

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

as revealed to the Apostle John • Lesson #50 - March 30th., 2025

Initial verses:

Revelation 11:1-11 “And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.”

• #1 GOD IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE TEMPLE & CHURCH (Rev 11:1-2)

Revelation 11:1-2 “And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.”

Pastor Rains: God is concerned about the reverence that should be in the worship auditorium. It should be holy and respected much more so than the parking lot, foyer or basement. We need to make sure that the carpet, the seats and the altar should all be as spotless as possible.

I Corinthians 11:22 “What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.”

• #2 WHO ARE THE TWO WITNESSES? (Rev 11:3-6)

Revelation 11:3-6 “And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.”

Pastor Rains: Here is where I'll stop and we'll consider the identity of these two great servants of the Lord. Chris already went into much detail about the prophet Elijah so I won't repeat that information. I will attempt to broaden our horizons with my remarks about the witnesses. First of all we see that both of them are "clothed in sackcloth" (Rev.11:3). This detail suggests the mourning attitude of both men's ministries.

• **CLOTHED IN SACKCLOTH** (Rev 11:3)

Revelation 11:3 "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth."

Pastor Rains: First of all we see that both of them are "clothed in sackcloth" (Rev.11:3). This detail suggests the mourning attitude of both men's ministries.

II Samuel 3:31 "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth."

II Kings 19:1-2 "And it came to pass, when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the LORD. And he sent Eliakim, which was over the household, and Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz."

• **TWO OLIVE TREES & CANDLESTICKS** (Rev 11:4)

Revelation 11:4 "These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth."

Pastor Rains: We'll first go to the Old Testament book of the prophet Zechariah:

Zechariah 4:1-14 "And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts. Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it. Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you. For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth. Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth."

Pastor Rains: We find that Joshua the High Priest and Zerubbabel the Governor described in Zechariah were determined by God to be his anointed ones for Israel at that time. These "candlesticks" stood by the Lord of the whole earth. These "olive trees" provide oil to keep the candlesticks lit. The spirit of God gives them and these future "witnesses" the power of God to do whatever God wishes and to fulfill their ministries. They are God's "light" in the darkest world we could possibly imagine.

• **SUPERNATURAL POWER TO PROTECT FROM HARM** (Rev 11:5-6)

Revelation 11:5-6 “And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.”

Pastor Rains: Fire breathing holy men who'll call down fire from Heaven & can't be harmed until it's their time to die in the streets of Jerusalem. This sounds much like Elijah. They can turn water into blood...this sounds like Moses. But, we can't know for sure if it's those two, God knows what he is doing and He didn't give John the Revelator explicit information as to these two actually are. There are some who say it's Elijah and Enoch from the Old Testament. Elijah and Enoch didn't die, Elijah rode a chariot of fire into Heaven! Not much is known about Enoch except he walked with God and was taken and his prophesy of the coming of the Lord with all of his saints in the book of Jude. People will say it's Elijah and Enoch nearly solely on Hebrews 9:27, believing these are the only two who didn't die according to the Bible.

II Kings 2:11 “And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.”

Hebrews 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

Genesis 5:24 “And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.”

Jude 14 “And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,”

Pastor Rains: Hebrews 9:27 has to be viewed as a general truth because the Bible clearly states that a whole generation of christians will escape physical death. This generation is the generation that experiences the translation, commonly known as the rapture when Jesus comes to gather his christians just before the Tribulation.

I Thessalonians 4:16-17 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

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