

GOD'S FAITHFUL WITNESSES IN THE TRIBULATION REVELATION 11:1-14

During this break in the description of the judgments of the tribulation we have a description of two witnesses who will stand boldly to declare God's message during the tribulation. God always has his faithful witnesses on earth.

I. THEIR SETTING.

A. The Temple in the Tribulation. 11:1-2.

1. Measuring denotes ownership
2. The temple will be rebuilt before the middle of the tribulation. 2 Thess. 2:4.

B. The Time in the Tribulation. 11:2b-3.

1. Jerusalem trodden down of the Gentiles. Luke 21:24.
2. The forty-two months are likely in the second part of the tribulation.

II. THEIR IDENTITY.

A. The Proposal of Elijah and Enoch.

* This position is based on the fact that Elijah and Enoch were taken to heaven without dying and Heb. 9:27 says it is appointed to man once to die. *

B. The Proposal Moses and Elijah.

* This position is based on the fact that the miracles of these two men are very similar to the miracles of Moses and Elijah and the fact that Elijah was to come before the Day of the Lord. Mal. 4:5. Cp. Rev. 11:6 with 1 Kings 17:1 and Ex. 7:14-25. *

C. The Proposal of Prophets in the Spirit and Power of Elijah and Moses.

* This would be similar to the ministry of John the Baptist. Luke 1:17; Matt. 11:14; John 1:21. *

III. THEIR MINISTRY.

A. The Description of the Witnesses.

1. Their clothing. 11:3.
*Sackcloth speaks of mourning. Matt. 11:21. *
2. Their role. 11:4.
* The olive trees and lamp stands speak of God's anointed witness in the world.
See Zech. 4:12-14. *

B. The Ministry of the Witnesses.

1. The ministry of proclamation. 11:3,4.
2. The ministry of miracles. 11:6.
* Miracles are seen in extreme times to confirm the messenger of God. Ex. 3. *

C. The Protection of the Witnesses. 11:5.

IV. THEIR DEATH.

A. The Time of Their Death. 11:7.

* The servant of God is indestructible until he has finished his assigned task. 2 Tim. 4:7. *

B. The Means of Their Death. 11:7.

1. This is the first of 36 references to the beast in Revelation.
2. This is the Antichrist of Revelation 13.
3. This convinces people of his great power.

C. The Reaction to Their Death. 11:8-10.

1. Modern technology will allow people from all nations to see them.
2. Man rejoices because the antagonizing message is silenced.

V. THEIR RESURRECTION.

A. The Great Activity of God. 11:11-12.

1. Their restoration to life. 11:11.
2. Their ascension to heaven. 11:12. Cp. Rev. 4:1; 1 Thess. 4:16.
3. The earthquake that rocked Jerusalem. 11:13.

B. The Great Reaction of Man. 11:11,13.

1. The great fear that filled them. 11:11.
 2. The great God who confronted them. 11:13.
- * They recognized the hand of God, but continued in their sin. *

These witnesses remind us of the importance of being faithful to the message of God regardless of the response of man. The response of the people reminds us of the hardened hearts of man. How sad it is to see people recognize the truth of God's message and reality of God's power only to continue in sin.

