

7:16; Acts 24:25). The will of the people is still not broken (John 5:40). What will ever bring earthdwellers to the Lord? Only one thing: the conviction of the Spirit (John 16:8-11).

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

"The Rise of the Beast"
Revelation 11:7-14

Introduction

1. God has His witnesses in every dispensation. The Tribulation is no exception. He has the 144,000 sealed Jews (Rev. 7:1-8). He also has the two witnesses of this chapter. These two segments of witnesses are God's testimony for Himself in the midst of horrendous judgment.
2. The ministry of the two witnesses is outlined (vv. 3-6). They are absolutely without destruction until their work is completed (v. 7). God never loses control throughout the tribulation period.
3. Now that the work of the witnesses is done, what takes place? Study it:

1. THE BEAST RISES vv. 7,8.

For the first time in the Book of Revelation, the antichrist is mentioned under this figure. He is referred to later on again (13:1; 17:8). He rises from the bottomless pit (cf. 9:1). His activity includes:

- a. Warring

The present tense verb "make" notes that the beast is incessant in his activity of war with the witnesses.

- b. Conquering

The future tense shows that the beast does in fact gain the advantage over the witnesses, albeit temporarily.

- c. Killing

It is not recorded how the witnesses are killed, but probably by beheading (Rev. 20:4). All of this is done in Jerusalem. The city is identified:

- 1) As a "great city" (cf. 7:3,4; 21:10; 22:5,8).

2) As Sodom and Egypt spiritually. This is a mystical item and noted as such. It is still literal morally and spiritually.

3) As the place where Christ was crucified. Here is solid identification.

2. THE PEOPLE RESPOND vv. 9, 10.

The people are representatives of all the world. A worldwide situation obtains here. They are from every people, kindred, tongue, and nation. Outstanding about them is the fact that they are "they who dwell on the earth." This phrase is used as a regular formula in Revelation and relates to persons who have made their home on earth (cf. 8:13; 13:8,12,14; 17:8). Look at their actions:

a. They look

The present tense is at once dramatic and amazing. For 3½ days the masses of people take advantage of the dead bodies of the witnesses lying in the streets of Jerusalem. They view them in delight!

b. They refuse

Old Testament law expected men to be buried immediately (Deut. 21:22,23). This has generally been the custom in the Middle East. Now this is not done! The plural for "body" shows that the corpses are real and unburied.

c. They rejoice

Three actions are noted here in this connection: 1) The people rejoice. This is present tense and is the common word for the concept. 2) "Make merry" really means to be of a "jolly or merry mind." It is quite an event. 3) They send gifts. It is like Christmas time, but in view of the death of the witnesses of God! The basic reason for the entire merriment is that the tormenters are now dead. Think of it: God's servants are termed as tormenters (cf. 9:5).

3. THE WITNESSES DEPART vv. 11, 12.

After 3½ days on the streets of Jerusalem, the witnesses had some amazing things take place with them. Read:

a. They came alive

Here is a direct intervention by God for the bringing back to life of the witnesses. Life comes from the Lord (Psa. 36:9).

b. They stood

If there is any doubt about their life, this dispels it. The verb is clear.

c. They provoked people

With their rising from the dead, the witnesses caused fear to fall upon the people of the earth. The verb "saw" is present and means to see as a spectator and is the root from which we gain the term "theatre."

d. They heard

The same call which John received (4:1) is now repeated to the witnesses. In both cases there is a translation.

e. They ascended

Others had a similar experience to be taken to glory (2 Kings 2:11; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thess. 4:11-18). The Greek word for "beheld" is the same as "saw" (v. 11) and aorist tense. What a confirmation of fact.

Conclusion With these unusual events taking place, the concomitants are also listed (v. 13). These include: 1) a great earthquake. 2) a tenth part of the city is destroyed by the earthquake. 3) 7,000 are killed in the earthquake. 4) the remnant give God glory. This does not mean salvation for them, but a simple acknowledgement that what has taken place is divine (cf. Luke 4:15; 5:26;