

### **PTB3-3: Revelation 11, The Two Witnesses are the Prophets and Apostles.**

Do not think that God in His recital of the history of the world has forgotten that mighty work of the OT Prophets and the NT Apostles, for these are the two witnesses of Revelation 11. Yet there is much more to chapter 11, not that the Holy Spirit intended it that way, but we can learn to live with it.

#### 1. The Two Witnesses, Revelation 11:1-14.

Once more the prophets come to our rescue on Revelation and Last Things because we have heard before of the two lampstands and the two olive trees. This time it is Zechariah.

**"<sup>11</sup> Then I answered and said to him, "What are these two olive trees—at the right of the lampstand and at its left?" <sup>12</sup> And I further answered and said to him, "What are these two olive branches that drip <sup>εἰς</sup> into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?"**

**<sup>13</sup> Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?"**

**And I said, "No, my lord."**

**<sup>14</sup> So he said, "These are the two <sup>εἰς</sup> anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."**

Anointed ones would be the Prophets and Apostles. The reason for the dual two, olive trees and lampstands is because the Prophets and Apostles did double duty, they were both spokesman to their own generation and they wrote Bible. Bible is the work of the Prophets and Apostles. The reason there is one lampstand in Zechariah as contrasted to two in Revelation is that the Apostles did not exist yet in the Old Testament time of Zechariah.

2. The Seventh angel sounds and the 24 elders worship God and tell about how God has taken His great power.

(1). The past, present, and future of LORD God Almighty.

(2). At the sounding of the seventh trumpet, God takes His great power and reigns.

(3). The nations were angry because His wrath had come in the tribulation of the One Day.

(4). And they were angry because it had come time for the dead to be judged.

(5). It is a time of rewards for the saints and prophets, and all that the small and great that fear the name of the LORD.

3. The Temple of the LORD was opened in heaven with a view of the Ark of the Covenant (and we wondered where it went?)

**11 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. <sup>[a]</sup>And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. <sup>2</sup> But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot *for* forty-two months. <sup>3</sup> And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."**

**NOTE: In this case the explanation of the vision is from the angel. There is quite a lot in the OT about the two olive trees and the two lampstands, but it is obvious from what the angel told us that these two witnesses are the Prophets and Apostles.**

**<sup>4</sup> These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the <sup>[b]</sup>God of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. <sup>6</sup> These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.**

### **The Witnesses Killed**

**<sup>7</sup> When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. <sup>8</sup> And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also <sup>[c]</sup>our**

Lord was crucified. <sup>9</sup> Then *those* from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations <sup>10</sup> will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. <sup>10</sup> 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.

## **The Witnesses Resurrected**

<sup>11</sup> Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. <sup>12</sup> And <sup>12</sup> they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. <sup>13</sup> In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.

<sup>14</sup> The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.