

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

### "Two Witnesses in Daniel's Seventieth Week"

Revelation 11:1-7

#### Introduction

1. The parenthesis commenced in chapter 10 continues in the present one up to v. 15. Then the final and seventh trumpet is sounded!

2. The time has come for the final movement of God in the climax of the ages. This is the import of the Word (10:6, 7). This is accomplished by the Tribulation Period and followed by the Millennium. The first half (3½ years) of the Tribulation is comparatively "sweet" and the final half (3½ years) is "bitter" (10:9, 10).

3. How does the Lord indicate He will take possession of things on earth? In brief outline, His way is made known here. It is done with Jewish items in view and through bold God-appointed witnesses. Here are the details:

#### 1. PREPARATION FOR POSSESSION vv. 1,2.

The same angel of the preceding chapter speaks to John. He is given a reed like a rod and told to measure certain critical items. This is an action characteristic of a possession. So it is! What is measured is listed:

##### a. The temple

This assures us that there will be a Tribulation temple. It is on earth and not in heaven. There will be another temple in the millennium (Ezek 40ff.). This one may not be on the original site. Could it now be in existence or being built???

##### b. The altar

Here is a notification of sacrifices. Nothing but a Jewish matter could be in view! The Gentile world will trample on this! God always asks for a substitute, and this means sacrifice.

##### c. The worshippers

These are also measured to discover their true worth. Wheat and tares will persist in these days, too. Hence, judgment is related to mercy extended.

##### d. The exclusion

This is the outer court or the area of the Gentiles.

There is no need to measure Gentile profession. It is they who will trample the holy city under foot for 42 months (3½ years). This is the last half of the Tribulation. It is at this time that the Antichrist desecrates the temple (2 Thess. 2:3, 4); the oblation ceases (Dan. 9:27); God's people Israel suffer (Rev. 12:6, 13; Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21).

## 2. DESIGNATION OF PROPOGATION vv. 3-6.

God has already sealed for the Tribulation 144,000 who will be able to cope with the Antichrist and his terrible reign. There are two others: two witnesses raised up of God. Look at them:

a. Their appointment It is God Who raises up these witnesses. It is He Who provides them with power. They are His witnesses in a very special sense. They witness for 42 months, 1260 days, or 3½ years. It is probably their witness which incenses the antichrist to take action. They come in sackcloth, an expression of deep exercise over conditions. The mention of rain and water (v. 6) suggests that the two witnesses are Moses and Elijah. They later die, hence Enoch is excluded (Heb. 11:5). Both of these men were miracle performers and appeared also on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1ff.). They are bold.

b. Their commitment Two figures are used of them: 1) lampstands and 2) olive trees. Both relate to standing before God on the earth. The olive tree speaks of witness and testimony. Their message surely includes: 1) Christ as Lord of all. 2) Human wickedness before God. 3) The character and reason for judgment. 4) Opposition to the beast and false prophet. 5) Testimony against Jerusalem which is spiritually degraded.

c. Their equipment They manifestly have great authority given to them. Included in this are the following: 1) Fire for destruction. 2) Power to withhold rain. 3) Ability to turn water into blood. 4) Power to bring all kinds of plagues on earth at will. All of these items accent the character and kind of testimony which these witnesses provide in the Tribulation. God has reached His end with man. They are the last prophets which the earth has from God--bar none (including Joseph Smith)!

Conclusion The final Word of God is this: whenever the witnesses finish their ministry, then all hell breaks loose (v. 7). One would hope for repentance and proper adjustment to the message from God. It is a poor hope! Oh, today is the day of salvation. Flee to Him and be saved!