

**TWO MESSENGERS FROM HEAVEN**  
**REV. 11:3-14 / 9-17-18 / WED**

**I. FIRST, WE SEE THE MINISTRY OF THESE TWO WITNESSES.**

- A. How are these two messengers described?--vv.3-6.
1. They are called “witnesses”, a word from which we get our English word “martyr”-v.3a-- **And I will appoint my two witnesses...**
  2. They are sent to prophesy, perhaps about Jesus as they stand before the newly completed Jewish Temple-v.3b--...**they will prophesy for 1,260 days....**
  3. They are wearing “sackcloth”, a symbol of mourning-v.3c--...**clothed in sackcloth.**
  4. Their ministry will last 3 ½ years or the first half of the seven years of tribulation-v.3.
  5. They are described as an “olive tree” (symbol of the Holy Spirit) and as “candlesticks” (symbol of light or revelation)-v.4--**They are “the two olive trees” and the two lampstands, and “they stand before the Lord of the earth.** (This imagery is taken from Zechariah 4).
- B. How will their ministry be defended? They will be under divine protection until they complete their ministry--v.5-- **If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die.**
- C. How will their ministry be defined?-v.6. They will use miraculous signs to prove the truth of their message---v.6--**They have power to shut up the heavens so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.**
- D. Who could these witnesses be?
1. Allegorically they have been described as the Law and the Prophets, or the Law and the Gospel, or the Old and the New Testaments.

2. Perhaps they are Moses and Elijah-Malachi 4:4-5.

*<sup>4</sup> "Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.*

*<sup>5</sup> "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.*

3. Perhaps they are Enoch and Elijah-Jude 1:14.

*<sup>14</sup> Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones*

## II. SECOND, WE SEE THE MASSACRE OF THESE TWO WITNESSES.

- A. When and how were they killed?-v.7--**Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them.**
  1. They were killed at the middle of the seven year Tribulation.
  2. This is a reference to the "Antichrist" who is called a beast 38 times in the book of Revelation.
- B. Where were they killed?—v.8--**Their bodies will lie in the public square of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified.**
  1. They were killed in Jerusalem, described as wicked like Sodom and Egypt.
  2. They were left unburied which was a disgrace to Jews (Ps. 79:3).
- C. How did people react to their death?
  1. They gawked at their dead bodies—v. 9--**For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.**
  2. They gloated over their deaths with a Satanic Christmas—v.10--**The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.**

### III. THE MIRACLE OF THESE TWO WITNESSES.

- A. They will rise from the dead like the Dry Bones of Ezekiel 37 as proof they came from God--v.11--**But after the three and a half days the breath[a] of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them.**
- B. They will ascend to heaven like Jesus did-v.12--**Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.**
- C. They will be avenged-vv.13--**At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.**
- D. There is more judgment to come-v.14--**he second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.**
  - 1. Three woes or extreme judgments were predicted after the fourth Trumpet blast in 8:13--**As I watched, I heard an eagle that was flying in midair call out in a loud voice: "Woe! Woe! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth, because of the trumpet blasts about to be sounded by the other three angels!**
  - 2. The first of these three woes was the fifth Trumpet blast—9:12--**The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.**
  - 3. The second of these three woes was the sixth Trumpet blast and the parenthetical passage we just finished (10-11:14)—v. 14-- **he second woe has passed; the third woe is coming soon.**
  - 4. The third woe may be the seventh Trumpet blast (11:15-15:8) but it is not specifically stated as the third woe. Or the third woe may be introduced by the seventh trumpet blast and continue on through the seven bowls of wrath (11:5-20:15).