

REVIVAL NEWS

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THE TWO WITNESSES – The Mystery of God is finished A journey through the Book of Revelation – Part 5

Eat the book

In the days of the sounding of the seventh angel [messenger], John heard a voice from heaven which said, *“Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel [messenger] who stands on the sea and on the earth”* Revelation 10:8. In order for the *mystery of God to be finished* (v.7) we need to have the message inside of us; the Word living in us and made flesh (John 1:14). So, John says, *“Give me the little book”* Revelation 10:9a. We are to have this attitude. Go after the Word of God. Ask for it and even demand it. The Angel [Messenger] said, *“Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be sweet as honey in your mouth”* Revelation 10:9b.

The gospel is sweet but challenges everyone greatly – it goes against the tide of the world and Babylon. We need to eat the book. We need to devour the Word of God so that it becomes *“like a burning fire shut up in my bones”* Jeremiah 20:9. Ezekiel was also told to, *“eat this scroll, and go speak to the house of Israel”* Ezekiel 3:1. Jeremiah said, *“Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart”* Jeremiah 15:16. Feed on the Word so that you proclaim it with certainty and be part of the seventh messenger sounding the trumpet!

Prophecy

When John ate the little book the mighty messenger said, *“You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues and kings”* Revelation 10:11. Prophecy in the New Testament has got to do with making known the revelation of the mystery of Christ (Ephesians 3:2-5). *“The Spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus”* Revelation 19:10. It is making known the Messiah to all nations, proclaiming the *mystery of the gospel* boldly as we ought (Ephesians 6:19)! The apostle Paul said to the Romans that we will be established by *“the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations”* Romans 16:25-26. We are to make known the prophetic Scriptures to all nations! The prophetic Scriptures reveal God’s eternal

purpose in Christ. Eat the book so that you can prophesy the mystery of Christ and the gospel to all nations!

Measure the Temple

Immediately after John eats the book and is given the instruction to prophesy to nations, he is **“given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, ‘Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there” Revelation 11:1.** John is filled with the Word and then is given a *reed like a measuring rod!* The Word of God measures us. John is told to *measure the temple of God!*

In the New Testament what is the *temple of God*? **“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” 1 Corinthians 3:16.** We are the household of God, **“having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord” Ephesians 2:20-21.** We are growing as the Body of Christ, **“till we all come to the unity of the faith, to the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” Ephesians 4:13.** The Word of God is to measure the *temple of God*. Are we coming to maturity? Are we growing? Are we becoming a **“dwelling place of God in the Spirit” Ephesians 2:22?** Part of God’s eternal purpose is for a house, a dwelling, to be built for Himself. John was told to measure it after he had eaten the book. There is a revelation for us to catch here! We can only measure the *temple of God* if we have devoured the Word and have revelation of the house He is building!

Measure the altar and those who worship there

John was also told to **“measure...the altar, and those who worship there” Revelation 11:1.** The altar again is referring to the *altar of incense* where prayer is offered (**Revelation 5:8**). How is your prayer life? Are you learning to be **“praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit” Ephesians 6:18?** Are you learning to **“pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18?** The altar of incense is measured and it is important especially for apostles and other ministers to be found **“giving themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word” Acts 6:4.**

Those who worship there are also measured. We are to worship God **“in spirit and in truth” John 4:24.** We are the **“circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit” Philippians 3:3.** Worship is to be pure. Worship is to be in the Spirit. Worship is to be in truth! We are to present ourselves as **“a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, our reasonable service [worship] Romans 12:1.** We are accountable for our prayer life and worship. The Word measures us. Are we heeding the instruction of the Word in these lifestyle areas?

Outer Court not measured

It is interesting that John was told to *“leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles”* Revelation 11:2. The outer court is not measured, and is finally not part of the *temple of God*. It is imperative to come into the *temple*. We are to be the place where the Spirit of God dwells. Do not remain in the outer court with the altar of burnt offering and the brazen laver only. The imperative part that moves us from the outer court experience of faith and baptism into the holy place, *the temple*, is the baptism or infilling with the Holy Spirit. If we are not filled with the Holy Spirit, we are going to be trampled by the world. On the Day of Pentecost Peter brought the new believers into the *temple, the church*, by bringing them into the full experience of salvation, *“repent and let everyone of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”* Acts 2:38. Seek the baptism with the Holy Spirit and desire to be continually filled (Ephesians 5:18-21) to truly be a *“living stone being built up a spiritual house”* 1 Peter 2:5.

Tribulation

The Gentiles, the unbelievers, will *“tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months”* Revelation 11:2b. This period of time speaks of a time of persecution and distress – not a literal number. It is a symbolic number of a time of tribulation, pressure, and hardship from ruling authorities against those who have faith in Jesus [see also Daniel 7:25; 12:7; Revelation 12:6; 13:5]. This has been happening throughout the time the people of God have been recognizable in the earth and ever since Jesus died and rose again. In fact, tribulation is a necessary aspect of our faith, and we are *“not to think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings”* 1 Peter 4:12-13. Trials test the *“genuineness of our faith, being much more precious than gold”* so we may be *“found to praise, honour and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ”* 1 Peter 1:7.

Power to witness

If you read carefully from Revelation 10:8 to Revelation 11:3 you will see that the angel who is speaking to John to *rise and measure the temple of God* is the same angel who told him to *eat the book*. This is the *mighty angel* who stood on the sea and the dry land (Revelation 10:1-3) whose description is much like the description of the Son of Man in Revelation 1:12-16. This is awesome because this same angel then speaks to John, *“the angel stood saying... ‘And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth’”* Revelation 11:1-3.

This is not an ordinary angel! He is giving the two witnesses power to prophesy during much difficulty and opposition. The same symbolic period of time is mentioned here; *one thousand two hundred and sixty days*. Even though there is a time of tribulation, there is power to witness and prophesy. He, the angel, even calls them *my two witnesses!* Who is the One who gives us power to witness? Jesus

said, ***“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses to... the ends of the earth”*** Acts 1:8. Jesus is the One who gives power to witness and prophesy to nations! Jesus is the Baptiser with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5; Matthew 3:11). This ***Mighty Angel*** who stands on the sea and the dry land, who is clothed with a cloud, is the One giving power to His ***two witnesses!*** It is imperative to have the Holy Spirit and not remain in the outer court which will be trodden underfoot. It is only as you receive the Holy Spirit that you will have power to witness in time of great opposition. Let’s receive this power from Jesus the Messiah (Luke 24:49)! We need the power of the Holy Spirit given by that ***Mighty Angel*** (Revelation 10:1-11:3), the Lord Jesus Christ.

Completing the testimony of Christ

These two witnesses were given power to ***prophesy for one thousand two hundred and sixty days***. This is the equivalent to three and a half years. It is generally agreed by looking carefully at the gospel accounts of Jesus and the feasts that He attended, that He ministered for about three and half years – from the time of His baptism till His crucifixion. The two witnesses also minister, ***prophesy***, for the same symbolic time as Jesus. Prophecy in the New Testament is centred around ***“the testimony of Jesus”*** Revelation 19:10. When put together, Jesus and the two witnesses make seven complete years of the testimony of Christ in the earth. ***Seven*** speaks of that which is complete, finished and the full complement.

Jesus and His two witnesses make a complete testimony of Christ in the earth! ***The mystery of God would be finished*** when the two witnesses complete the full testimony by ***“preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ”*** to the Gentiles, nations (Ephesians 3:8) and boldly making known ***“the mystery of the gospel”*** Ephesians 6:18! They testify of the ***“mystery of Christ...which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets”*** Ephesians 3:4-5! The full revelation of Christ is made known through Jesus and His witnesses! The mystery of God is manifest in the earth through the full testimony of Christ!

Who are the two witnesses?

“These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth” Revelation 11:4. The two witnesses are ***two olive trees*** and ***two lampstands!*** What does this mean? It is simple to understand the ***two lampstands*** as Jesus already interpreted this for us in Revelation 1:20 when He said, ***“The mystery of the ... seven lampstands: ...the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches”***. The ***lampstands*** are ***churches!*** The two witnesses are ***two lampstands!*** This means they are ***churches!*** They are not individual people, but they represent the ***church***. What is significant about ***two***? The number ***two*** in the Scriptures speaks of ***witness***: ***“by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter will be established”*** Deuteronomy 19:15. Together this means the ***two witnesses*** are the ***witnessing church!*** Are you part of the witnessing church? Have you been given the power of the Holy Spirit to witness to Jesus Christ? We are to be

like the apostle Paul who said, *“to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come”* Acts 26:22.

Two olive trees

What does it mean that the two witnesses are *two olive trees*? This was spoken of by **Zechariah** the prophet in **Zechariah 4**. An angel was speaking to Zechariah and asked him what he saw (**Zechariah 4:1**). Zechariah saw an awesome vision of a *“lampstand ... with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps”* (v.2). Here is the mention of the *lampstand* again. This has got something to do with the church! *“Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left”* (v.3). So, there are *two olive trees* on either side of a bowl that is releasing oil through seven pipes to the seven lamps of the *lampstand*! Zechariah is not sure what to make of the vision so the angel gives the interpretation, saying to Zerubbabel, the governor and the one in charge of rebuilding the house of God in Jerusalem, *“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says Yahweh of hosts”* (v.6). The building of the house of God will happen supernaturally by the Spirit, not through human endeavour, military, or political might! This is very prophetic for us in the New Testament – the house of God is the church (**1 Timothy 3:15**) and God’s house will be built by the Spirit; the anointing flowing into the *lampstand*!

Two anointed ones

Zechariah then asked, *“What are these two olive trees – at the right of the lampstand and at its left?’ And ... “What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?”* (v.11-12). The angel answers him, *“These are the two anointed ones [literally ‘sons of fresh oil’] who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth”* (v.14). What are the two anointed offices in the Old Testament? They were the offices of the *king and priest*. In the Old Testament they were separate offices, the *tribe of Levi* bearing the *priesthood* and the *tribe of Judah* bearing the *kings*.

In the context of Zechariah, all of **chapter 3** is focused on *Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the High Priest* and prophesying of the *Branch* that will come and remove the iniquity of the land. Then in **chapter 4** the focus is on *Zerubbabel* who is of the lineage of *Judah* and is the governor. He would have been king if they were not under the rule of Persia at the time. He is in the natural ancestry of Jesus the Messiah (**Luke 3:27; Matthew 1:12-13**). These two, *Joshua and Zerubbabel*, are representative of the *two olive branches* coming from the *two olive trees*. The *two olive trees* are speaking of the *two anointed* offices of *priest and king*!

The King-Priest anointing

In the vision, the oil (anointing) from those trees flows into *one bowl* that then fills the *lampstand* with oil! Zechariah also prophesied about *Joshua the High Priest* having a crown put on his head so that *“he shall be a priest on his throne,*

and the counsel of peace shall be between them both [both offices of king and priest]” Zechariah 6:13. Zechariah was prophesying of a time that the two offices of *priest and king* would come together in One Man, *whose name is the Branch (Zechariah 6:12)*. This happened in Jesus the Messiah who *“is a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek” Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 7:21.* Melchizedek is a revelation of Jesus Christ, *the King of Righteousness, King of Peace and Priest of God Most High (Hebrews 7:1-3)*. The *two olive trees* drip oil into One bowl which then fills the *lampstand!* The church, *the lampstand*, is filled with the *king-priest anointing* which flows from the *bowl on top of it*, the Head of the body, Christ! **Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4:15.**

The *two witnesses* are the church witnessing as *“kings and priests to His God and Father” Revelation 1:6.* It is the manifestation of the church having been made *“kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” Revelation 5:10.* It is the manifestation of the church as the *“royal priesthood” 1 Peter 2:9,* functioning as a priesthood *according to the order of Melchizedek.* The *two witnesses* are the church functioning like Jesus, the *King and Priest*, in the earth!

Fire and authority

This witnessing church, flowing in the anointing of the king and priest, carries much authority through the Word they preach. When opposition comes *“fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies” Revelation 11:5.* This is the *fire* of the word of God (**Jeremiah 23:29**). It comes from their mouth. They have *“power to shut heaven ... power over waters ... and to strike the earth with plagues” Revelation 11:6.* This is similar imagery to the authority that Elijah and Moses walked in. This is the church walking in dominion over the earth as sons of God, kings and priests. We have seen God use us to stay flood waters, change the course of rain systems and see droughts break. It is through us that He works in the earth. *“The promises of God are in Him, ‘Yes’, and in Him, ‘Amen’, to the glory of God through us!” 2 Corinthians 1:20.* This is the picture of a mature church, witnessing the authority and power of Jesus the Messiah in the earth!

They finish their testimony

“When they finish their testimony” Revelation 11:7a. Like Jesus, these witnesses finish their testimony. The apostle Paul said that he wanted to *“finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God” Acts 20:24.* When the witnessing church finishes and completes the testimony of Christ, then *“the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them” Revelation 11:7b.* During the three and half years of Jesus’ ministry no one could kill Him, even though they wanted to and tried (**Luke 4:28-30; John 8:58-59; 10:31-39**). But when He had finished His testimony Jesus said, *“But this is your hour, and the power of darkness” Luke 22:53.* It was the time to allow the devil to kill Him in the plan of God. The witnessing church is to become like Jesus in every way, *“to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” Ephesians 4:13.* We

are to *“know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if by any means, we may attain to the resurrection from the dead”* Philippians 3:10-11.

The death of the witnessing church

“And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified” Revelation 11:8. An interesting note is that the phrase *“their dead bodies”* is literally in the Greek, *“their corpse”*. It is singular rather than plural. It is *one corpse* not *two corpses*. Again, this is confirming that the two witnesses are a corporate entity, the church militant that is witnessing to Jesus the Messiah with great power and authority as sons of God! They die in a *spiritual* city. It is *Sodom and Egypt!* *Sodom* speaks of the violent, rebellious, arrogant immorality of the world filled with its lusts and violent perversion and homosexuality. *Egypt* speaks of the governmental aspect of the world desiring to enslave the people of God out of fear of them taking over. The witnessing church is killed by the beast in the same *spiritual city as Jesus!* We are being *conformed to His death!* It is part of the plan of God to see the *mystery of God finished!*

The World rejoices at the death of the witnessing church

Jesus spoke about His death to the disciples saying, *“you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice”* John 16:20. So the mature church will be seen to die and *“peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies [literally “their corpse”] three and a half days...and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth”* Revelation 11:9-10.

We have seen things like this when the parliament in Australia voted to legalise “same-sex marriage”. They rejoiced and hugged each other and acted like it was the best thing in the world. They thought they had defeated the church. They thought they had nullified the Word of God and killed it off. When we live a life of witness to Jesus and walk in maturity as sons we challenge and *torment those who dwell on the earth*. Be a convicting presence wherever you are. It is our job in the earth! Do not let anyone go to hell without a clear witness!

The witnessing church risen!

“Now after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them” Revelation 11:11. Just like Jesus did not stay dead, the witnessing church that is killed by the beast will come back after *three and a half days*. Again, this is a symbolic number and showing that we are *conformed to His death, if by any means, we may attain to the resurrection from the dead!* We enter the life of Christ fully! We experience what He experienced! *“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you”* John 15:18. This is the church now walking in resurrection power! The full reality of our baptism into Christ, *“Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of*

life” Romans 6:4. “*We have been crucified with Christ and we no longer live but Christ lives in us*” Galatians 2:20. This causes “*great fear*” to come on the world!

The church ascended and glorified!

This resurrection life opens a new realm for the church to walk in as then there was a voice that said, “*Come up here*” Revelation 11:12a. This is like John in Revelation 4:1-2, when he was caught up in the Spirit to see the unfolding revelation of Jesus Christ. So, this church that is overcoming and walking in resurrection power is able to *Come up here!* And then “*they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them*” Revelation 11:12b. Like Peter, James and John on the holy mountain (Matthew 16:28-17:5) the church that overcomes is invited up into the cloud, to see Jesus in all His glory and to manifest that glory.

Like the overcoming church of Laodicea Jesus “*grants (us) to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcome and sat down with My Father on His throne*” Revelation 3:21. We enter into the experience of the mystery of Godliness and are “*received up in glory*” with Christ (1 Timothy 3:16). Just like Jesus overcame, resurrected and then ascended, “*a cloud received Him out of their sight*” Acts 1:9, so this witnessing church inherits the glory according to the plan of God that “*whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified*” Romans 8:30. This is the church glorified! “*Many sons to glory*” Hebrews 2:10!

The seventh messenger sounds!

This glorification of the sons of God, the witnessing church, causes a “*great earthquake*” and much shaking (Revelation 11:13-14). “*Then the seventh angel [messenger] sounded... ‘The kingdoms of this world have become of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever!’*” Revelation 11:15. The result of the witnessing church finishing their testimony, fully entering maturity as sons, entering the reality of Christ, “*being conformed to the image of His Son*” Romans 8:29, is that the world fully comes under the government of Yahweh, *the Lord*, and of His King, *Christ!* All things have been made a “*footstool for His feet*” Psalm 110:1; 1 Corinthians 15:25. *The mystery of God would be finished!* Revelation 10:7.

Great worship proceeds this declaration (Revelation 11:16-18) and then “*the temple [inner sanctuary] of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of the covenant was seen in His temple [inner sanctuary]!*” Revelation 11:19. The glory is revealed for all to see! “*Christ in us; the hope of glory*” Colossians 1:27, is fully seen! “*The knowledge of the glory of Yahweh is covering the earth as the waters cover the sea*” Habakkuk 2:14.

Will you be part of this witnessing church?

John saw a revelation of God's eternal purpose being outworked and is encouraging us to enter the full fellowship with Christ in His life, suffering, death, resurrection, and glorification!

Through the two witnesses, ***the witnessing church***, walking in the authority of kings and priests, and sons of God, the kingdom of God will fully manifest in the earth!

Receive and walk in the revelation of His Word!!

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