.* 'For it shall come to pass in that day,' Says the LORD of hosts, 'That I will break his yoke from your neck, and will burst your bonds; Foreigners shall no more enslave them. But they shall serve the LORD their God, And David their king, Whom I will raise up for them.'

***Romans 11:25-26*** *And so, all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."*

### **Call to Action**

We are in the end times; our world is changing quickly to line up with Bible prophecy. Jesus said the signs of his return would be like birth pangs, growing globally in intensity and frequency. We are seeing those signs happening weekly in real-time with wars, food shortages, pandemics, shutdowns, and natural disasters, all leading to global tyranny. There will be global persecution of Christians and Jews, and it's not a question of if, but when. There will also be a great falling away from Christ, and we can see it happening already. So-called churches are already becoming sexually immoral, politically woke, and in bed with the government. As more churches go apostate or get shut down, true believers may have to find or create small groups for fellowship. While we have time and freedom, we should study the scriptures, share the

gospel, and watch for Jesus to return.

This book is part of a series of studies that all Christians should know and teach. We call it the "toolbox series" because these studies are tools to equip you to share your faith with others. For free resources and study materials, visit our website at [Ears2Hear.online](http://Ears2Hear.online).



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