

ETERNAL WITNESSES

Revelation 10-11

Revelation 10-14 describes the events that will occur at the middle of the *seven-year Tribulation period*. In **chapter 10-11** there is a *pause* between the sixth and seventh trumpet judgments; during this pause we find three witnesses. They are witnesses to the *eternal authority, power, and glory* of Christ, the confidence of our faith!

The first witness is the Witness of a Mighty Angel - (v.1-4) Many believe that the angel mentioned here is Jesus Christ. In the Old Testament there are *pre-incarnate* appearances of Christ, called *theophanies* or *Christophanies*. For instance, Christ appears as *“the Angel of His (God’s) presence” (Isaiah 63:9); “the Angel of the Lord” (Exodus 3:2)*. In addition, in (v.1, 2) we find six *correlations* between the glorified Jesus (**Revelation 1**) and features related to God, and the angel mentioned here. **First - His face - “and his face was like the sun” – Revelation 1:16.**

Secondly - His feet - “his feet like pillars of fire” – feet refined in a fire, Revelation 1:15. Thirdly - His attire - “clothed with a cloud” – God is often identified with clouds. God led Israel by a glorious cloud; appeared to Moses in a cloud; *also* Christ ascended in a cloud - **Exodus 16:10; 34:5; Acts 1:9.**
Fourthly - His head - “a rainbow was on his head” – in chapter 4:3 a rainbow was around *the throne of God*. The rainbow is symbolic of *peace* and God’s *covenant* with the earth – **Genesis 9:12,13.**

Fifthly - His posture - “he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land” – This posture is that of a conqueror! Scripture declares, *“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof” - Psalm 24:1.* **Lastly – His voice – “a loud**

voice, as when a lion roars.” Jesus is the “*Lion of the Tribe of Judah,*” - **Revelation 5:5.** Satan *roars* like a lion to frighten his prey (**1 Peter 5:8**); but the “*roar*” (voice) of Christ is a declaration of *absolute authority* and *victory!* ***His majestic roar is confirmed by seven thunders! (v.3b).*** This is the thunder of *divine* judgement! In **(v.4b)** John was forbidden to write down the *specific* meaning of these seven thunders. *They could possibly be related to the seven bowl judgements to come, in Revelation 16.*

(v.5-7) An oath is taken here by the angel. *Some may wonder, if indeed this angel is Christ why would He take an oath?* This is **not** unusual. In fact, God placed Himself under oath when He made a covenant with Abraham **Hebrews 6:13-20**. The phrase, “**No delay**” **(v.7) means: *The holy scriptures are now consummated.*** When Christ returns, the knowledge of God will fill the earth! ***“The earth will be full of the knowledge of God.” (Isaiah 11:9).***

(v.8-11) God is speaking here! (v.9) Eating the little book. Ezekiel had a similar experience **Ezekiel 2:9-3:4**. In John’s case the book was sweet to the taste but became bitter in his stomach. Metaphorically, it speaks of the gospel. The word of God (gospel) has a *sweet* taste upon our lips, but its Judgements, related to our rejection of it, can leave a *sickening* feeling in the stomach. **However, to proclaim the whole gospel we must preach the bitter with the sweet. (Romans 6:23) For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Now we come to **chapter 11**, and the **second** witness, the **Witness of the Two Prophets – (11:1-14) (v.1, 2)** The temple will be rebuilt during the *seven-year tribulation* period. **Daniel 9:27** reveals the anti-Christ will make peace with Israel during the *first half* of the tribulation, and severely

persecute both followers of Christ and Jews during the second half of the tribulation period. **Further evidence the temple will be rebuilt is found in (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4) Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.**

(v.2) John is instructed to measure the temple. *There are four courts to the Old Testament Jewish Temple: **Priests, Israel** (Jewish men), **women** (Jewish women), and **Gentiles**.* The outer court of the Gentiles was not measured. It is rejected here. For **42 months**, as Daniel prophesied (**Daniel 7:25; 12:7**) – **“a time, and times, and half a time”** – *that is one year, plus two years, and half a year* – the Gentiles will trample Jerusalem underfoot; *this will be a form of judgement against Israel.* Jesus said, **“Jerusalem will be trodden down by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled” (Luke 21:24)**, culminating with the sudden return of Christ! **Zechariah 14; Revelation 19:17-19.**

“Two witnesses” will appear on the scene to fulfill God’s purpose for **1,260 days** (*three and a half years*), **(v.3)**; the same amount of time the “beast” (anti-Christ) will be allowed to spew forth his blasphemous *persecution* and *rhetoric*, **Revelation 13:5-8.** **Who are these two witnesses?** **(v.4-6)** By the *signs* they will perform **(v.5, 6)**, many believe them to be **Moses and Elijah**; however, they are not named. They are described as two olive trees and lampstands, implying their power and witness is of God! The language here is *reminiscent* of the lampstand and two olive trees in Zechariah’s *vision* (**Zechariah 4 / Zerubbabel**); **“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord of Hosts!”**

The world will be powerless against them! No one will want to attend their church; like John the Baptist, the title of every message is “**Repent!**”

Sackcloth: a rough, coarse cloth, symbolic of mourning and repentance!

The church could use more mourning and repentance today! *People want messages on worldly prosperity, without repentance!* But true exaltation begins with humility! (James 4:7-10) Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

After finishing God’s *divine* purpose, *their ministry of repentance*, the **beast**, the *anti-Christ*, is granted power to kill them! **Lesson: When we have fulfilled our role, God will call us home. Until then you are invincible! (v.7-10). A world-wide celebration breaks out over their deaths! The celebration last week in NY, over the passing of a bill which allows abortion, the murder of babies, up to delivery, was met with a standing ovation and the lighting up of One World Trade center in pink! As with these two witnesses, it was a shameful godless celebration of death! But while the world is cheering, they **willfully** forget judgement is coming!**

(Read: v.11-14) – After *three and a half days* they were raised and ascended to glory! **That’s a *drop the mic* moment the world will never forget! An earthquake occurs, killing 7,000 inhabitants of Jerusalem. Out of fear, many will give glory to God (v.13). But it’s *merely* surface repentance; like many today, after the pain is gone they *revert* to their old ways. **(Read v.14).****

Now we come to the seventh trumpet, the *third* woe and *third* witness, the **Witness of the Elders – (v.15-19)** This trumpet announces the close of mankind's *reign* and the beginning of Christ's reign on earth. The twenty-four elders around the Throne of God in heaven bear **witness** to Christ's return and **glory!** The Greek word here for "**wrath**" - **orge** - "**indignation**" (**a settled attitude of wrath**). God's anger is not *temperamental* and *unpredictable*; it is **holy indignation** against sin. **Notice: There is either ruin or reward when He returns. There's no middle ground! (v.18). (1 John 5:12) He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.**

APPLICATION: These three witnesses to Christ's **authority, power, and glory** are the *basis* for our daily confidence in Christ. In (10:4) John was **forbidden to write the utterances of the seven thunders**. In this life, there are times when we face situations that don't make sense! Yet the Bible reminds us, **His ways are above our ways; we can't know it all!** Faith is resting in Christ until that which is concealed is revealed!

David declared: (Psalm 131:1-2) **Lord, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me. Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, Like a weaned child with his mother; Like a weaned child is my soul within me.**

CONCLUSION: We can rest in Christ's *covenant* authority, power, and glory, displayed for us (Read: v.19a). **COMMUNION** reminds us of God's universal display of covenant today; the cross, and Christ's resurrection, is the *source* of our confidence and the hope of our *deliverance*, salvation in Christ! Therefore, we can celebrate **life** rather than **death**, knowing that our King is coming! Song: **"The King Is Coming!"**

“The marketplace is empty - No more traffic in the streets - All the builders' tools are silent - No more time to harvest wheat - Busy housewives cease their labors - In the courtroom no debate - Work on earth is all suspended - As the King comes thro' the gate.”

“O the King is coming - The King is coming - I just heard the trumpets sounding - And now His face I see - O the King is coming - The King is coming - Praise God, He's coming for me.” Is He coming for you?