

In chapter 9, the 5th angel sounded his trumpet and those who've rejected God and His Son were tormented for 5 months by the demonic locusts. John then heard, *'One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.'*

Then, right after, a voice said, *'Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. <sup>15</sup> And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.'*

Those 4 angels will then lead an army of demonic 'horsemen' numbering 200 million which will kill a 'third of mankind' by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.'

That was the first part of the 2nd 'Woe;' then, *'... the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: <sup>21</sup> Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.'*

They would not repent of their 'sorceries;' the Greek word is: pharmakeia: drugs; they refused to give up their drugs... have you wondered why illicit drugs have suddenly become legal... all illicit drugs... pot, heroin, cocaine, psychedelic mushrooms... all of them... they have always had a single purpose: the enslavement of men. The World is being prepared to receive their longed for leader, the Antichrist; his one-World government will use drugs as one of the ways to control large populations; make drugs legal, then make them widely available, then make them free as part of the government's universal minimum payments to everyone; then, all of those people, addicted to various drugs, will do anything to keep their favorite drugs flowing, even to the point of being eagerly willing and first in line to take their beloved leader's mark of loyalty on their right hand or forehead.

One woe has passed; the second was begun.

As we begin Revelation chapter 11, we see a continuation of the 'interlude,' which began in chapter 10, between the 1st woe and the end of the 2nd woe.

**Something to remember:** these people we are reading about... all these suffering through the Tribulation... all who will finally turn to Jesus Christ in faith to be martyred and all those who never will, resulting in their deaths and eternal damnation in the Lake of Fire... all these are the people around us now... everyone who has heretofore rejected God's offer of Salvation... the times we are studying now could be only days, weeks or months away. Our neighbors and coworkers and relatives... they are the ones who will suffer these terrors.

***The Seal Judgments, the Trumpet Judgments, the first and second Woes... these could all begin next week; they could begin tomorrow. The Antichrist is alive and waiting his call. He's probably already known to us.***

**Chapter 11:1:** *'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.'*

A long, straight reed, hollow like bamboo and very light weight, was used like our tape measure; perhaps it would be 10 cubits long: 15 feet.

This would be no easy job; it would take John some, long time to accomplish. This would be the Temple of the Tribulation time, the one which is ready to be quickly built, even now.

**Verse 2:** *'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.'*

This is how I believe will this play out: soon, five things will occur close together, even simultaneously.

1. The Russian/Islam coalition will attempt to invade and conquer Israel and God will destroy 5/6's of those armies. Ezekiel 38, 39
2. The Rapture will occur just before or just after that. 2 Thes. 2 / 1 Cor. 15 and many, many other verses.
3. The Antichrist will rise to power, claiming to have been the one who saved Israel. John 5:43

4. The Antichrist confirms a 7-year peace agreement between Israel and the Muslim nations. Isa. 28 / Dan. 9

5. Israel will, seemingly, receive the Antichrist as their long awaited Messiah or, at the very least, as a 'Righteous Gentile, their protector.' He will be welcomed into Israel and Gentiles will be allowed into the outer court of the soon to be rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem. Perhaps, as a condition of the 7-year treaty, Jerusalem will be declared an 'International City,'

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

Wearing sackcloth, a rough fabric made from camel or goat hair, signifies mourning; even in their fiery judgments, they are mourning what has become of their beloved Israel which is, during the time of their ministry, following after the Antichrist instead of their true Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember, Jesus said: *'I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, (Antichrist) him ye will receive.'* John 5:43

These two will prophesy, warning of, and calling down, God's judgments during the first 3 1/2 years of the 7-year Tribulation: 3.5 years x 360 days = 1260 days = *a thousand two hundred and threescore days*. This is based on 360 day prophetic years.

There is debate as to whether these two are prophesying and bringing judgments during the first half of the Tribulation or the second half; I see it as clearly being during the first half: John is told to 'measure,' to count the worshippers in the Temple. There won't be any worshippers in the Temple after the midpoint, after the Abomination of Desolation, after Antichrist declares himself to be god and sit in the Temple as god: *'Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; <sup>4</sup> Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.'* 2 Thes 2:3 *'Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet **before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:** <sup>6</sup> And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.'* Mal 4:5

The great and terrible Day of the Lord is the 2nd half of the Tribulation, the Great Tribulation. It's likely that the witness of these two, their preaching, along with that of the 144,000, will be responsible for the conversion of many Jews and Gentiles; they will also be warning of the developing one-world government of the increasingly popular leader who will become the Antichrist.

It's possible that these two will be the ones, on Earth, calling forth the Judgments of the 7 Seals and the 7 Trumpets but we aren't told for sure.

These two witnesses have long been the subject of much conjecture as to who they really are and whether their ministry is during the first or the second half of the Tribulation. Some believe them to be Enoch and Elijah; Heb. 9:27 reads: *'And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment...'* Enoch and Elijah never died; both were miraculously taken up into Heaven. Elijah was taken up in a fiery chariot: 2 Kngs 2, and Enoch was taken up by God: *'Enoch walked with God and he was not for God took him:'* what a thing! What a relationship Enoch must have had with God for all of his 365 years. Gen. 5 Enoch was raptured as we will be, one day very soon and although we won't be able to go up into Heaven in a fiery chariot, we won't be disappointed. Enoch and Elijah, never having died, physically, is the main reason many believe them to be the identity of these 'Two Witnesses,'

However, God is more than able to make any exceptions whenever and however He chooses: Moses did die: *'So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> And he (God) buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Bethpeor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day.'* Deut 34:5

Moses died and, yet, in Jesus ministry, Moses came back up from Paradise onto the Mount of Transfiguration: *'And it came to pass about eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into*

a mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup> And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering. <sup>30</sup> And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias (Elijah): <sup>31</sup> Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.' Luke 9:28

Even though Moses died, He was brought back up on the *Mount of Transfiguration*. So we see God can do anything: even, bringing the dead back to life. Also, when Saul visited the witch at Endor, she was able to call up Samuel's spirit; the Bible does not say that this was not Samuel; it reads as though it really is Samuel.

That said, most believe that these two witnesses in Rev. 11 are, in fact, Moses and Elijah; they had been God's two most courageous and effective ministers of His judgment and we'll see that the plagues these two call forth are similar to those brought by Moses and Elijah.

**Verse 4:** *'These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.'*

This references the prophecy in Zechariah 3-4. That prophecy had a nearer fulfillment in the persons of Zerubbabel and Joshua the High Priest with the rebuilding of the Second Temple, but it also has a far future, End Times, our times, fulfillment in these two witnesses:

*'Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH (The Lord Jesus Christ, Messiah)... and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day (When Jesus Christ returns at Armageddon and Israel turns to Him in faith)... In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree.... 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... 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... For who hath despised the day of small things?... 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. <sup>14</sup> Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the LORD of the whole earth.'* Zechariah 3 and 4

These two 'witnesses' are highly honored men of God who proved themselves faithful under the hardest of circumstances but even then, during the Earthly time of Moses and Elijah, God was not finished with them nor will He ever be finished with us: we will, forever, work and minister as we rule and reign with the Lord Jesus Christ for 1000 years and then forever, ruling over His Kingdom, the increase of which will never end.

Moses and Elijah, during their Earthly ministries, were being used by God at that time and in that place but they were also being specially prepared for this, their most difficult ministry yet when they will be hated and despised by all until they are finally murdered and left to lie in the street of Jerusalem for 3.5 days.

**Verse 5:** *'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.'*

This is not allegory; this is just what it says: if anyone threatens or attacks these two, actual fire will shoot forth from their mouths, killing their enemies.

**Verse 6:** *'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.'*

Here is another reason to believe that these two are, in fact, Elijah and Moses; Elijah was famous for calling down the fire of God and for causing there to be no rain for several years while Moses' most famous miracle/plague was in causing the waters of Egypt to become blood.

But how, you ask, could people stay alive if all the water was turned to blood? When God caused the waters of Egypt to become blood, it was for 1 week and, even then, the Egyptians were able to find water by digging

down near the river; the groundwater was not turned to blood: *'And all the Egyptians digged round about the river for water to drink; for they could not drink of the water of the river. <sup>25</sup> And seven days were fulfilled, after that the LORD had smitten the river.'* Ex 7:24

Even in the midst of such a terrible plague, God was still merciful. Those living during the Tribulation can only hope He will continue to be so... but it doesn't sound like He has any plans for mercy when He finally begins judging the World in earnest.

***Verse 7:*** *'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. <sup>8</sup> 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.'*

Let's look, again, at the timing during the Tribulation: the Tribulation will begin with the signing of the 7-year treaty. The Antichrist will not, yet, be *'the Beast'*; he will appear to be the wonderful leader and savior of the World. These two witnesses will be preaching and prophesying from Jerusalem during the first half of the Tribulation; they will probably be the ones to call forth God's judgments in the Seal Judgments and the first 6 Trumpet Judgments while warning of far, far worse to come.

Someone ascends out of the bottomless pit and is then able to finally kill these two witnesses.

At the midpoint of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will enter the Temple and declare himself to be god and that all must worship him as god. Satan will, then, personally enter the Antichrist and only then will God allow the two witnesses to be killed.

The beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit is, obviously, not the human person who then becomes the Antichrist; no human's soul came up out of the bottomless pit... someone/something else comes up from there. Who do you suppose it is?

He's better known by a different title: *the son of perdition*.

Only two people in the entire Bible have that title. First, when the disciples were seeking God's direction as to who should become the 12th disciple, they prayed: *'Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen, <sup>25</sup> That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, **that he might go to his own place.**'* Acts 1:24 Jesus prayed: *'While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but **the son of perdition**; that the scripture might be fulfilled.'* John 17:12 During the Last Supper: *'Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. <sup>27</sup> And after the sop **Satan entered into him.** Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.'* John 13:26

During the Last Supper, Satan entered into Judas who is called, the Son of Perdition. After his suicide, Judas, 'went to his own place.' The only other person called the Son of Perdition is the Antichrist. The same spirit who entered Judas will, then, rise up and enter into the Antichrist: ' 2 Thes 2:3

Satan entered Judas until he was done with him; Satan will also enter the Antichrist until he is done with him.