

THE TWO WITNESSES - Rv 11:3-4

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INTRODUCTION

1. The tribulation between the 1st & 2nd comings of Christ increases. Review of the 6th trmpt [Rv 9:13-21] & parenthesis [10-11:2]. 11:3-13 summarizes the Church-Age. v14-15 = 7th trmpt -> Final Judgment.
2. Rv 11:3 *witness* = "martyr". 2 witnesses symbolize the Church's legal gospel testimony - enhances the accountability of all who hear gospel.
 - i. to witness = verbal articulation of gospel facts.
 - ii. As witness/martyrs we are not a death-cult. We enjoy the goodness of this creation & life lived in this age.
 - iii. Yet in Rv 11 the Church's witness is overcome & silenced - left for dead. Now the church witnesses by *loving not her life even when faced w/ death* [Rv 12:12]: witness by persevering in obedience death - as Jesus.

1st: We Witness While the Trumpets Sound

1. Recall "progressive parallelism" - literary cycles that overlap. We have considered the 1st three cycles: lampstands & throne; seals; trmpts.
2. The 2 witnesses testify while trmpts [chpts 8-9] blow.
 - i. 11:5-6 parallels 9:17
 - ii. 11:10 parallels 9:5
 - iii. 11:13 parallels 9:20
3. As Church witnesses, angels blow Trmps & God jdgs world w/ plagues of Egypt, & like Pharaoh, men are extensively impenitent but the full number of the elect brethren of the martyrs [6:11] are killed [finish witness].

2nd: We Are Authorized to Witness for a Time - 11:3

1. 2 witnesses testify as John measures temple [1Jn 4:6]
 - i. *Grant*: donate, *give* [same in v2] = sov'ly determine; authoritatively
 - ii. *power* - v6 legal authority] [A1:8 *power* = ability]. Legal & capable
2. *My 2 Wits* - Rv1:2 = symbol of Church obeying GrtCom - Lk 24:45-48
 - i. #2: valid legal testimony [Dt 19:15].

- ii. Often in context of persecution: accusations in humans courts

3. To *witness* is to *prophecy*: communicate revelation. Rv 10:11. Rv 19:10b To the extent that we speak Scriptural truth, we give prophetic witness
4. *1260 days* = v2's *42 mons* = 3.5 yrs in Dan 12:7 *time, times, & ½ a time*: 1yr+2yrs+1/2yr. Rv 12:6,14; 13:5
 - i. Church witnesses for a determined time. 11:7 *finished testimony*.
 - ii. Not end of Church, but end of Church's testimony: 11:9, full # of elect
5. *Clothed in sackcloth*: mourn: prophet's dress: JnB [Mk 1:6]; Elijah [2Kg 1:8]
6. JnB's message? - A19:4. Sackcloth - message is repent; mourn for sin. How did JnB's testimony end?
 - i. What is our message? What is our culture's *sackcloth*?
 - ii. Rv 11:5-6 as gospel is preached, it divides men: judgment.
 - iii. Lot in Sodom - Soren Kierkegaard [*Either/Or* - p.30].
 - iv. Is there a rlnshp tw/ our dress & our message?

3rd: We Witness While Standing in Jesus' Temple-Throneroom - 11:4

1. Zech 4 heavenly temple: dawdling returned exiles not rebuilding temple.
 - i. v2-6 Furniture in heavenly temple. Olive tree & lamp
 - ii. v7-10 Zerub is seed of David: temple-builder: plumb-line [v10] measure
 - iii. v11-14 lamps fueled by branch's oil: testimony of 2 witnesses by HS
2. Tree/lamp = symbols of HS [Rv 4:5]; Christ in midst of lampstands; JnB was a burning lamp [Jn 5:35].
3. #2 unites Rv 11:3-4 - 2Wits, 2 olive trees, 2 lampstands => the testimony of 2Wits is, in substance, the life & lite of HS - *power when the HS has come upon you & you shall be My witnesses* - [A1:8].

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4. Where are the 2 trees/lamps? Where is the Church? *They stand before the Lord of the earth.* Our witness, by HS, comes from heaven & shines into a dark world. On earth: sackcloth. In heaven: white robes.
5. Temple privilege for Ncov priests - when? Worship on earth occurs in heaven - supreme, sublime privileges of royal priestly sons [Rv 1:5-6].
6. We have been raised up w/ Christ [Eph 2:6] & overcome as witnesses who *stand before the Lord of the earth* in worship.
 - i. What was the issue in Reformation? Worship. Why "worship wars"?
 - ii. Satan entices: take strange fire; pagan practices; disregard Lord's Day & means of grace.
 - iii. Worship is crucial in the life of an overcoming warrior-witness. Lax churchmen are rarely courageous conquerors on field of battle.
 - iv. A worshiping people is a warring people; Christ's winning people. We are fueled by the Spirit of the resurrected Lord Jesus.
7. Rv 11:1-4 God has authorized & enabled us to be His witnesses. Clothed in sackcloth on earth as heavenly royal priests - empowered by HS to overcome.