



**THE TWO**

**WITNESSES**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

On 8th January 1956 MAF pilot Nate Saint along with four other Missionaries Ed McCully, Roger Youderian, Pete Fleming, Jim Elliot, lost their lives at the hands of the Waodani Indian tribe they were trying to reach. Five days later their bodies were discovered and a recovery operation began.

Revelation 11:1-19



**Roger  
Youderian**

**Pete  
Fleming**

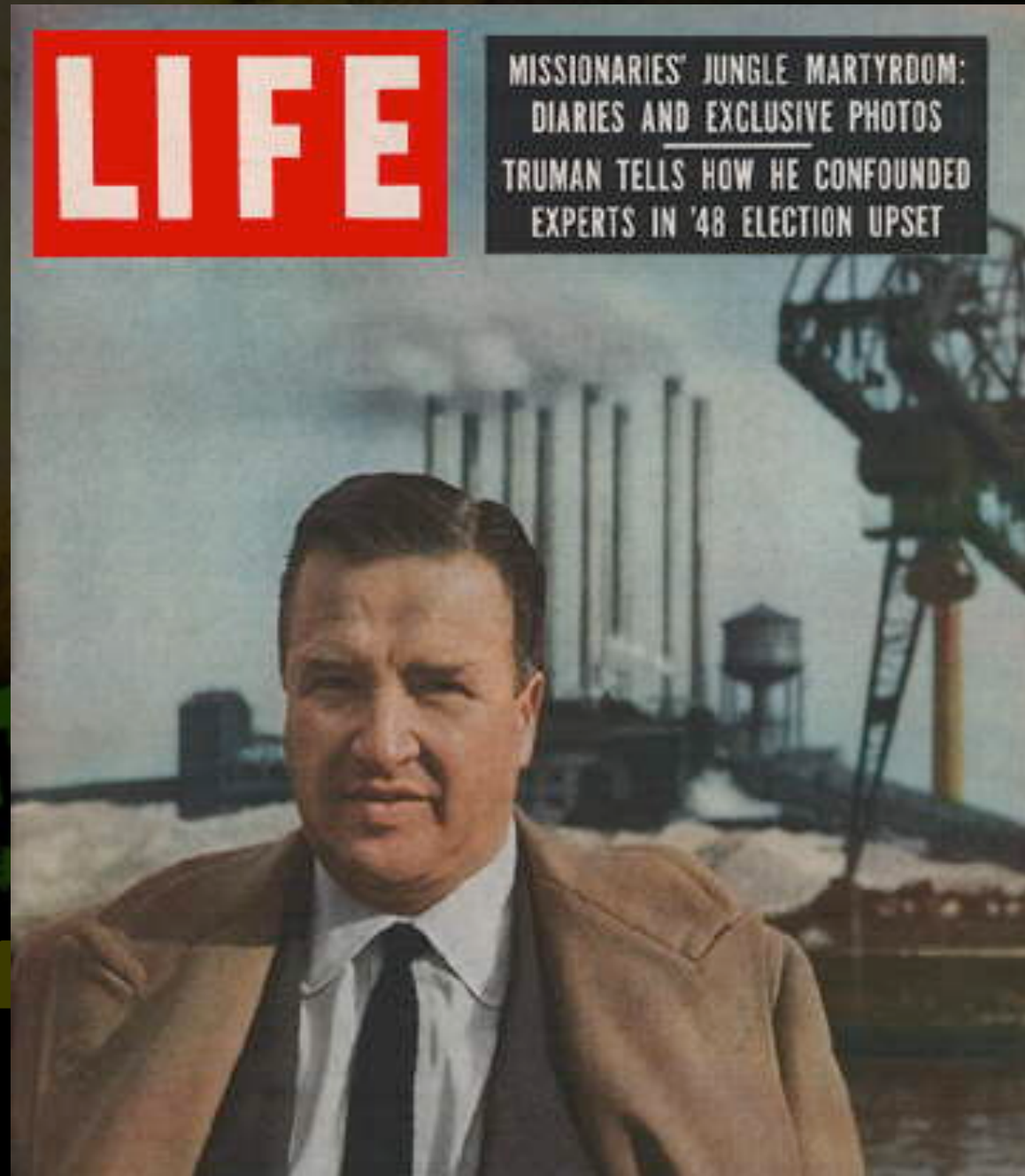
**Jim  
Elliot**

**Nate  
Saint**

**Ed  
McCully**

Just a few weeks later,  
their entire story was  
featured in Life  
Magazine - the foremost  
publication of its day.

Revelation 1



In the 1950's, the world mourned the death of the five young missionaries.

In Revelation 11, we are introduced to the Two Witnesses. These witnesses will become martyred and their death will be viewed by people all over the earth. Sadly, their deaths will be celebrated.

Revelation 11:1-19

**Revelation 11:1–2 (CSB) Then I was given a measuring reed like a rod, with these words: “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count those who worship there. But exclude the courtyard outside the temple. Don’t measure it, because it is given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:3–4 (CSB) I will grant my two witnesses authority to prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth.” These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:5–6 (CSB) If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and consumes their enemies; if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way. They have authority to close up the sky so that it does not rain during the days of their prophecy. They also have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every plague whenever they want.**

Revelation 11:1-19



**Revelation 11:7–8 (CSB) When they finish their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war on them, conquer them, and kill them. Their dead bodies will lie in the main street of the great city, which figuratively is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:9–10 (CSB) And some of the peoples, tribes, languages, and nations will view their bodies for three and a half days and not permit their bodies to be put into a tomb. Those who live on the earth will gloat over them and celebrate and send gifts to one another because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.**

**Revelation 11:11–12 (CSB) But after three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet. Great fear fell on those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” They went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them.**

Revelation 11:1-19

**Revelation 11:13–14 (CSB) At that moment a violent earthquake took place, a tenth of the city fell, and seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake. The survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe has passed. Take note: The third woe is coming soon!**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:15–16 (CSB) The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever. The twenty-four elders, who were seated before God on their thrones, fell facedown and worshiped God,**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

Revelation 11:17 (CSB) saying, We give you thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

THE TWO  
WITNESSES

Revelation 11:1-19

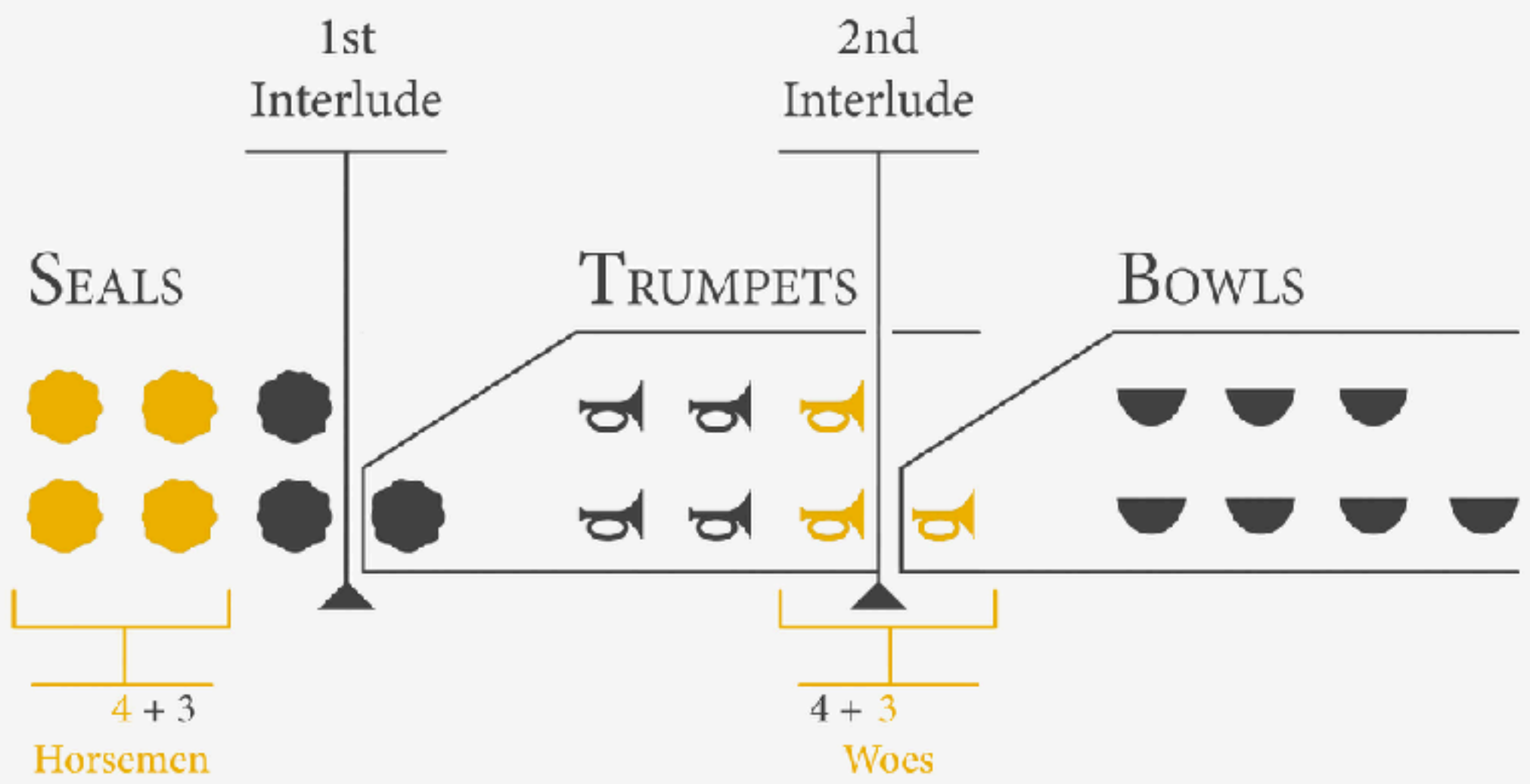
**Revelation 11:18 (CSB) The nations were angry, but your wrath has come. The time has come for the dead to be judged and to give the reward to your servants the prophets, to the saints, and to those who fear your name, both small and great, and the time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth.**

Revelation 11:1-19

**Revelation 11:19 (CSB) Then the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant appeared in his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and severe hail.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**





---

**Seals** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

**Trumpets** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

**Bowls** 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

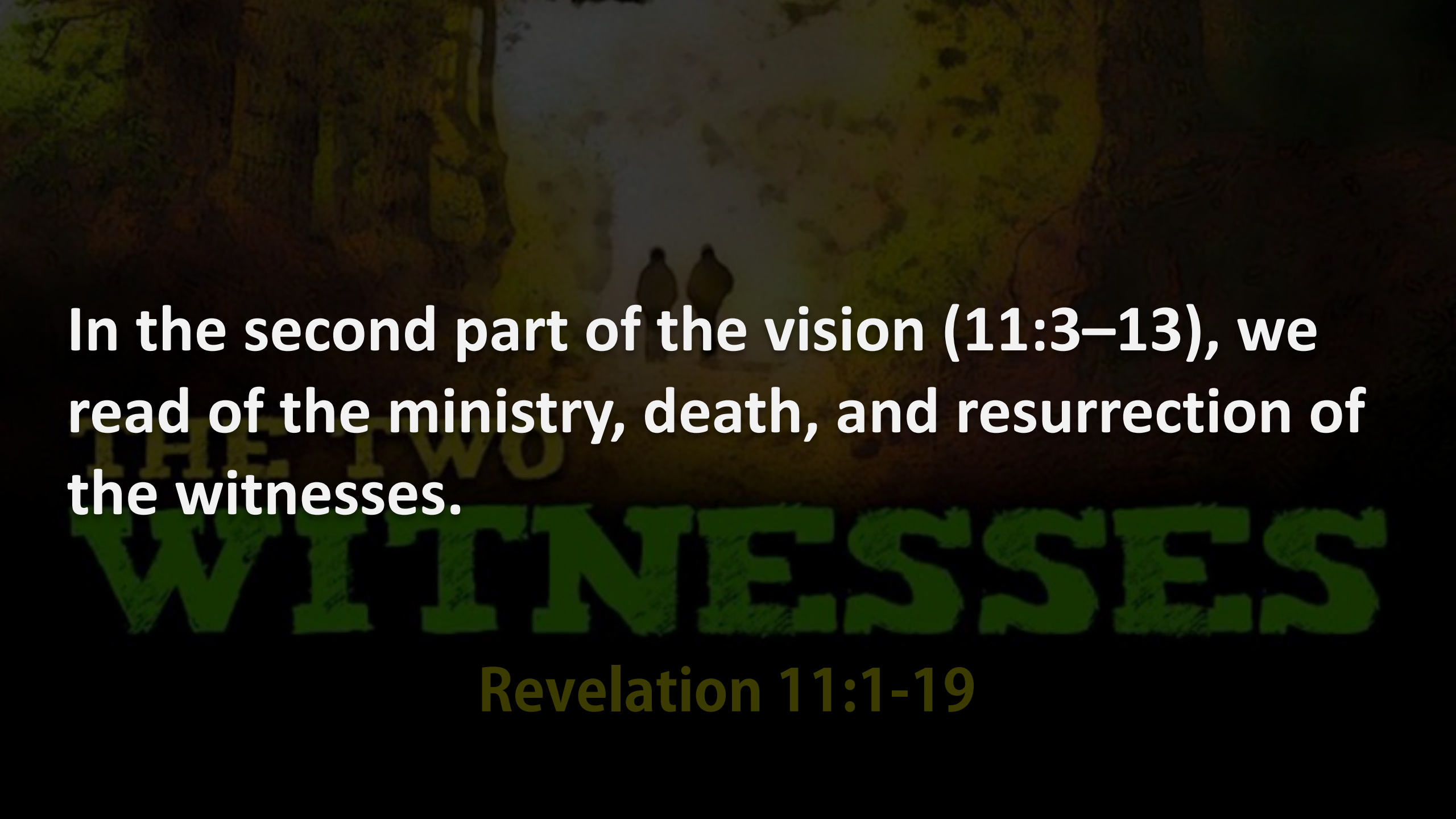
---

**Revelation 11 is an important and also difficult chapter to interpret and understand. It is a continuation of the interlude that began in 10:1 and continues through 14:20. It provides additional insight into significant events which occur during the Tribulation.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**This second vision has two parts: 11:1–2 and 11:3–13. Against the backdrop of Ezekiel’s measuring of the temple in Ezekiel 40–42, John too is called to measure the temple in 11:1–2. But unlike Ezekiel, John is commanded not to measure the outer court, which represents the believers in the tribulation where it is vulnerable to persecution and martyrdom.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

The background features a dark, atmospheric illustration of a landscape. In the center, two small figures are visible, standing on a path or road that leads towards a bright, hazy horizon. The overall color palette is dark with muted greens and yellows. Large, bold, green text is overlaid on the image, reading "THE TWO WITNESSES" and "Revelation 11:1-19".

**In the second part of the vision (11:3–13), we read of the ministry, death, and resurrection of the witnesses.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

As you observe the two witnesses...

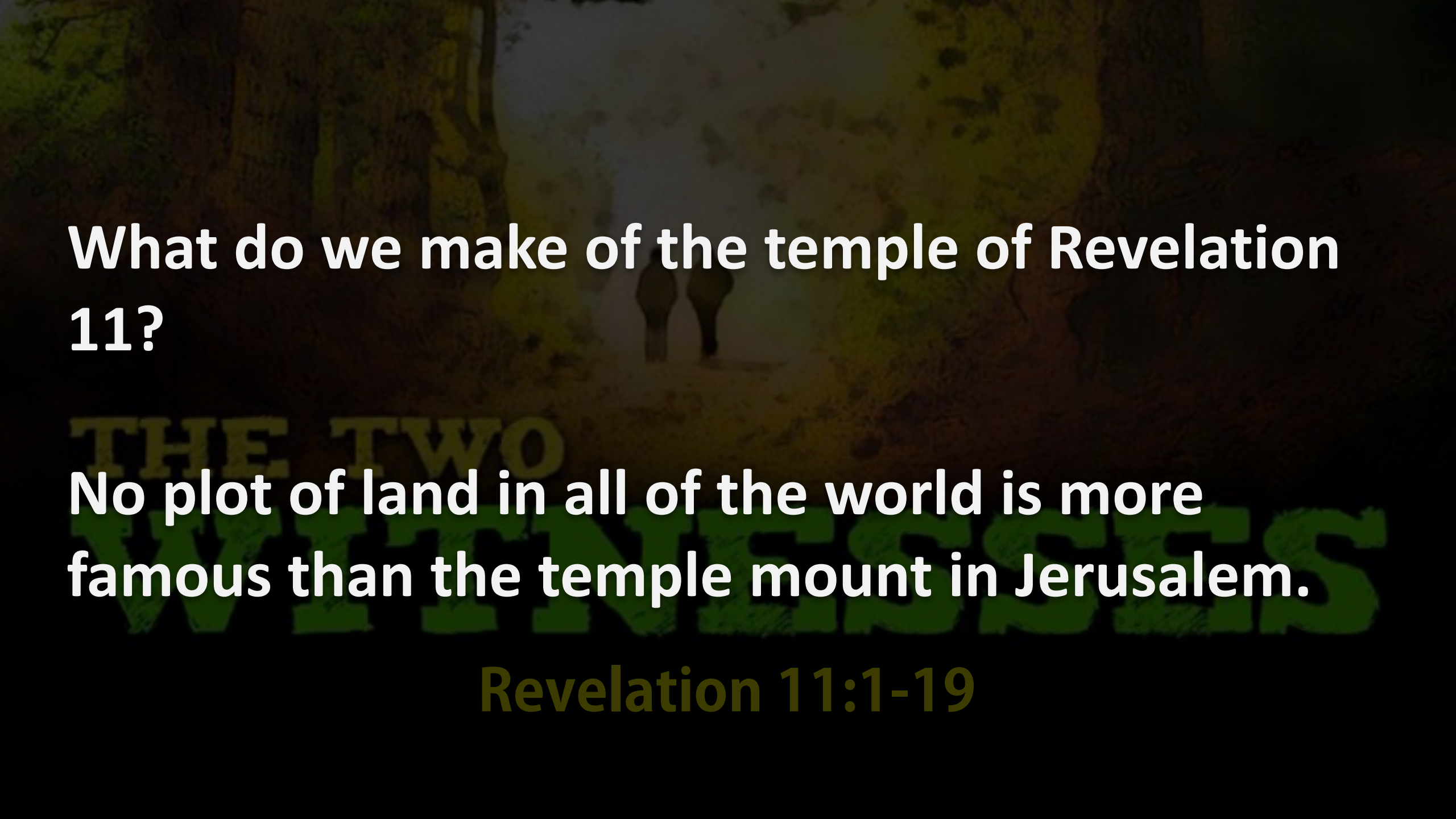
1. Survey their bold stand for Jesus (vs. 1-6)

# THE TWO WITNESSES

Revelation 11:1-19

**Revelation 11:1–2 (CSB) Then I was given a measuring reed like a rod, with these words: “Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count those who worship there. But exclude the courtyard outside the temple. Don’t measure it, because it is given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**



**What do we make of the temple of Revelation  
11?**

**No plot of land in all of the world is more  
famous than the temple mount in Jerusalem.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**



Historically 2 temples once occupied its sacred soil: 1) Solomon's temple – destroyed by the Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar in 587 BC. 2) Zerubbabel's temple – which was later enlarged to magnificent proportions by Herod the Great, and then destroyed by the Roman general, Titus, in AD 70.

Revelation 11:1-19







**Rev. 11:1–13 may be the most difficult section in the entire book to interpret. There are two views - a literal interpretation view and a figurative interpretation view of this passage. While some may balk at a figurative interpretation, Mounce reminds us, “symbolism is not a denial of historicity but a figurative method of communicating reality” (Revelation, 212).**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**The Literal Interpretation - There will be a rebuilt physical temple in Jerusalem during the tribulation.**

**The Figurative Interpretation - The temple figuratively represents the Christian community throughout the tribulation.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

Those who take Revelation 11 literally see 2 future temples that will occupy this spot in the Holy City: 1) A Tribulation temple – Believed to be referenced here in Revelation 11 - yet to be built which will be desecrated by Antichrist. 2) The millennial temple – described in Ezekiel 40-47.

Revelation 11:1-19

## Support for the symbolic view:

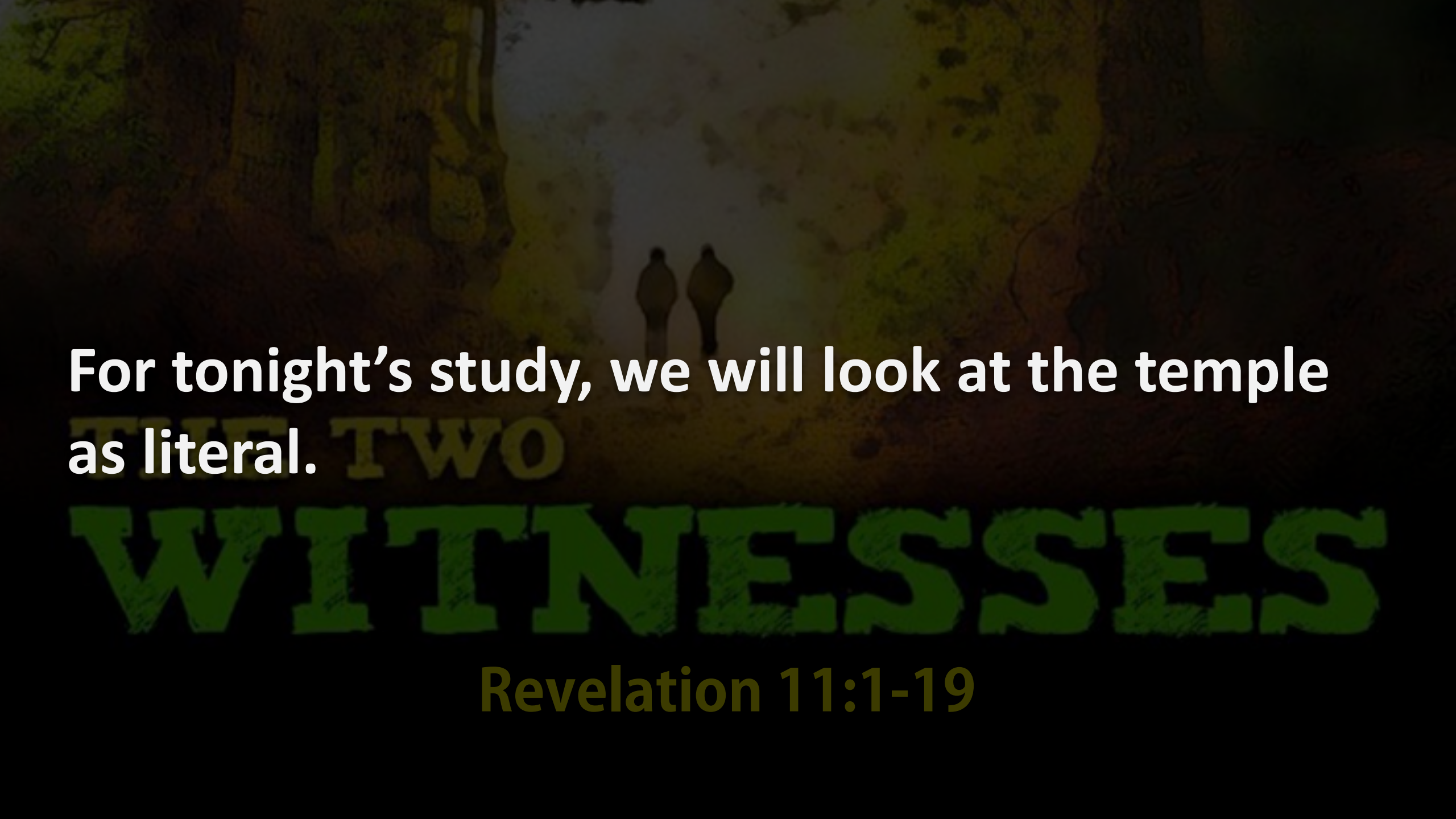
Revelation uses a figurative temple throughout the rest of the book (3:12; 7:15; 11:19; 14:15, 17; 15:5–6, 8; 16:1, 17; 21:22), also the New Testament uses the word Temple as a metaphor for the church. (e.g., 1 Cor. 3:16–17; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:19–22; Heb. 3:6; 1 Pet. 2:5).



## Support for the literal view:

While other passages may mention a temple where they clearly and precisely identify the symbolism involved, this passage does not have any identification with symbolism. Instead, this passage goes into significant detail which makes sense only if a literal, physical temple structure is in view.

Revelation 11:1-19

The background is a dark, atmospheric photograph of a temple interior. Two silhouetted figures stand in the center, looking towards a bright light source at the end of a long, narrow corridor. The walls are textured and appear to be made of stone or brick. The overall mood is mysterious and ancient.

For tonight's study, we will look at the temple  
as literal.

# THE TWO WITNESSES

Revelation 11:1-19

Revelation 11:1 (CSB) Then I was given a **measuring reed like a rod**, with these words: **“Go and measure** the temple of God and the altar, and count those who worship there.

John receives a hollow, bamboo-like **rod** that served as a measuring device, like our ruler, yardstick. **Go and measure** are imperatives of command.

Revelation 11:1-19



**John is instructed to measure the temple with a “reed like a measuring rod” (11:1). Tall reeds, like the ones growing behind the measuring reed on display in this photo and cut to three or six cubits (equivalent to five or ten feet), were used like yardsticks for construction projects.**

Revelation 11:1 (CSB) Then I was given a measuring reed like a rod, with these words: “Go and measure **the temple** of God and the altar, and count those who worship there.

The mention of **the Temple** here refers specifically to the Holy of Holies and the Holy Place, not the entire or greater temple complex.

Revelation 11:1-19

**Revelation 11:1 (CSB) ...“Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count those who worship there.**

**Measuring it signifies God’s ownership and possession. This is His property. God will watch over what belongs to Him.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

Interestingly, this area could only be entered by Jewish persons. Could the reinstatement of temple worship renew interest in Messiah?

This temple is yet to be built, but when it is, nothing will happen to it and those who worship within without the permission of God.

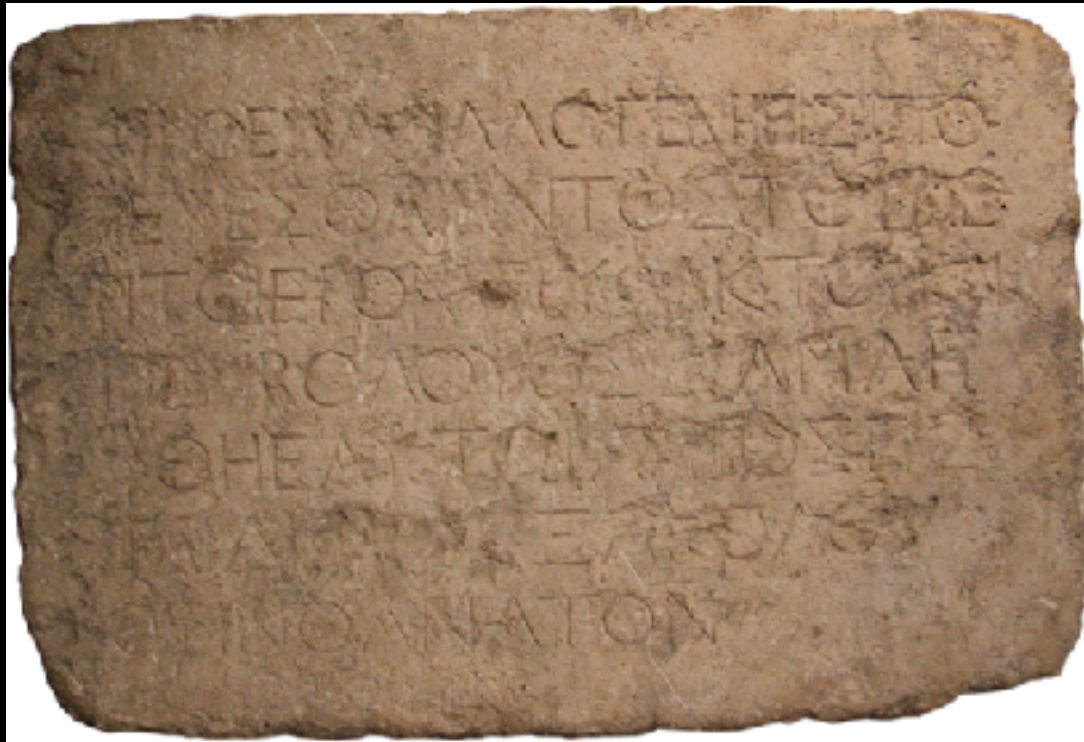
Revelation 11:1-19

Revelation 11:2 (CSB) But exclude **the courtyard outside** the temple...

**The courtyard outside** – refers to the court of the Gentiles. In the time of Jesus, Gentiles who attempted to move out of it and go further into the inner temple area were threatened with the death penalty.

Revelation 11:1-19





The outer court of the temple was not measured “because it has been given to the nations” (11:2). The Temple Mount in Jerusalem had clearly marked areas of access. This inscription from the first century AD forbids Gentiles from entering the more-sacred temple courtyard, and those who trespassed could be punished with death. It was posted on the stone fence that separated the court of the Gentiles from the inner temple courts.

Revelation 11:2 (CSB) ...**Don't measure it**,  
because it is given to the nations...

**Don't measure it** – those in this area do not  
belong to God. It is the possession of Gentiles,  
lost unbelieving pagans.

Revelation 11:1-19

Revelation 11:2 (CSB) ...**Don't measure it**,  
because it is given to the nations...

**Don't measure it** – This is God's plan and  
harkens back to Luke 21:24 where Jesus said,  
“and they will fall by the edge of the sword,  
and will be led captive into all nations; and  
Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the  
Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be  
fulfilled.”

Revelation 11:1-19

**Gentiles, following Antichrist, will tread (trample) the Holy City (Jerusalem) for 42 months. Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, the Turks, the British and the Arabs have all occupied and controlled Jerusalem. In the end, Antichrist too will reign, but his reign will be short (the last 3 ½ years). This is God's plan.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:3 (CSB) I will grant my two witnesses authority to prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in sackcloth.”**

**During the Tribulation God will have His prophets, His servants. 144,000 are listed in chapter 7. Two more are noted here, and what superlative witnesses they are.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

Revelation 11:3 (CSB) I will grant my two witnesses authority to prophesy for 1,260 days, dressed in **sackcloth**.”

Who – 2 witnesses

What – Prophecy in **sackcloth**, a rough, heavy, coarse cloth, worn as a sign of repentance, mourning, humility, grief. They mourn the world's sin and call all to repentance.

How long – 3 ½ years.

**Revelation 11:4 (CSB) These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth**

**Verse 4 is crucial. It looks back to the vision of Zechariah 4. Olive trees provide oil for lamps. Lampstands give light. Together they speak of the power of God working in His witnesses to bring the light of His Word.**

Revelation 11:1-19

**Who are they? 1) Old Testament and New Testament 2) The witnessing Church 3) Witnesses in general 4) Elijah & Enoch 5) Elijah & Moses 6) Zerubbabel & Joshua 7) Elijah & Elisha 8) James & John 9) Peter & Paul 10) Law & Prophets 11) Law & Gospel 12) Israel & Church 13) Israel & the Word 14) Church of Smyrna & Philadelphia 15) Spirit of Elijah & Moses**

Revelation 11:1-19



These two come in the spirit of Elijah and Moses and in the likeness of Joshua the high priest and Zerubbabel the governor of Zechariah 4.

THE TWO  
**WITNESSES**

Revelation 11:1-19

**Their miracles: similar to Moses and Elijah:**

**Elijah - Consume enemies with fire (2 Kings 1:10ff). - Shut heaven so that it does not rain (1 Kings 17:1).**

**Moses - Turn water to blood (Exodus 7:14-18). - Strike the earth with all plagues (Exodus 8:12).**

Revelation 11:1-19

**Their expectations: Many believed Moses (Deuteronomy 18:18) and Elijah (Malachi 4:5; cf. Matthew 11:14) would come at the end of history. Jesus said in Matthew 17:12-13 “Elijah is already come ... He spoke of John the Baptist.” (cf. also Matthew 11:14).**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:5 (CSB) If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and consumes their enemies; if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way.**

**Those two stand before the God of the earth on the earth of God preaching in His power, but also preaching in His protection.**

**Revelation 11:5 (CSB) If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and consumes their enemies; if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way.**

**Verse 5 is comprised of 2 statements which are parallel or synonymous in meaning: 1) If you try to harm them you will be devoured; 2) If you try to harm them you will be killed.**

**Revelation 11:5 (CSB) If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and consumes their enemies; if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way.**

**We came across fire-breathing demons in chapter 9, now we encounter fire-breathing prophets in chapter 11.**

Revelation 11:1-19

As fantastic as it sounds, there is no reason not to take “fire from their mouth” as literal, though the main idea is they cannot be harmed while on mission for God.

# THE TWO WITNESSES

Revelation 11:1-19

**Revelation 11:6 (CSB) They have authority to close up the sky so that it does not rain during the days of their prophecy. They also have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every plague whenever they want.**

**Verse 6 summarizes their ministry of misery.**



**Revelation 11:6 (CSB) They have authority to close up the sky so that it does not rain...**

**Reminiscent of the ministries of Moses and Elijah, these prophets of doom terrify the earth in word and deed, in their witness and in their work. Though the world would love to kill them, they are invulnerable in their service for God.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

The same is true for you and me. We are invulnerable and unstoppable for the duration of the ministry God has for us!

**WITNESSES**

Revelation 11:1-19

**As you observe the two witnesses...**

**1. Survey their bold stand for Jesus (vs. 1-6)**

**2. See the evil of the world (vs. 7-10)**

# **THE TWO WITNESSES**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:7 (CSB) 7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war on them, conquer them, and kill them.**

**Understand that God's testimony will be rejected.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:7 (CSB) ...conquer them, and kill them.**

**In John 15:18 & 20, Jesus said, “If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

After their 3 ½ year ministry is complete, God's 2 witnesses will discover the harsh reality of what our Master said.

# THE TWO WITNESSES

Revelation 11:1-19

**Revelation 11:7 (CSB) 7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war on them, conquer them, and kill them.**

**God's witnesses will be killed. Finished with their testimony – God's plan for them comes to an end.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

Revelation 11:7 (CSB) ...**the beast** that comes up out of the abyss...

**The beast** – 1st of 36 references in Revelation. This anticipates the more detailed description of him in chapter 13 & 17. He is the Antichrist of 1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 7. He is the man of sin in 2 Thessalonians 2. He is the beast out of the sea in Revelation 13:1-19



Revelation 11:7 (CSB) ...the beast that comes up  
**out of the abyss...**

Here the origin of his mission and power is emphasized: it is the Abyss. He is a Satan possessed and demon driven superman who will rule the world for a brief time. He will also kill and humiliate God's 2 servants at his first opportunity.

Revelation 11:1-19

Revelation 11:8 (CSB) Their **dead bodies will lie in the main street** of the great city, which figuratively is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

**Dead bodies in the street** – ultimate shame and dishonor in the ancient near east.

Revelation 11:1-19

**Deuteronomy 21:22-23 said, “And if a man has committed a sin worthy of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his corpse shall not hang all night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (for he who is hanged is accursed of God), so that you do not defile your land which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance.”**

**Revelation 11:8 (CSB) ...Sodom and Egypt,  
where also their Lord was crucified.**



**Place of death:**

**Sodom – a city symbolic of vile immorality and  
wickedness.**

**Egypt – a nation symbolic of oppression,  
slavery and idolatry.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:8 (CSB) ...where also their Lord was crucified.**

**Place of death:  
Jerusalem – where our Lord was crucified (no other identification than literal Jerusalem makes sense.)**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

Jerusalem in this day will be no better than Sodom or Egypt. A Jew hearing this would be shocked, scandalized, sent into a rage! Yet, her wickedness in that day will approach her wickedness when she crucified the sinless Son of God. These 2 superlative witnesses will be treated in the same shameful fashion as their Lord. A slave is not greater than his master.

**Revelation 11:9 (CSB) And some of the peoples, tribes, languages, and nations will view their bodies for three and a half days and not permit their bodies to be put into a tomb.**

**Peoples, tribes, tongues and nations (note again the all-encompassing 4-fold division) will see their dead bodies left in the street and exposed in shameful humiliation for 3 ½ literal days.**

**Revelation 11:10 (CSB) Those who live on the earth will gloat over them and celebrate and send gifts to one another because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.**

**They will rejoice and celebrate and send gifts!**

**Revelation 11:1-19**



**Revelation 11:10 (CSB) Those who live on the earth will gloat over them and celebrate and send gifts to one another...**

**A new holiday will be established in order to celebrate the deaths of the 2 men of God. What an incredible indictment of human depravity, wickedness, sinfulness and evil.**

**Incredibly, this is the only mention of rejoicing in the book of Revelation. Men will hate God so much that only in killing His precious servants are they made happy. They hated Him. They will hate us.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

Those who dwell on the earth are in high spirits. “Life is good” as far as they are concerned. Those 2 problem prophets are toast! It is a great day to be alive again, or, is it? Heaven’s take on all of this is radically different, and God steps forward and acts with unmistakable clarity. Get ready to “turn out the lights! The party is over!”

Revelation 11:1-19

**As you observe the two witnesses...**

**1. Survey their bold stand for Jesus (vs. 1-6)**

**2. See the evil of the world (vs. 7-10)**

**3. Stand firmly in the Kingdom of Christ (vs. 11-19)**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:11 (CSB) But after three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet. Great fear fell on those who saw them.**

**Breath of life (pneuma zoes) enters  
They stand – resurrection!!!  
Great fear – (phobos megas).**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

Revelation 11:11 (CSB) **Great** fear fell on those who saw them.

This is the 1st of 7 “**greats**” in the remainder of the chapter. There is great fear (v.11), voice (v.12), earthquake (v.13), voices (v.15), power (v.17), names (v.18), and hail (v.19).

Revelation 11:1-19

**Revelation 11:12 (CSB) 12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” They went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them.**

**They ascend into heaven while their enemies watch. Perhaps this will be televised worldwide?**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:13 (CSB) At that moment a violent earthquake took place, a tenth of the city fell, and seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake. The survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.**

**Verse 13a records God's judgement on evil Jerusalem. 7,000 people (literally names of men 7,000) are killed.**



**Revelation 11:13 (CSB) ...The survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.**

**Verse 13b records man's response – The rest (in Jerusalem): 1) were terrified and 2) gave glory to the God of heaven. This speaks of a genuine conversion of a great multitude of Jews in Jerusalem.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**John MacArthur points out that giving glory to the God of heaven is a mark of genuine worship in Revelation and elsewhere in Scripture (cf. 4:9; 14:7; 16:9; 19:7; Luke 17:18-19; Romans 4:20). “This passage, then, described the reality of the salvation of Jews in Jerusalem, as God fulfills His pledge of blessings for Israel (Romans 11:4-5, 26)” (p. 305).**

Revelation 11:1-19

**God deals with sinners. Some are recipients of His wrath. Some are graced with His mercy. “The second woe (6th trumpet) is past. Behold (look), the 3rd woe (7th trumpet) is coming quickly.”**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:15 (CSB) 15 The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.**

**These verses are transitional, and they also summarize all that is yet to come.**

**Revelation 11:15 (CSB) 15 The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.**

**There is a sense of absolute certainty concerning the events that are just ahead.**

**Revelation 11:15 (CSB) ...The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.**

**The 7th angel sounding brings us to the end, not the last event, but the final act of God's drama of retribution and redemption. Remember, the 7th trumpet contains the 7 bowls of chapter 16. The stage is cleared when this act is completed.**

**“The 7th trumpet sets in motion the final consummation of God’s redemptive plan for the present universe” (MacArthur, 308). So certain is all of this that heaven can loudly proclaim that the world’s kingdoms have become (it is a done deal!) the kingdoms of our Lord (the Father) and His Christ (the Son) [cf. Psalm 2:2]. Furthermore, this kingdom will see no end: He shall reign forever and ever.**

Revelation 11:1-19

**Revelation 11:16 (CSB) 16 The twenty-four elders, who were seated before God on their thrones, fell facedown and worshiped God**

**The 24 elders, representing the redeemed again fall on their faces and worship (cf. 5:8, 14; 7:11; 19:14). They also praise our wonderful Savior thanking Him as being 1) almighty, 2) eternal and sovereign.**



**Revelation 11:17 (CSB) saying, We give you thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.**

**They also praise our wonderful Savior thanking Him as being 1) almighty, 2) eternal and sovereign.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**





**The seventh angel sounds his trumpet, and the twenty-four elders along with other heavenly voices worship God. This illumination from a thirteenth-century AD manuscript known as the Dyson Perrins Apocalypse illustrates the scene.**

**Revelation 11:18 (CSB) The nations were angry, but your wrath has come. The time has come for the dead to be judged and to give the reward to your servants the prophets, to the saints, and to those who fear your name, both small and great, and the time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**In the end the saints will be rewarded.**

**Revelation 11:18 (CSB) The nations were angry, but your wrath has come. The time has come for the dead to be judged and to give the reward to your servants the prophets, to the saints...**

**God will reign supremely (v. 17). He will also judge righteously (v. 18) and reward graciously (v. 18).**

**Revelation 11:18 (CSB) The nations were angry...**

**The nations are defiant and enraged, angered and deeply hostile at the idea of God reigning. “Christianity is a religion for losers” (Ted Turner).**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:18 (CSB) The nations were angry...**

**Oh, how tragically wrong they are, and oh how they will realize it when His wrath comes and He judges the (spiritually) dead “and destroys those who dwell on the earth” (v. 18). How awful it will be for sinners. How wonderful it will be for the saved.**

**Revelation 11:18 (CSB) ...to give the reward to your servants the prophets, to the saints...**

**Those who serve Him and fear Him; prophet, saint, small or great, all shall be rewarded. In 22:12 Jesus says, “Behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.”**



The reward Jesus promises to believers is peace, rest and an eternal home in His kingdom. We will reign with Him in His millennial kingdom (20:4-6) and we shall be His people in the New Heaven, Earth, and Jerusalem forever (21:3).

Revelation 11:1-19

**Revelation 11:19 (CSB) 19 Then the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant appeared in his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and severe hail.**

**Verse 19 is a response to the hymn of praise in verses 17 & 18.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:19 (CSB) 19 Then the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant appeared in his temple...**

**The temple of God in heaven (contra that on the earth of v. 1) is opened and the ark of the covenant is seen. This symbolizes God's covenant promise in redemption. Believers are promised His presence and His blessings.**



**John sees the ark of the covenant in God's heavenly temple. Shown here is a Bar Kokhba coin (AD 133) depicting the Jerusalem temple with a view inside to the ark of the covenant.**

**Revelation 11:19 (CSB) ...There were flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and severe hail.**

**Unbelievers in contrast see only “lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.”**

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:19 (CSB) ...There were flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and severe hail.**

**Trouble is just around the corner and they, unlike us, will face it without Jesus. How great indeed is the lostness of any person who does not have Jesus as their Savior.**

## Key Themes of Revelation 11:1–13

- Although God's people are protected spiritually, they are still vulnerable to persecution.
- God's people are called to speak prophetically.

Revelation 11:1-19

## Key Themes of Revelation 11:1–13

- The world will often react with hostility to the church's prophetic witness.
- God promises to raise his people from the dead, reversing their temporary defeat at the hands of evil powers.
- The witnessing church possesses tremendous power and authority to carry out its mission.

Revelation 11:1-19



## Key Themes of Revelation 11:14–19

- One day God and his Messiah will establish their eternal kingdom and reign over all creation.
- At the final judgment, the wicked will face destruction while the faithful will be rewarded.
- Above all, the consummated kingdom means God's people will experience his presence.

Revelation 11:1-19

The background features a dark, textured illustration of a cave or underground passage. Two small, dark silhouettes of figures are standing in the distance, illuminated by a faint light source. The overall color palette is dark with greenish-yellow highlights.

# Old Testament Connections

## THE TWO WITNESSES

Revelation 11:1-19

**11:1 Then I was given a measuring reed like a rod, with these words:  
“Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count those  
who worship there.**

**Ezekiel 40:3 He brought me there, and I saw a man whose appearance  
was like bronze, with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand. He  
was standing by the city gate.**

**Zechariah 2:1–2 I looked up and saw a man with a measuring line in  
his hand. 2I asked, “Where are you going?” He answered me, “To  
measure Jerusalem to determine its width and length.”**

**Revelation 11:2** But exclude the courtyard outside the temple. Don't measure it, because it is given to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.

**Psalm 79:1** God, the nations have invaded your inheritance, desecrated your holy temple, and turned Jerusalem into ruins.

**Isaiah 63:18** Your holy people had a possession for a little while, but our enemies have trampled down your sanctuary.

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11: These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.**

**Zechariah 4:11–8:14 I asked him, “What are the two olive trees on the right and left of the lampstand?” 12And I questioned him further, “What are the two streams of the olive trees, from which the golden oil is pouring through the two golden conduits?” 13Then he inquired of me, “Don’t you know what these are?” “No, my lord,” I replied. 14“These are the two anointed ones,” he said, “who stand by the Lord of the whole earth.”**

**Zechariah 4:3 There are also two olive trees beside it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.”**

**Revelation 11:5** If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and consumes their enemies; if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way.

**2 Samuel 22:9** Smoke rose from his nostrils, and consuming fire came from his mouth; coals were set ablaze by it.

**2 Kings 1:10** Elijah responded to the captain, “If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.” Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty men.

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:6** They have authority to close up the sky so that it does not rain during the days of their prophecy. They also have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every plague whenever they want.

**1 Kings 17:1** Now Elijah the Tishbite, from the Gilead settlers, said to Ahab, “As the Lord God of Israel lives, in whose presence I stand, there will be no dew or rain during these years except by my command!”

**Exodus 7:17** This is what the Lord says: Here is how you will know that I am the Lord. Watch. I am about to strike the water in the Nile with the staff in my hand, and it will turn to blood.

**Revelation 11:7** When they finish their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war on them, conquer them, and kill them.

**Daniel 7:21** As I was watching, this horn waged war against the holy ones and was prevailing over them

**Daniel 7:3** Four huge beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.

**Revelation 11:1-19**



**Revelation 11:8** Their dead bodies will lie in the main street of the great city, which figuratively is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

**Isaiah 1:10** Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

**Revelation 11:1-19**

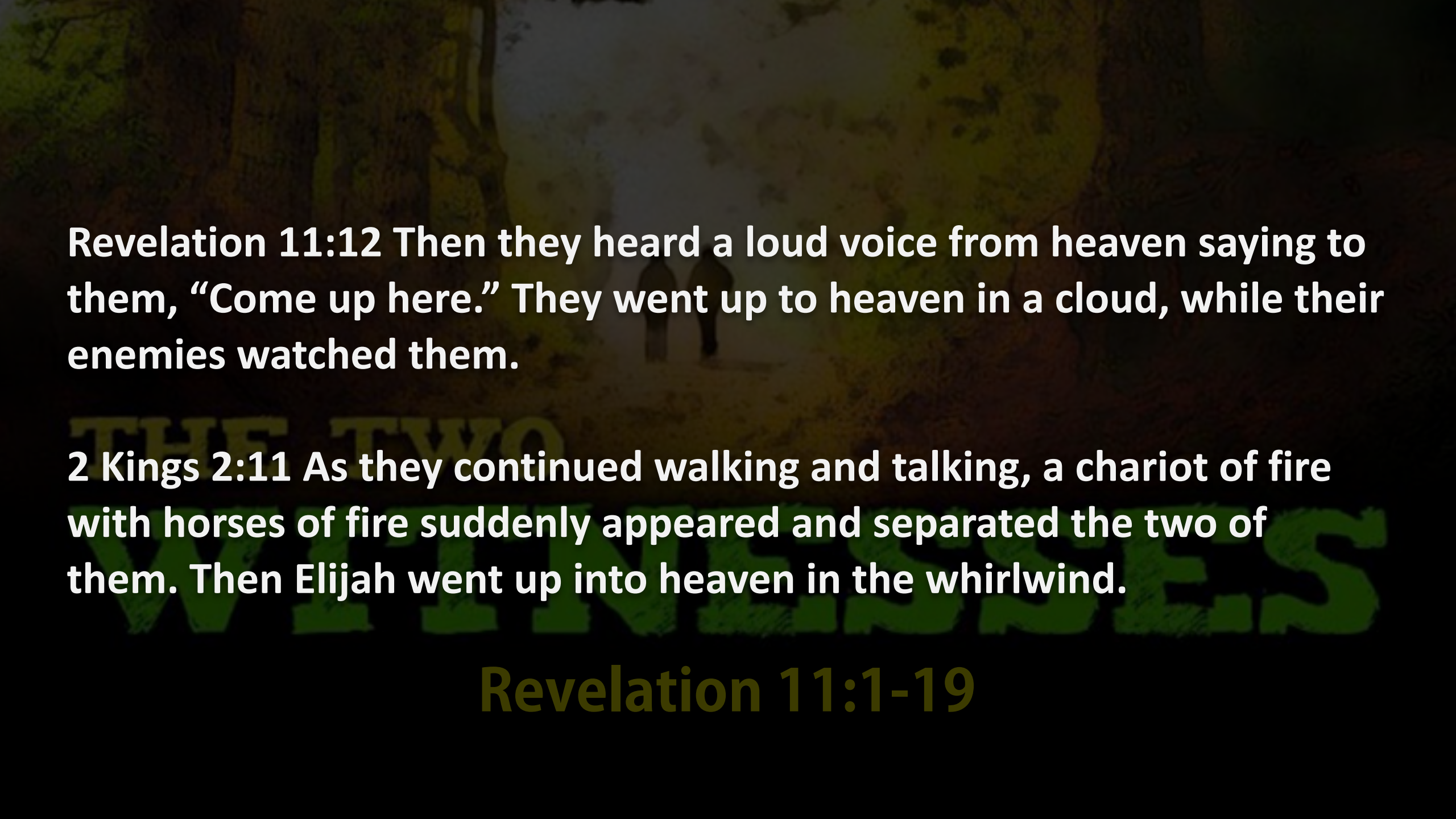
**Revelation 11:11** But after three and a half days, the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet. Great fear fell on those who saw them.



**Ezekiel 37:10** So I prophesied as he commanded me; the breath entered them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army.

**Ezekiel 37:5** This is what the Lord God says to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you will live.

Revelation 11:1-19



**Revelation 11:12** Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here.” They went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies watched them.

**2 Kings 2:11** As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire with horses of fire suddenly appeared and separated the two of them. Then Elijah went up into heaven in the whirlwind.

**Revelation 11:1-19**

**Revelation 11:13** At that moment a violent earthquake took place, a tenth of the city fell, and seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake. The survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

**Ezekiel 38:19–20** I swear in my zeal and fiery wrath: On that day there will be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. 20The fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals of the field, every creature that crawls on the ground, and every human being on the face of the earth will tremble before me. The mountains will be demolished, the cliffs will collapse, and every wall will fall to the ground.

**Revelation 11:15** The seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever.

**Psalm 10:16** The Lord is King forever and ever; the nations will perish from his land.

**Psalm 22:28** for kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules the nations.

**Revelation 11:1-19**

Revelation 11:17 saying, We give you thanks, Lord God, the Almighty, who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.

Exodus 3:14 God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you."

Revelation 11:1-19

**Revelation 11:18** The nations were angry, but your wrath has come. The time has come for the dead to be judged and to give the reward to your servants the prophets, to the saints, and to those who fear your name, both small and great, and the time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth.

**Psalm 115:13** he will bless those who fear the Lord—small and great alike.

**Psalm 2:1** Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?

Revelation 11:1-19

**Revelation 11:19** Then the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant appeared in his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and severe hail.

**1 Kings 8:1** At that time Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, all the tribal heads and the ancestral leaders of the Israelites before him at Jerusalem in order to bring the ark of the Lord's covenant from the city of David, that is Zion.

**1 Kings 8:6** The priests brought the ark of the Lord's covenant to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the most holy place beneath the wings of the cherubim.



The background of the slide is a dark, textured image of a cave or tunnel. Two small, dark silhouettes of figures are standing in the distance, illuminated by a light source from behind them, creating a dramatic effect. The overall color palette is dark with shades of brown, black, and a hint of green.

## Conclusion

THE TWO

**WITNESSES**

Revelation 11:1-19

It seems the best Hollywood can do when it comes to heaven is to depict a user-centered virtual-reality machine. In movies like *What Dreams May Come* or *The Lovely Bones*, paradise is pictured as a place where whatever we can imagine comes to be. In essence, these films portray heaven as a place where we get to be a god.

**Revelation 11:1-19**

ROBIN WILLIAMS

THE END IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

# WHAT DREAMS MAY COME

A FILM BY  
VINCENT WARD



ACADEMY AWARD® WINNER FOR  
"BEST SPECIAL EFFECTS"

DVD  
UNIVERSAL



THE STAGE PREMIERE  
OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS NOVEL

# THE LOVELY BONES

BY ALICE SEBOLD  
ADAPTED BY BRYONY LAVERY  
DIRECTED BY MELLY STILL



**How very far removed from the biblical picture of eternity! In Scripture, the great joy of heaven is not eternal life in a self-made world but abundant life in the presence of a reality-defining God.**

**Unlike humans, who would probably max out our creativity after one hundred years of innovation, our God is infinitely beautiful, majestic, powerful, and creative. In his presence, we will never stop experiencing new, joyous realities.**

**Revelation 11:1-19**



**THE TWO**

**WITNESSES**

**Revelation 11:1-19**