

Revelation

The Two Witnesses—Revelation 11:1–14

Topics: Ambassadors, Angels, Celebration, Death, Enemies, Heaven, Judgment, Miracles, Persecution, Resurrection, Unbelievers, Witnessing, Worship

Open It

1. Why are some people so turned off by “fire and brimstone” type preachers?
2. Why do you think so many people are pleased to learn of the moral failures of prominent Christians?

Revelation 11:1–14 (ESV)

¹Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, “Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there,
²but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months.
³And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”
⁴These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.
⁵And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed.
⁶They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire.
⁷And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them,
⁸and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified.
⁹For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb,
¹⁰and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth.
¹¹But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.
¹²Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here!” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.
¹³And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.
¹⁴The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.

Explore It

3. What was John told to do with the object he had been given? (11:1)
4. What part of the temple was John to exclude from his “fact-finding mission”? (11:2)
5. What important “end times” individuals are mentioned in this passage and what will be their mission? (11:3–6)

6. What special protection will be given the ones called the “two olive trees and the two lampstands”? (11:4–5)
7. What supernatural powers will the two witnesses possess? (11:6)
8. What will happen to the two witnesses when they have finished their God-ordained ministry? (11:7)
9. What will take place in the three and a half days after the two witnesses die? (11:8–10)
10. In John’s vision, what happened three and half days after the two witnesses were killed by the beast? (11:11–12)
11. What catastrophic events will follow the two witnesses? (11:13)

Get It

12. What encouragement for Christians today does the story of the two witnesses offer?
13. How do you explain the response of the people described in this passage?

Apply It

14. How can you be a witness this week to those who don’t know Christ?