

“The Ministry, Martyrdom, and Resurrection of the Two Witnesses”
Revelation 11:7-14

Last Sunday: Measuring the Temple and the Two Witnesses

Today: The Ministry, Martyrdom, and Resurrection of the Two Witnesses

Three themes of Revelation 11:

1. As our Great Shepherd went through suffering, so His sheep must go through suffering.
2. As those in the past who reject the gospel were punished (AD 70), so those who reject the gospel in the future will be punished.
3. As our Great Shepherd was victorious, so His sheep will ultimately be victorious.

Outline:

- 11:7-10, The Ministry and Martyrdom of the Two Witnesses
- 11:11-14, The Resurrection of the Two Witnesses

11:3-6/ Review from last week... Who or what are the two witnesses according to the four views?

1. Preterist (**past**): Symbolic for civil and religious government in AD 70
2. Historicist (**timeline**): The small number of believers who stood against the pope.
3. Idealist (**spiritual**): Symbolic for the church witnessing.
4. Futurist (**future**): Symbolic for two witnesses who prophesy and perform tremendous miracles: Enoch and Elijah, Moses and Elijah, or two unknown men of the future

11:7/ “And when they have finished their testimony...”

Testimony = μαρτυρία (witness). This is their ministry; ours too. Important questions that many in the church get wrong:

1. Are you in the ministry?
2. When did God call you to the ministry?
3. What is the ministry of these two witnesses?

11:8/ “And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city...”

Three characteristics of the great city:

1. Like Sodom: Immoral, didn’t help the poor and needy (Ez. 16:49), hostile to God’s people
2. Like Egypt: Idolatrous and hostile to God’s people
3. “Where their Lord was crucified”

11:9-10/ What is the Beast, the martyrdom, and the resurrection of the two witnesses according to the four views?

1. Preterist (**past**): Symbolic for civil and religious government in AD 70.
 - a. The Beast: any anti-Christian force of the first century
 - b. The witnesses’ martyrdom: the destruction of law and religion in Israel’s society
 - c. The witnesses’ resurrection: the return of law and order (no more anarchy)
2. Historicist (**timeline**): The small number of believers who stood against the pope
 - a. The Beast: the pope

- b. The witnesses' martyrdom: the death of believers and the refusal to bury them referred to believers like John Wycliff and John Huss.
 - c. The witnesses' resurrection: the Protestant Reformation
- 3. Idealist (**spiritual**): Symbolic for the church witnessing
 - a. The Beast: The anti-Christian powers in the world
 - b. The witnesses' martyrdom: the death of believers throughout the centuries
 - c. Their witnesses' resurrection: the honoring of believers throughout the centuries
- 4. Futurist (**future**): Symbolic for two actual men who prophesy and perform miracles.
 - a. The Beast: Satan or the antichrist (Rev. 13:1)
 - b. The witnesses' martyrdom: the prophets' death
 - c. Their witnesses' resurrection: the resurrection of the two men

Four points of application:

- 1. **Recognize** you are presently one of His witnesses (Acts 1:8), what an honor!
 - a. Oswald "Os" Guinness, "In terms of influence, the problem is not that most Christians aren't where they should be, but that they aren't what they should be where they are."
 - b. Charles Spurgeon, "The Bible is not the light of the world, it is the light of the Church. But the world does not read the Bible, the world reads Christians!"
- 2. **Pray** for boldness (Eph. 6:9-10), clarity (Col. 4:4), opportunity (Col. 4:3)
- 3. **Trust** that the Lord will direct your steps. Pr. 16:9, "The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."
- 4. **Lift** up your eyes. Jn. 4:35, "Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes and see that the fields are white for harvest."