

## IT WILL LOOK LIKE WE LOST - Rv 11:7-10

120422A

### INTRODUCTION

1. What is a "successful" church? What if church could not function as church?
2. Rv 11 - review v1-6. v7-10

#### 1st: The Death of the Two Witnesses

1. Eradication of gospel proclamation [Rv1:5]. Removal of the true church.
2. Is the silencing of gospel proclamation the end of *witnessing*? Did Jesus continue to witness after His preaching ministry ended?
3. Verbal testimony ends but the 2 Witnesses continue to witness: martyrdom

#### 2nd: When Will the Two Witnesses Be Killed?

1. *When finished testimony* - Mat 24:10-14 completes the Great Commission.
  - i. After persistent rejection, God gives men what they want - 2Th 2:6-7
  - ii. Debate re: what/who *restrains* the arrival of AntiChrist. The gospel?
2. Church is invincible, protected & empowered UNTIL testimony is *finished* THEN *the end will come*. *Finished* [Jn 19:30] - Rv 6:11 completed number
3. The Church will witness triumphantly: verbally in life & actively in death.
4. When *beast comes up out of abyss to make war*: verb - not future, but smthg that has been happening but now is climatic; intensified preceding 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

#### 3rd: Who Will Kill the Two Witnesses?

1. *beast from the abyss* - assoc'd w/ Satan - Rv 9:11. 1<sup>st</sup> ref to *beast* [chpts 13ff]
2. *the beast* becomes the overcomer who *overcomes & kills* 2 Witnesses?!
3. *make war* = enmity [Gn 3:15]: [Rv 12:17; 13:7; 19:19]
  - i. 1Jn 2:18; 4:3 - spirit of antiChrist already working - but *the beast* of Rv 11:7 is an end-times opponent - Dan 7:21-27

- ii. We will see 2 Witnesses rise from dead at 2<sup>nd</sup> coming - Rv 11:11-12

#### 4th: Where Will the Two Witnesses Die?

1. *great city* = Babylon [exile: *wears down* the saints Dan 7:25]: *mystically*, figuratively represents opposing powers & principalities - Eph 6:10ff
  - i. Sodom - Gn 18-19 Lot; cf. Isa 1:9-10 apostate Israel equated w/ Sodom
  - ii. Egypt - enslaved - judged w/ plagues [backdrop of seals, trmpts]
  - iii. Jerusalem - crucified Christ = apostate OCov - Mt 23:37
2. *cities* = authorities animated by spirit of antiChrist, believing docts of demons
3. Corpses lie exposed on streets - men now men see testimony of martyrdom. Men cannot eradicate their witness - conscience [v10]
4. Global: *ppls, tribes, tongues, & nations* - look for 3.5 days = 10% of 3.5 yrs [42 mons: *trampling* - v2]. A brief period of time just before 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.
  - i. 3.5 days: climatic contraction of tribulation: *little season* [Rv 20:3]
  - ii. 2 Witnesses overcome having been overcome by Beast: as slaughtered lambs; as Jesus was overcoming when He -> cross: resurrection victory.

#### 5th: Why Were the Two Witnesses Killed?

1. *not permit corpses to be buried*: desecrate, defeated, OT: cov curse [eaten by birds]. Lit: 'laid in tomb' w/ inscription: erase record of Christianity.
2. 3 thgs: *Look*; *celebrate & exchange gifts*: disdain & triumphalistic gloating. Ironic: celebration of death of Xnty requires remembering Xnty: Hb 11:4
3. Why kill? *the 2 prophets tormented*. Rev 9:5-6 5<sup>th</sup> trmpt - locusts
  - i. *torment* - figuratively: distress, pain; anguish
  - ii. Dt 28:28-29 punishment for apostasy - Rv 9:20-21
4. Lk 21:24b-27 *dismay, perplexity, fainting from fear* w/ expectation of judgment - while refusing gospel summons to repent = *torment*.

**IT WILL LOOK LIKE WE LOST - Rv 11:7-10**

**120422A**

5. Now - for 3.5 days - celebration!

**6th: It Will Look Like the Church Lost the War: But We Overcome**

1. Salvation: cross to resurrection glory - Rm 4:17. Faith reaches thru death & lays hold of promised life given by the resurrected Lord Jesus. Just before God raises the dead, it looks like death wins.
2. God gives us preliminary "resurrections" before the end of the age.
3. We will go the way Jesus, the Overcomer, the Lamb of God, went - thru death into resurrection glory. We overcome - Rm 8:35-39