



Sermon Series: Revelation - Jesus Revealed
Sermon Title: Two Witnesses to Shock the World
Scripture: Revelation 11:1-14
Pastor Chris Fritz
Sunday, November 12, 2023

INTRODUCTION

Acts 1:8

Note: God is consistent, faithful, and good to commission, empower, and send WITNESSES who will speak and testify to His plan, to His righteousness, to His grace, and to His character.

Note: In the New Testament, a faithful “witness” would often become a “martyr” for Christ!

Acts 7:60-61; Acts 22:20; Revelation 2:13; Revelation 17:6; John 15:20

I. A MEASURED TEMPLE... AND... TWO WITNESSES

A. A Measured Temple (Revelation 11:1-2)

- 1) The opening word “then” connects this chapter back to chapter 10, to the “mighty angel,” to the “small, bitter/sweet scroll,” and to God’s message to John that he must continue to prophesy about many peoples, nations, languages, and kings.
- 2) Often when God has something measured He is setting it apart for His purposes, He is emphasizing that it belongs to Him, and He is making preparations for either blessing or destruction.
- 3) Some Christians see this reference to the temple as a reference to the Church and the “trampling” as a reference to the persecution that believers face in this life. Other Christians interpret these verses in a more literal way and believe that this refers to a future, literal temple and to a time when the city of Jerusalem (and the Jewish people) will be oppressed and attacked. (2 Thess. 2:3-4)
- 4) In principle, these verses teach and remind us that God is rescuing and saving a people for Himself; God “measures”, knows, and cherishes His children; and - even in a hostile world - He will not be left without witnesses who will speak/testify to His grace, His glory, and His righteousness.

B. Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:3-14)

1) Their Identity: They are the two olive trees and the two lamp-stands that stand before the Lord.

Zechariah 4:6-7

2) Their Protection: Fire consumes anyone/everyone who tries to harm or kill them.

Psalm 34:7-8

3) Their Power: They stop rain, turn water to blood, and unleash a variety of plagues.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 and 2 Timothy 1:7-8

4) Their Ministry: They wear sackcloth, prophesy, and preach repentance.

Mark 1:15

5) Their Defeat which leads to Ultimate Victory: They are killed, resurrected, and taken to glory!

Questions for Further Study, Reflection, and Application...

1. Why is John told to “measure” the temple, altar, and people? What does this measuring mean?
2. What do we know for certain about these two witnesses?
3. What kind of protection, power, and ministry do they have?
4. How does their ministry end? Why is this good news?
5. How can/should these witnesses be an encouragement and blessing to us today?