



2025 Focus: Committed to Executing the Word

James 1:22

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THE TWO WITNESSES

Revelation Chapter 11

After God instructs John to eat the Little Book and testify in Chapter 10, now He gives John a measuring rod – which signifies God’s ownership. This scene takes place in Jerusalem and the time is the first half of the Tribulation – 3 ½ years. At this time, Israel is worshipping again in its restored Temple built under the protection of the Antichrist whose true character had not yet been revealed.

Verse 1. John’s measurement of the Temple is a symbolic action. To measure in this context means to claim it for yourself. The Lord was saying through John, “I own this city, this Temple, and the people and claim both for myself.”-**Zechariah 2:1-3, 5**. The comforting reality is that whatever and whomever God owns, He protects. In the midst of Satan’s reign, it’s good to know that believers are under God’s protection-**Psalm 121**.

Verse 2. John is instructed not to measure or claim the court outside of the Temple-exclude it. It’s been handed over to non-Jewish outsiders. This refers to the Gentile nations or the Antichrist. They will dominate the world for forty-two months. The Antichrist has broken its agreement and was about to use the Temple for his own diabolical purposes--**2 Thessalonians 2:3-4**. God is simply saying—“claim My people before the Antichrist is allowed to take complete control.”

Verse 3. At the same time the Antichrist is in control, God provides two witnesses. The two witnesses minister during the first half of the Tribulation (1,260 days – 3 ½ years). Jerusalem is overrun by Gentiles for forty-two months, the last half of the Tribulation.

These two witnesses are granted special power and authority by God to preach a message of judgment and salvation during the second half of the Tribulation. The Old Testament required two or more witnesses to confirm testimony-[Deuteronomy, 17:6 19:15](#); and [Matthew 18:16](#). These two prophets will be the culmination of God's testimony to Israel: a message of judgment from God and of His gracious offer of the Gospel to all who will repent and believe.

They will prophecy 1,260 days wearing sackcloth (coarse, rough cloth made from goat or camel hair), wearing it expressed penitence, humility, and mourning-[Genesis 37:34, 2 Samuel 3:31](#). The witnesses are mourning because of the wretched wickedness of the world, God's judgment on it, and the desecration of the Temple and the Holy City by the Antichrist. They knew that sin had to be dealt with and God was about to bring final judgment upon all those who reject the Gospel.

Verse 4. Two olive trees reference Zechariah's vision of the trees providing oil for the lampstand-[Zechariah 4:11](#). The angel told Zechariah that "These are the anointed ones that stand by the Lord of the whole earth."-[Zechariah 4:14](#). This means that His witnesses are both standing by Him in heaven during all the times between their translation and their return to earth. Both Elijah and Enoch had been accustomed to walking closely with the Lord and standing by Him during their lives-[Genesis 5:24](#)-, and they have continued close by Him in heaven ever since. Two men stood by Jesus at His tomb-[Luke 24:4](#). Two men stood by when Jesus ascended into heaven-[Acts 1:10](#). Now, two are standing by Him.

Verse 5. If anyone tries to hurt them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours them. If anyone will hurt them, they must be killed with fire from their mouth. They are protected by supernatural power and are invincible.

Verses 6. They have power-these two witnesses have power and authority to prevent rain during the days of their prophecy, identifying with Elijah whose prayer caused it not to rain for three and a half years-**James 5:17**. Turning water to blood-**Exodus 7:17-21**-and striking the earth with plagues-**Exodus 7:11**- is reminiscent of Moses in Egypt.

Verse 7. Only when they have finished their testimony, God allows the beast (Antichrist) to overpower them. The Jewish population will apparently be the focus of the two witness' ministry, leading to many conversions – **verse #13**.

Point: *God's obedient servants are immortal until their work is done. The beast is now in power and wants to take over the Temple, but he cannot succeed until the two witnesses are out of the way. God will permit him to slay them for part of God's plan is that no one will be able to make war against the beast and win-**Revelation 13:4**. God has special plans for the beast-**Revelation 20:10**.*

Verse 8. The place is where the Lord was crucified-**Psalms 79:1-3**. Like the Lord, they will be slain by their enemies. A sad note is that the Holy City now is compared to Sodom and Gomorrah. This stresses the wickedness of the city. The dead bodies of the witnesses will lie in the street for three and a half days. The Antichrist will not allow them to be buried. Refusing to bury one's enemies was a way to dishonor and show contempt for them. The Old Testament forbids this practice.

Verses 9-10. The news is global. A satanic Christmas erupts. The antichrist rejoice over their death, celebrate and send each other gifts. These two prophets tormented them and now they are gone.