

The Prophecy Series: The Book of Revelation

19 - THE TWO WITNESSES AND THE SEVENTH TRUMPET (REVELATION 11:1-19)

I. The Measuring of the Temple (Revelation 11:1-2)

A. What John is to Measure (Revelation 11:1)

- The issue is not a determination of actual dimensions but a conveying of truth.
- To measure something signifies ownership of the object.
- The measurement marks Israel, represented by the Temple, as belonging to God.

B. What John is not to Measure (Revelation 11:2)

- This refers to the oppression of Jerusalem for 3 ½ years by the nations.

II. The Ministry of the Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:3-6)

A. The Commissioning of the Two (Revelation 11:3)

- Two witnesses are commission to proclaim God's word for 3 ½ years.

Biblical Note: Two Witnesses

The two witnesses are described as a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy. They are described as the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of all the earth (Revelation 11:4). There has been much speculation concerning the identity of the two witnesses. There are two main views concerning their identity. (1) They are two men sent to prophesy to Jews during the tribulation. Various names of Old Testament believers have been proposed for the two witnesses. (a) Enoch and Elijah - This is because both did not experience death as they were taken to heaven (Genesis 5:24; 2 Kings 2:11). (b) Moses and Elijah - This is because the actions of the two witnesses bear much resemblance to Moses and Elijah. Moses and Elijah also appeared with Jesus at his transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-7). (2) They symbolize the witnessing church.

B. Their Identity (Revelation 11:4)

- John points out that they are a fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy.

Scripture Zechariah 4:1-14

C. God's Protection of the Two (Revelation 11:5)

- Those who wish to harm the two prophets will be killed.

D. Their Power (Revelation 11:6)

- They will demonstrate power through great supernatural signs.

III. The Death of the Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:7-10)

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A. The Killing of the Two (Revelation 11:7)

- When their ministry is complete, the Antichrist will kill them.

B. The Location of Their Bodies (Revelation 11:8)

- Their bodies will be left to exposure in Jerusalem.

C. The World-Wide Witness and Celebration (Revelation 11:9-10)

- The world will see their bodies and celebrate their deaths.

IV. The Resurrection of the Two Witnesses (Revelation 11:11-12)

A. The Resurrection of the Two (Revelation 11:11)

- Great fear grips the world as the two witnesses come back to life.

B. The Ascension of the Two (Revelation 11:12)

- The two witnesses are called back to heaven.

V. The Resulting Judgment of God on Jerusalem (Revelation 11:13-14)

A. The Great Earthquake (Revelation 11:13)

- A great earthquake strikes Jerusalem and kills 7,000 people.

B. The Proclamation (Revelation 11:14)

- The writer proclaims that two woes have past but there is still one more.

VI. The Sounding of the Seventh Trumpet (Revelation 11:15-19)

A. The Sounding of the Trumpet (Revelation 11:15a)

- The seventh angel sounds his trumpet.

B. The Proclamation (Revelation 11:15b)

- The angel proclaims the dominion of Christ over the earth.

C. The Worship of God (Revelation 11:16-18)

- God is worshiped and ascribed sovereignty as the second coming is foreshadowed.

D. The Ark of the Covenant (Revelation 11:19)

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- John sees the Ark which symbolizes God's communion with the redeemed.