

The Two Witnesses, standing in the street in Jerusalem, have prophesied and brought plagues and judgments upon Antichrist's world-wide government, for 3.5 years. Anyone attempting to harm them has been instantly killed by fire coming from the Witness's mouths. After their 3.5 years of ministry unto the Lord, the Antichrist, who will have entered the Temple, declared himself to be god and demanded that all worship him as god, and will have now been entered and possessed by Satan, himself, has finally been allowed, by God, to kill them.

(And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. ⁸ And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.) Rev 11:7,8

Rev 11:9: *'And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. ¹⁰ And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.'*

Everyone, around the World, will see their dead bodies lying in the street of Jerusalem. Because all the World will rejoice at their deaths, it stands to reason that all the World has been able to watch all that they've done. Since this will begin to happen one day soon, we can know that the reason they've been universally seen will be through 24 hour television news: CNN, MSNBC, Fox, etc.. CNN will finally have the huge viewing audience they only dream of, today. Every news station will have had a crew with cameras trained on the Two Witnesses throughout the time of their work, showing that all the plagues happening around the World are being caused by these two: (the Antichrist will want them to be on camera 24/7 for 3.5 years because he will be able to say: 'It's not my fault; all these terrible plagues, around the World have been because of these two!') Finally, after the 3.5 years, the Antichrist will be able to stand up, declaring 'I am god and I have the power to put a stop to these two who have tormented you; I am god and beside me there is no other!' and also, people around the World will continue watching their TVs, hoping to catch the moment when another person rushes toward them, to harm them and they will, immediately, be incinerated to ashes which actually will happen regularly: but who, you ask, would be so stupid?! Look at the World today: see all those who kill, knowing they'll have no way of escape. Young Muslim men regularly rush to kill while hoping to be killed in the act so that they will be called Allah's martyrs and, so, secure for themselves their own place in paradise, populated with their very own 72 virgins. (just one is more than enough!)

How filthy and evil must one be to believe, to be taught, that the highest reward god can give is an eternity of fornication? How evil must a mother be to believe and teach that her highest reward comes with the death of her murderous son?

My point is: there will always be those who will rush toward the Two Witnesses, believing they are doing their highest service to their god, on Earth, the Antichrist.

Then we ask ourselves, how evil must a world's population be that they would rejoice, party and give each other gifts because two men of God have finally been murdered by the Antichrist which will then, supposedly, serve as proof that he really is god on Earth, for who else could have had the power to kill these two untouchables?

Verse 11: *'And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.'*

For 3.5 days, every television camera will have stayed trained on their bodies lying in the street, waiting to see what would happen next. Then, after 3.5 days of world-wide celebration, God will bring them back to life; they will stand up, stretch, and all the World will be terrifyingly thinking, 'Oh no! Not again!' and great fear will grip everyone, everywhere... everyone, that is, except those true believers, those being led to faith by the

144,000, those who are hunkered down, around the World, doing their best to stay alive for the next 3.5 years until the Lord Jesus Christ returns. They will all be like the Jews, during Hitler's reign, hiding out in Holland or France or other nations, hoping to stay alive but most of them will be killed or caught and sent to death camps: camps equipped with shiny, new guillotines.

Verse 12: *'And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.'*

Everyone watched their 3.5 year judgments, then their deaths, then their 3.5 days lying dead in the street, then their resurrection and finally their rapture back up to Heaven.

Another Rapture: first was Enoch, then Elijah, then Jesus, then Philipp, but he didn't go all the way up to Heaven, then and soon, it will be us and then, here, His Two Witnesses.

'They' heard a great voice from Heaven saying to 'them,' Come up here! Who heard the voice? The Two Witnesses are the ones who will hear the voice. They will hear the great voice from Heaven and they will ascend, probably slowly to add to the drama and up to Heaven.

Verse 13: *'And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. ¹⁴ The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.'*

Within an hour of the Two Witnesses' resurrection and rapture, a great earthquake occurs which levels 1/10 of the city of Jerusalem and kills 7,000 men causing everyone left to be terrified.

The death toll in the recent Turkey/Syria earthquake has, so far, topped 43,000! We can't even imagine the misery, there, but that is but a foretaste of what will come, soon, to the entire World.

This says that the remnant was frightened and gave glory to God, the true God of Heaven. Since 9/10 of Jerusalem will remain untouched and 'only' 7,000 died, it seems amiss to call all who are left, the 'remnant' because remnant means, as with a bolt of cloth, the small, unused remainder; if the Greek word, here, actually means remnant, then it seems more likely that it speaks of the true believers who are left in Jerusalem who will continue to give genuine glory to God. Or, even better, it could be that this earthquake is used by God to bring most of those left in Jerusalem to genuine, saving faith in Him or, at the least, back to faith in the True God of Israel but it will be another 3.5 years until they come to true faith in their Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, when He returns at Armageddon. Remember, this is the midpoint of the Tribulation; the Antichrist has just committed the Abomination of Desolation, as prophesied by Daniel, where he enters the Temple and desecrates it while declaring himself to be god: Daniel prophesied: *'And he (Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (the 7-year peace treaty signed at the beginning of the Tribulation): and in the midst of the week (here where we are studying now, the midpoint of the Tribulation) he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.'* Dan 9:27

The Antichrist will cause sacrifices and oblations to cease; this tells us that there will be a rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem and the Jews will have reinstated the Law and sacrifices.

At this same time, all the Jews will remember the warning of Jesus: *'When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)' ¹⁶ Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: ¹⁷ Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house: ¹⁸ Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. ¹⁹ And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! ²⁰ But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day: ²¹ For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.'* Matt 24:15

This is the time when they, Israel, recognize that the Antichrist really is the Antichrist and not their long awaited Messiah; this is the time when they flee to the desert, possibly to Petra in Moab, where God will supernaturally protect and preserve them for the remainder of the Tribulation: *'And the woman (Israel) fled*

into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. (3.5 years, the 2nd half of the Tribulation)' Rev 12:6

The second Woe is past... one remains to come quickly.

Verse 15: *'And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever.'*

Notice it says 'the kingdoms' of this world. Plural: this is not the Kingdom of God; this is the kingdoms of the world and, in fact, the kingdoms of this world have always been the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. He has always been in complete control over all His Creation: *'For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.'* Rom 13:1 *'And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.'* Matt 28:18 *'The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.'* Prov 21:1 *'Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: ²¹ And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.'* Dan 2:20 John is hearing the host of Heaven who are seeing what has been hoped for, for thousands upon thousands of years; every small corner of all God's Creation is finally being seen as having always been under the righteous rule of the King of kings and the Lord of lords, God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ even though it will be another 3.5 years as God finishes pouring out His Righteous Wrath upon the world of men who spurned and blasphemed their Creator.

Verse 16: *'And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, ¹⁷ Saying, We give thee thanks, O LORD God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.'*

Just what we said, *'...because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.'* In other words... finally, God, You are doing what we've known all along that You could and that You would do, that you have finally let be seen Who and What You are and can do.

Verse 18: *'And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.'*

Here is the specific time when we, God's Saints who have to this point died, will receive our Eternal Rewards; and, it seems, this will be a time when all the lost will be judged, to a degree. We know, after the Millennium, all the Lost will be raised up for the Final Judgment but here, during the Tribulation, it seems that they will first be judged in a way that we can only guess: I would think that, perhaps, God will show each one of them why they are down in Hades and why that is where they will stay for the next 1,000 years until the Final Judgment. Many, many will have awoken down there, the moment after their death, and they will be certain that there has been a terrible mistake, that they should never have been sent there:

'Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. ¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ¹⁶ Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? ¹⁷ Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ²⁰ Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. ²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.' Matt 7:1

Saints are receiving rewards in Heaven and the evil are being judged and destroyed. Then, about 1000 years later, they will face the Final Great Judgment to be cast alive into the Lake of Fire to be punished and

tormented forever.

He will destroy them which destroy the Earth. This is not talking about people who drive gas powered automobiles; this is not about those who throw away plastic bags. This means those who, throughout the Tribulation, and thousands of years before, have been responsible for destruction around the World, especially through the use of their weapons of war like nuclear weapons which will undoubtedly be used, causing more and more death and destruction.

Verse 19: *'And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.*

This, God's Temple in Heaven, is that, after which, the Earthly Temple was fashioned. This is the Temple which will be brought down within the New Jerusalem at the end of all which God has revealed to us in His Word.

Soon will be our Rapture to Him; then will be the 7-year Tribulation, at the end of which the Lord Jesus Christ will return at Armageddon; then He will set up His 1,000 year Kingdom on Earth, after which will be the Final Judgment with all the Lost sent to the Lake of Fire; then God will destroy the present Heaven and Earth; then He will create a New Heaven and a New Earth and finally, we read: *'And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. ² And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God (the Temple) is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.'* Rev 22:1

John specifically sees the Ark of the Covenant. When Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70, it is believed that the priests hid the Ark away in some cavern. Maybe that is true, it certainly was taken somewhere but here, we see it in the New Jerusalem as it is brought down to Earth. Certainly, God is able to do anything and everything: it would be a small matter to Him to actually have raptured the Ark up to Heaven in A.D. 70. If He has been able to rapture various men and finally all of the True Church, it would have been nothing any more unusual for Him to take the Ark up to Heaven.