

THE TWO WITNESSES AND HOW ISRAEL TURNS TO GOD

Rev. 11:3-13

Study #23

Introduction:

1. The terrible prophecy about the antichrist is going to take place. (Mt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4)
2. The antichrist will turn against all who call upon God or any other deity except him. A numberless number will be slaughtered and the antichrist will utterly destroy Jerusalem and its temple.
3. Because of God's great love for Israel, He will save them. He will send two great messengers who will proclaim the salvation found in God's Son, Jesus Christ.

I. GOD SENDS TWO MESSENGERS TO ISRAEL

1. God calls, gifts, commissions, and empowers the two messengers.
2. They will be sent for a set period of time, three and one half years.
3. They will pull no punches, their message will be straightforward and it will be about Jesus Christ, God's Son.
4. They will have all their needs met by God. They will be representative of Joshua and Zerubbabel (two olive trees and two candlesticks....strong and fruitful and bright and shining).
5. God sends forth ALL of His messengers the same way:
 - He calls, gifts, commissions, empowers, and sends forth His ministers.
 - He sends His ministers to certain ministries for certain times.
 - He sends His ministers to preach against sin and to proclaim Jesus as Lord.
 - He supplies what the minister needs.

II. THE TWO MESSENGERS WILL HAVE GREAT POWER

1. The two messengers will have powers like those of Elijah and Moses.
 - power of fire and power of miracles
2. God will supply all their power and much will be needed to keep them alive.
3. When God calls a minister, He empowers him for whatever is necessary to complete his task.
4. Who are the two messengers? Two human beings. Very much like Moses and Elijah. Perhaps even Moses and Elijah returned to earth for this special mission.

III. THE TWO MESSENGERS WILL BE KILLED BY THE ANTICHRIST

1. For three and one half years the antichrist and the world government will try to kill the two messengers but cannot. After they are through with their mission, their testimony about Jesus and salvation through Him, God will allow them to be slain.
2. The deaths of the two messengers will be an international affair. The leaders will leave the bodies of the two messengers lying in the streets of Jerusalem for three days.

3. The world will rejoice and even exchange gifts in happiness over the deaths of these two messengers.
4. Imagine world leaders having so much power that such a thing can happen...and will.
5. Who is this world leader...the antichrist?
 - He is the *abomination of desolation* prophesied by Jesus.
 - He is the *man of sin* prophesied by Paul.
 - He is the *little horn* prophesied by Daniel.
 - He is the very embodiment of Satan himself.
 - He is the world ruler who will make war against God's people and kill them.
 - He is the world ruler who will conquer the world.

IV. THE TWO MESSENGERS WILL BE RESURRECTED

1. After three and one half days they will stand to their feet, alive again and will strike fear into the hearts of all those who see them.
2. All the world will witness this event.
3. The resurrection and ascension of the two messengers will create a great impact upon all the world.

V. THE TWO MESSENGERS WILL BE VINDICATED

1. A great earthquake in Jerusalem will kill seven thousand people.
2. The entire nation of Israel will begin to turn to give God glory and believe in God's Son Jesus Christ.
3. Perhaps this will be one of the greatest revivals in all history, if not THE greatest.

CONCLUSION

1. God just doesn't give up on His people, Israel.
2. The greatest need of today is for people to fear God and His coming judgment.
3. People need to turn from sin, repent and give glory to God.
4. Today is the day for this to happen.