

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION
SESSION 17 – CHAPTER 11 PART 1 VERSES :1-12

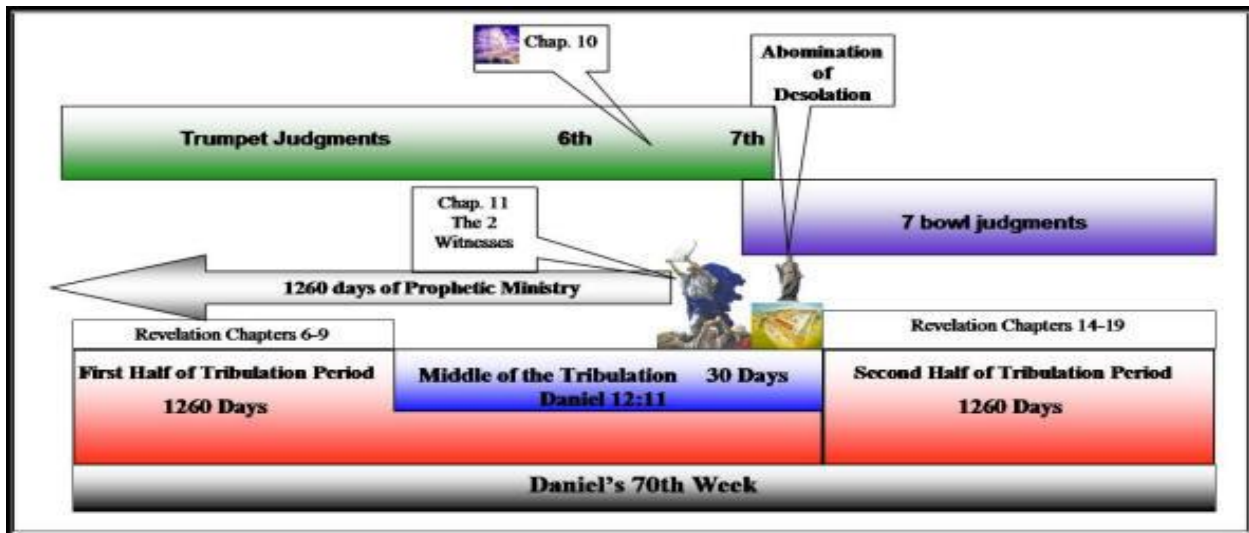
REV 11:1-2

“¹And 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. ²But 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.”

Chapter 11 is a continuation from the scene in the 10th chapter. After John had eaten the small scroll, (Gr. *bibliaridion*), John was told he must prophesy again before people, nations, languages, and kings. In the 11th chapter, John is brought to Jerusalem, to the Temple mount area and writes about events taking place in Jerusalem. John is allowing the reader to understand how the events in Jerusalem have played a role in the first 3-1/2 years of the Tribulation.

The time of the events in the 11th chapter, take place at the Midpoint of the tribulation following the 6th trumpet prior to the 7th trumpet. Chapters 10 through 13 of Revelation reveal the transition from the first half to the second half of the 7-year Tribulation. This transition, known as the Midpoint, sets in motion the consummation of God’s judgment on the earth.

The 11th chapter has two parts. The first 14 verses take place in the city of Jerusalem and involve two individuals called “Witnesses”. These two individuals are the Lord’s vocal spokesman for the judgments falling on the earth during the first 3 ½ years or 1260 days. Their murder allows the second half of the 7-year tribulation to proceed.



The second half of the tribulation begins with the seventh and final trumpet judgment covered in **Revelation 11:15-19**. In the seventh trumpet, are the *Seven Bowl Judgments* poured out on the Earth. The judgments conclude with the return of Christ and the armies of heaven in the Second Coming.

The Temple of God: The mention of the Temple is very significant. Titus originally destroyed the Temple in 70 AD and the 3rd most holy spot to Islam, the “Dome of the Rock”, now occupies its location. John’s measuring of the Temple here in chapter 11, is cause for debate. Those who understand the book of Revelation from a “Preterist” view (Latin for past) interprets the Temple John is measuring as Herod’s Temple the one destroyed by Titus in 70 AD. For the Preterist view to be correct John would have had to have authored the book of Revelation before 70 AD. However, John’s imprisonment on Patmos took place closer to 90 AD which was during the persecution of Domitian.

[A third Temple](#) will be built before the return of Jesus is documented in both the Old and New Testaments.

[In the Old Testament:](#) The 70 weeks of Daniel (**Dan 9:24-27**) foretell the killing of the “Messiah.” Following his death the Temple was destroyed (**Dan 9:26**). But in the next verse we are told of a 7-year agreement involving sacrifice and a future temple. By stopping the sacrifice, the agreement is broken, and an image is set up which is the “Abomination of desolation.” (**Dan 9:27**) **Daniel 12:1** calls this period unequalled in the history of humanity. This period of unequalled history involves the stopping of Temple sacrifice (**Dan 9:27**). **Ezekiel 40-43** clearly demonstrates a Temple on the Temple mount site will exist during the Millennium reign of the Messiah, the “Glory of the Lord”.

[In the New Testament:](#) Jesus refers to both Daniel and the Temple as part of the End-times scenario. **Matthew 24:15,21 15** *“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), 21For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.”*

1. The Holy place is the Temple location.
2. The “Abomination of desolation” referred to by Daniel refers to the desecration of the Temple by the stopping of the sacrifice and placing an image on the mount.
(**Daniel 8:9-17, 9:27, 11:31, 12:11**)
3. The time referred to by Jesus is unique in all of history and is unparalleled in horror since the beginning of the world. This corresponds to **Daniel 12:1**.

In **2nd Thessalonians 2:4** we are informed that the “Man of lawlessness”, the Antichrist, will set himself up in God’s Temple and proclaim himself to be God. The time involved is the “Day of the Lord” or the time before the “Glorious appearing” of Christ.

The temple of God: John is instructed to measure the temple, the altar, and its worshippers.

Verse 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 reed like unto a rod: In **Ezekiel 40-43**, there is an extended passage where a temple is measured. The temple in Ezekiel is the temple of the millennial earth, but this temple seems to be before that temple. The temple in Ezekiel is measured extensively, including the outer courts (**Ezekiel 40:17-19**).

There are a few other Biblical examples of measuring. In **Zechariah 2**, a man measures Jerusalem, a scene that evidently shows God’s coming judgment on the city. In **Revelation 21**, the New Jerusalem is measured.

Rise and measure the temple of God: Sometimes in the Old Testament, the idea of measuring communicates ownership, protection, and preservation. When Habakkuk prophesies, *He stood and measured the earth* (**Habakkuk 3:6**). The idea is that the Lord owns the earth and can do with it as He pleases. When this temple is measured, it shows that God knows every dimension, and He is in charge.

God is in charge. This is one of the glorious, mighty themes of the Book of Revelation. **Revelation 11:17** again uses the title *Almighty* for God. The Greek word for *Almighty* is *pantokrater*, and it describes “the one who has his hand on everything.” Nine out of the ten times this word is used in the New Testament, it is used in Revelation. This temple will be the scene of great horror and great glory, but God is in charge of it all!

The temple of God: The identity of this temple is an important matter of interpretation. Many see this temple as a symbol of the church.

Paul describes the church as a temple: (Ephesians 2:19-21) “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.”

Peter describes the church as a temple: (1 Peter 2:5) ***“You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house.”*** However, if this temple in Revelation 11 is a symbolic representation of the church, why should it be measured? What is the significance of the courts and the altar - and if the church itself is the temple, who are the worshippers (*those who worship there*)? There is too much specific detail here for this to be using the generalized picture of the church as the temple. It is more likely that this is the temple that must be on the earth for the fulfillment of what Daniel, Jesus, and Paul said about the *abomination of desolation* which will happen in the temple of God. The prophet Daniel told us the Antichrist will break his covenant with the Jews and bring sacrifice and offerings to an end. The Antichrist will defile the temple by setting something abominable there. (Daniel 9:27, 11:31, and 12:11.)

Jesus said to look for an abomination standing in the holy place, which would be the pivotal sign that the season of God’s wrath was upon the earth (Matthew 24:15-16 and 24:21). Paul told us that the Antichrist would sit in the temple as God (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

The concept of the abomination of desolation is often spiritualized with explaining it as idolatrous worship established in the hearts of God’s people (His “temple”). But in what sense can people be called God’s temple if they worship the Antichrist - an emissary of Satan himself? Certainly, this isn’t the most plain or straightforward interpretation. The simplest explanation of all these passages is to see a real Jewish temple in Jerusalem, yet to be built – but coming soon.

In point of fact, today there are Jews *very interested* in rebuilding the temple and resuming sacrifice and are making preparations to do that exact thing even now. Today you can visit the Temple Institute in the Jewish Quarter of the old city in Jerusalem. There, a group of Jews absolutely dedicated to rebuilding the temple and are attempting to educate the public and raise awareness for a new temple. They are trying to replicate everything they can for a new temple, down to the specific pots and pans that will be used for sacrifice.

Israel is a nation again, and efforts to rebuild the temple are for real. The main Jewish group leading the charge to rebuild the temple is an organization called [Faithful of the Temple Mount](#), who say they will continue their efforts to re-establish the Jewish temple on the Mount. One leader in the group said, “We shall continue our struggle until the Israeli flag is flying from the Dome of the Rock.” In Israel, there are students being trained for the priesthood, learning how to conduct animal sacrifices in the rebuilt temple.

Even when COVID 19 was on the rise a few years ago they requested permission to sacrifice once again on the Temple Mount. Things are coming together for this to happen. They have the men ready and trained to do the duties required to re-establish the sacrifices. Now it is just a matter of time that the sacrifice will take place. It is important to understand that most Jews – religious or secular – do not care one bit about building a temple. And if there were one rebuilt, sacrifice would be difficult in a day of aggressive animal rights activists! Yet, there is a small, strong, highly dedicated group who live to see a rebuilt temple – a temple which will fulfill

prophecy. Rightly, Christians get excited when they see efforts to rebuild the temple. At the same time, we should understand that the basic impulse behind rebuilding the temple is not of God at all – the desire to have a place to sacrifice for sin. Christians believe that all sacrifice for sin was finished at the cross, and any further sacrifice for sin is an offense to God, because it denies the finished work of Jesus on the cross.

Orthodox Jews consider that the Messiah will rebuild the temple; however, the man they may initially embrace as their Messiah may in fact be the Antichrist **John 5:43**: ***“I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.”***

The Court which is without. **Rev 11:2** ***“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.”*** The outer court need not be measured because it has been given to the Gentiles. Perhaps this is because the outer courts of this rebuilt temple include the Islamic Dome of the Rock shrine, which currently stands on the temple mount and is a point of great contention between Jews and Muslims.



When the city of Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 A.D. by the Romans, they destroyed the city so completely that the foundations of the old temple are not easily found. Most have long assumed that the Dome of the Rock shrine stands on the place of the old temple. But new research gives some evidence that the temple may have stood to the north where the Dome of the Rock shrine is today, and that if the temple were to be rebuilt at its old place, the Dome of the Rock shrine would be in its outer courts. If this is the case (and the research is by no means settled), then it would explain why the angel told John ***leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles.***

The holy city (Jerusalem) will be trodden underfoot for a period of forty-two months, which equals 1260 days (three and one-half years). This “trampling” by Gentiles probably takes place in the last half of the final seven-year period described by **Daniel 11:26-27** - when the Antichrist pours out his fury on the people of Israel (as described in **Revelation 12:13-17** and **Matthew 24:15-28**).

Zech 14:1-2 ***“Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.”***

Jeremiah 30:7 *“Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob’s trouble, but he shall be saved out of it.”* **Matthew 24:16,21** ¹⁶*“then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ²¹For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.”* Greek scholar A.T. Robertson says that to tread underfoot means “to trample with contempt.” The Islamic hatred towards Israel would fit this “contempt.”

Forty-two months: 12 months x 3.5 years= 42 months, 3.5 years x 360 days/year =1260 days. This period of time is repeated time and again throughout the Bible mainly in the Books of Daniel and Revelation. Another way this 3.5-year period is described is: *time, times and ½ time* and *1260 days*.

Different descriptions of 3 ½ year Period	Bible Reference
42 Months	Rev. 11:2; 13:5
1260 Days	Rev. 11:3; 12:6
3-1/2 Years	Daniel 9:27
Times, Time and One half time	Daniel 7:25; 12:7 and Rev. 12:14

This time is significant because it involves the time period known as Daniel’s 70th week, the 7-year period of tribulation before the return of Christ. The 7 years is divided into two 3.5-year halves, each 1260 days, or 42 months long. By examining the context of the 3.5-year periods mentioned we could learn details about the events taking place in the time period. The parts of the *Daniels 70th week* can be divided as follows:

	FIRST HALF	MID POINT	SECOND HALF
DAYS	1260 DAYS	30 DAYS	1260 DAYS
AGREEMENT	7-YEAR AGREEMENT	AGREEMENT BROKEN BY ANTICHRIST	JEWS FLEE TO MOUNTAINS FOR 1260 DAYS
ANTICHRIST	MAKES PEACE AND WAR WITH NATIONS GUARANTEES ISRAEL’S SAFETY	SATAN ENTERS ANTI-CHRIST, DEMANDS WORSHIP AS GOD	ECONOMIC SYSTEM SET UP 666- EXECUTION OF JEWS AND CHRISTIANS WORLDWIDE
TEMPLE	TEMPLE REBUILT SACRIFICE RESUMED	SACRIFICE STOPPED ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION SET UP	JERUSALEM AND TEMPLE CONQUERED FOR 42 MONTHS IMAGE OF ANTICHRIST IN TEMPLE
JUDGEMENTS	SEALS, 6 TRUMPETS JUDGEMENTS	EARTHQUAKE IN JERUSALEM 7 TH TRUMPET	SEVEN BOWL JUDGEMENTS AND ARMAGEDDON
WITNESSES TO EARTH DWELLERS	RAPTURE, 144,000 2 WITNESSES	WITNESSES KILLED AND RAPTURED	ANGELS WARN EARTH’S REMAINING INHABITANTS
HEAVEN	SEALS OPENED	WAR IN HEAVEN SATAN CAST OUT	WEDDING OF THE LAMB RETURN OF THE LORD

We are living in exciting and perilous times. Plagues, lockdowns, masks, vaccinations, lying, corruption, evil news reports and more.

Every day we see Israel being condemned by one nation after another, including our own country. There is unrest everywhere in the Islamic world. The stage is being set for the things we have just read to come to pass. There are many things that can bring fear, but we must always remember that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. When we let His Peace guard our hearts and minds, we will be able to go through these times. He will never leave us nor forsake us!

REV 11: 3-12

“3And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 4These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. 5And 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. 6These 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. 7And 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. 8And 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. 9And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. 11And after three days and an half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, ‘Come up hither’. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.”



REV. 11:3 *3And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.*

will give power... Is the “Mighty angel” speaking first person or as Christ’s representative? If the angel is speaking first person, then the angel of **Revelation 10** is clearly Christ. The power of the two witnesses is from God. Moses & Aaron were God’s representatives before Pharaoh; they bore God’s power before in Egypt.

Elijah represented God's power before Israel on Mt. Carmel, (1 Kings 18), and what he spoke in the name of the Lord happened. The two spies were sent by Joshua, to spy out the land, they spoke for Joshua to Rahab.

The two witnesses are two prophets who will prophesy in Jerusalem for exactly 1,260 days. These two witnesses are witnesses of the God of creation and His Messiah. The message they will give will be that Jesus is coming and to tell Israel and the world it is time to prepare to set up His kingdom on earth that He will rule from Jerusalem. They may also set the record correct about all past historical biblical events. They will give the world the truth and give the world dictates from God to prepare for His Messiah and the Jewish kingdom.

They will use persuasion and judgment to bring the Jews back from the nations to the land of Israel. *The world will not want to hear what they have to say from the God of heaven but for 1,260 days the world will be given no choice. If the world will not accept the truth that come by way of these two prophets God said, He will send the world a strong delusion so they will believe a lie.* Those who do not believe the truth from God will believe the lies of the Antichrist and his False Prophet.

2 Th 2:7-12: *“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”*

The wording in the passages about the two witnesses makes it crystal clear that they are real people. Those who attempt to spiritualize them and say they are not real persons but only represent the prophets and the law have embraced a theology of nonsense. The many details of the following passages make it clear enough to those living in reality that these two witnesses are actual physical persons. There are different views about the identity of the two witnesses. Just about all scholars who read this book of prophecy in a normal literal sense think one of the two witnesses is Elijah but there is honest disagreement among them on the identity of the other. Elijah is most likely one of them because scripture says Elijah will come before the day of the Lord.

Mal 4:5 *“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:”*

The Orthodox Jews still expect Elijah to come at any time and they set a place for him at their Passover feasts. Elijah in the Old Testament said it would not rain and it did not rain for three years. Since this prophet will also have this power, this appears to be Elijah. In addition, Elijah never died - he was taken off the earth. So, there is good reason to believe that Elijah is ageless while in heaven and at the appointed time he will come to complete his ministry on the earth.

The other prophet may be Moses because of the other things that these prophets do. The main problem with it being Moses is that Moses did die, and scripture says it is appointed for man once to die and these prophets are killed at the end of their testimony. Nevertheless, when Moses died scripture indicates it was not because there was any weakness or sickness in his body. It could be that Moses body is protected from decay by the angels and that he will rise from the dead in the same body in the same manner that Lazarus rose from the dead after four days and then died again in that same body of flesh years later. There is a scripture that indicates that this supernatural protection of Moses' body is indeed what might have taken place.

Jude verse 9 *“Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.”*

Some also think it will be Moses and Elijah because both of their ministries were not completed during their time on earth. Further, Moses was seen with Elijah when Peter, James and John were given a glimpse of the future at the time Jesus was transfigured before them to His future glory. (Matt 17:2-3)

For many other good reasons some think the second prophet is Enoch. Scripture indicates Enoch never died but was taken alive to heaven. If he is one of the witnesses, he can tell the world the truth about the events that took place prior to the flood. I think this may be important because I believe the great deception will be similar to what happened in the days prior to the flood.

The scriptures (Genesis 6:1-8) indicate angels came to earth and produced a hybrid race called the Nephilim on the earth (the word Nephilim is translated in most bible versions as giants - they were a race of giants but that is not all they were). After this event, the world became very violent and evil. It got so bad that God had to destroy all flesh. Jesus said that just before His second coming it would be as it was in the days of Noah. I believe the great deception in the last days may involve fallen angels and demons disguising themselves as an advanced civilization from another dimension or planet.

Enoch could explain why this corruption of flesh brought the world judgment in Noah's time and why it may occur again with the mark of the Beast. The sons of Seth theory taught by most in Christianity to explain these scripture passages is just not credible. Other writings found in

ancient books shed further light on the account in Genesis and in Jude, when angels came to earth, took human wives, and produced a superhuman evil race called the Nephilim. This most likely is the root of most ancient mythology of gods on earth. The fallen angels apparently began corrupting all flesh. God had to destroy all corrupted flesh with the flood to provide a pure line from Adam to the kinsman redeemer- the last Adam and Savior of mankind (Jesus).

These non-canonical ancient writings include but are not limited to the book of Enoch and the writings of the great Jewish historian Josephus.

The Apocalypse of Peter (non-canon, dated about 120 AD) says the two prophets will be Elijah and Enoch. This gives some reason to believe that this is what at least some of the early Church taught about the identity of the two prophets.

I do not think we can know for sure who the second witness will be since a case can be made for either Moses or Enoch. When these two come with supernatural power, everyone will know who the two witnesses are even if they still do not know them by their biblical names. Whoever they are they will be clothed in sackcloth. This is the dress of those in sad distress and those who are in mourning. They are in distress because God's chosen nation has rejected the true Messiah and now has made a deal with a counterfeit messiah that will bring upon Israel and the world the judgments of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

They shall prophesy (Gr. propheôteuoô: to foretell events, divine, speak under inspiration,) The two witnesses will speak for the Lord during their time of ministry. One thousand two hundred and sixty days... 1260 days or 3.5 years, the two witnesses will speak for the Lord for the first half of the seven-year period. During this time, they are clothed in sackcloth, (Gr. Sakkous) a course material used as a sack material. Sackcloth was a sign of mourning before God. The people of Nineveh put on sackcloth and mourned before the Lord after the preaching of Jonah. (Jonah 3:5-6.)

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

Two olive trees... This is a reference to **Zechariah 4:11**, where the “Two olive trees” are described as “two anointed ones who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.” In other words, these are special and unique individuals who are brought to the Earth from Heaven to witness for Christ. They are either Enoch and Elijah or Moses and Elijah. They will “Witness” to the Earth about the Messiah, Christ.

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.”*

If anyone wants to harm them... During the 1260 days of their ministry, the “Two witnesses” will have supernatural protection. This will be similar to the protection Moses had when he was before Pharaoh when the plagues were called down upon Egypt.

In spite of the plagues Pharaoh was prevented from harming Moses. Elijah also was able to prevent his capture because he was able to call fire down on any who would attack him. (2 Kings 1:3-13).

In spite of being in sackcloth for the 3.5- year period and seeming ridiculous to a modern world their words will have the power of God’s word. Because of their calling of judgments on the Earth these “Witnesses” will become the focus of world attention.

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.”

These have power... During the period of Elijah’s ministry, he prayed, and the rain stopped for 3.5 years. (James 5:17), this will be repeated during the 1st half of the tribulation period. Moses in his time called the ten plagues down on Egypt. (gr. ... pleôgeô :a stroke, wound or public calamity). The source of the Judgments that fall on the earth during the first 3.5 years will proceed from Jerusalem.

PLAGUE	JUDGEMENT	REFERENCE
WAR	2 ND SEAL	REVELATION 6:3-4
FAMINE DEATH	3 RD SEAL	REVELATION 6:5-6
¼ OF MANKIND DIE	4 TH SEAL	REVELATION 6:7-8
HAIL – FIRE – BLOOD	1 ST TRUMPET	REVELATION 8:7
BURNING MOUNTAIN BLOOD SEA	2 ND TRUMPET	REVELATION 8:8
ASTEROID	3 RD TRUMPET	REVELTION 8:10
DARKNESS	4 TH TRUMPET	REVELATION 8:12
DEMONIC LOCUSTS	5 TH TRUMPET	REVELATION 9:1
DEMONIC HORSEMEN 1/3 OF MANKIND DIES	6 TH TRUMPET	REVELATION 9:13

As often as they will... The judgments during the years will seem to be at the whim of the “Witnesses.” This will be the cause of their intense hatred throughout the Earth. The earth will view them as the cause of these calamities. Intense pressure will grow on the Antichrist to deal with these two men living in Israel. These are not ordinary men. If anyone tries to hurt them, fire will come out of their mouth and destroy their enemies.

We do see the calling cards of Elijah and Moses with the ability to shut up heaven, smite the earth with plagues, turn water into blood and call down fire on their enemies. The witnesses themselves are given power to judge and to smite the earth with plagues as often as they wish. The power to judge gives further proof that these two are beings that lived in the presence of God. That fact alone seems to rule out any idea that the prophets are normal men born in contemporary times.

The passage on the surface would seem to indicate that it will not rain on the earth for 1,260 days but it is not likely to mean on all of the earth. Another passage in the Bible says there would always be seed time and harvest on the earth (**Gen 8:22**). The passage could just mean it will not rain in the land (in Israel) for that period of time. I expect the prophets will be able to do anything they wish to any nation they wish but these judgments will be selective and probably not global, although there probably will be some correlation to the trumpet judgments. Power to judge the nations might be given to them to bring the Jews out of the nations they dwell in, like power was given to Moses to bring Israel out of Egypt with God's judgments.

The ministry of the two prophets could be the most understated event in Revelation by prophecy teachers. We hear much speculation about the Antichrist, but prophecy experts say little about the power that these two prophets will have over the world for 1,260 days.

Most experts just have them walking the Holy City quoting passages of scripture, but the message given here is clear. These two will bring great torment upon the earth to those who will not obey. They will be central world figures and the key focus of the world for 1,260 days. We next will read about the world's gleeful reaction when a supernatural Beast comes out of the pit and kills them. The world will believe that they have been freed from the two prophet's judgments and that their prophecy of a Jewish kingdom will not be fulfilled.

After 1,260 days of testimony from these two prophets, the Beast will come out of the bottomless pit, make war against them, and kill them. This and other scripture make it fairly clear that a world leader will be killed and come back to life. This will occur right after Satan is cast out of heaven. At that time, there is war in heaven and Satan is cast out of heaven with all his angels. He then incarnates the Beast and kills God's two prophets. God is the author of life and Satan by himself can raise no one back to life. However, God will allow Satan to have his desire to raise this sinful man back to life because the world rejected the truth told by these two prophets. They testified that Jesus would come back from heaven and Israelites would lead the Kingdom of God on earth. Now that the world has rejected God's message, He will allow a great delusion to come upon the earth for those who wish to believe a lie.

We commonly call this supernatural man who kills the two prophets the Antichrist, but the Bible calls him the Beast. The best prophecy scholars place the death of the two prophets at the midpoint of Daniel's 70th week of seven years.

The key proof to me that their death occurs at the midpoint of this seven years and not later, is the passage that says Elijah would come before the great and dreadful day of the Lord (Mal 4:5). We know from many places in scripture that speak about these end times, that the actual judgment part of the day of the Lord comes in the final 3 ½ years that begins at the desecration of the temple by the Beast. It is the same 3 ½ year period in which the Israelites are protected in the mountains by God's angels from this Beast.

Daniel spoke of this period that starts with the desecration of the temple by the Beast. Jesus, quoting Daniel, said this period would be the worst time on earth that ever was or ever will be. (Mat 24:15-24.) They will perform their ministry in the first half of a seven-year period that is preceded by a great earthquake and signs in the sun and moon and people hiding in holes in the ground from the wrath of the Lamb. The two prophets will begin their ministry at the time of the signing of a seven-year peace covenant by a world leader with Israel.

We are told that the two prophets are killed at the end of the second woe (6th trumpet). The second woe is about the 200,000,000-man army of horsemen that comes from the East. Right after this war of East against West, we are told that the Beast ascends out of the pit, wars against the two prophets and kills them. What has probably happened is the world leader is killed by a Jewish zealot and rises back to life when incarnated by Satan. He then kills the two prophets, breaks the seven-year covenant with Israel, desecrates the Jewish temple, claims to be Christ and God, ends the wars, is accepted as the world's savior, and sets up his counterfeit kingdom of god from Babylon.

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."*

When the Beast that comes out of the pit kills the two prophets, he will have almost total control of the earth for the 3 ½ years allotted to him in scripture to deceive those who wish to believe this lie that he is God. Those in Israel who believed the two prophets and who were led to the true Messiah by the 144,000 witnesses will flee to the mountains for supernatural protection by Michael the archangel. When the King of the Jews comes in his glory, He will destroy the counterfeit kingdom and remove all those on earth that were against His rule and the establishment of a Jewish kingdom.

Verses 8-9 *"8 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. 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves."*

The passage makes it quite clear where their dead bodies will be. Their bodies will lie in the street where Jesus was crucified. That of course is Jerusalem. The world will gloat over killing

them. I surmise that they will intend to gloat for a world holiday that will last one week to celebrate their deaths. The whole event will have worldwide video coverage.

Part of the great deception may be to convince the willfully ignorant that the two prophets of God fulfilled the Bible prophecies of the predicted *Antichrist* and his *False Prophet*. The world will then be ready to receive the type of all-inclusive lawless Christ they desire. They will get the false Christ, which will deceive them and tell them things that tickle their ears. They will also get a false kingdom that will brainwash and enslave all who choose to worship the Beast and kill all those who will not.

Verse 10: *“10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwell on the earth.”*

The people who survive the seal and trumpet judgments and any other judgment that came from these two prophets will think that they survived the tribulation, and they will throw a great party and send gifts to one another. These two prophets obviously were a torment to those that loved to live a sinful lifestyle on the earth.

Many people will let everyone know that seven years have passed, and a Christ is due. They probably will think the biblical Beast and False Prophet were the two this risen leader killed. Instead of Christ, they will receive a counterfeit Christ that the Bible calls the *Beast Antichrist*. This term antichrist can also mean someone who comes in place of Christ rather than someone opposing him. In this instance, both are true. The world will accept the Christ from hell and his new age kingdom.

With the replacement supersession theology that will prevail in the World Church, they will not accept the truth of a literal kingdom on earth that the two prophets proclaimed. Instead, they will be looking for a Christ that will fulfill all world religious beliefs and that will nullify the claims of these two Jewish Prophets.

The Christ they will accept will claim to be above anything called God. He will say the Jewish sacrifice system has been done away with and that he fulfilled the sacrifice. He will then stop the sacrifice system that had been reinstated in the temple in Jerusalem and set up an image of himself in the holy place.

The image will be animated, and it will speak. By going in the most holy place in the temple, he will show himself and the world that he is God.

2Th. 2:4 – *“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.”*

The entire world will love it and believe that this man actually is God and their Christ savior. Only the elect will not be deceived. The two prophets that the world hated who spoke of a kingdom under God's law and a Jewish king are now dead. The sinful will now believe this phony savior nullified the law God gave to Israel. Therefore, they will believe that there are *no longer any moral absolutes and they can do whatever they think is right in their own eyes.* This is nothing new; all who oppose God's eternal law have always believed this lie from Satan. Christ did not come to do away with the law, He came to fulfill the curse of the law and to allow us to be kept from the curse of the law by being born of His Spirit.

Verse 11: *“11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.”* As Jesus rose from the dead after 3 days, these prophets will get life from the Spirit of God and their bodies will be raised after 3 ½ days. It will literally be God's April fool joke on the world! The weeklong world holiday is interrupted in the middle of the week by a rude awakening! The two prophets the world thought their savior killed stand on their feet in the sight of all their enemies.

	JESUS	WITNESSES
MINISTRY	THREE PLUS YEARS	3-1/2 YEARS
PUBLIC EXECUTION	CROSS OUTSIDE WALLS OF JERUSALEM	STREETS OF JERUSALEM
PUBLIC MIRACLES	HEALING	JUDGEMENT
PUBLIC REACTION TO VERDICT	CHEERING	WORLDWIDE CELEBRATION
GRAVE	THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS	3-1/2 DAYS
RESURRECTION	THIRD DAY	3-1/2 DAYS
RAPTURE	ASCENDED UP FROM JERUSALEM	ASCEND UP FROM JERUSALEM
	TWO SPIES	TWO WITNESSES
SENT BY	JOSHUA SENDS THE SPIES JOSHUA 2:1	JESUS SENDS TWO WITNESSES REVELATION 11:3
FROM	CAMP OF ISRAEL – JOSHUA 2:1	FROM HEAVEN REVELATION 11:4
RETURN TO	TO CAMP OF ISRAEL	TO HEAVEN
DURATION OF MISSION	3+ DAYS JOSHUA 2:16	3-1/2 YEARS REVELATION 11:3
LOCATION OF MISSION	JERICHO JOSHUA 2:8	JERUSALEM REVELATION 11:8
PROTECTED BY	RAHAB	ISRAEL
ENEMY	KING OF JERICHO JOSHUA 2:3	BEAST/ANTICHRIST REVELATION 11:7
RETURN	SPIES RETURN WITH ARMIES OF ISRAEL TO RAHAB'S HOUSE JOSHUA 6:23	RETURN OF CHRIST WITH ARMIES OF HEAVEN REVELATION 19:14

VERSE 12 *“And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.”*

I am sure the two prophets could have dealt with their enemies at that time but instead they are told to come up to heaven. They are taken from earth so Satan and his angels and his Antichrist can deceive those on earth who did not love the truth and are the enemies of God. Perhaps the Beast will say that their rising from the dead fulfilled the prophecy that the Beast and False Prophet will be cast alive into the Lake of Fire and that is where he sent them. Satan and his angels will be given almost total control of the earth for the next 3 ½ years. Few have any idea about what this all entails.

It will not just be one or two men with supernatural powers telling the world what to do. It will be someone who claims to be God and he, like God, will have millions of angels at his immediate command. The fallen angels that are cast out with Satan will enforce his decrees on the earth. It will be as if a superhuman race has come to earth from another dimension or from space and has set up control over the earth. The only place they will not control is the area in the mountains of Jordan that the archangel Michael is protecting for the faithful remnant of Israel.

They may even package the deception as a war between a controlling alien God in heaven who put the Jews on the earth to control it and the God who has come to earth to save mankind from their control (this, believe it or not, is already a new age concept). In any case, those who think they will not be deceived and that they can actually fight such supernatural forces with local militias or by physical resistance will have a reality check that they will not be able to cash. Time the way we have known it is soon to change.

People are dying every day without ever hearing the good news that Jesus loves them. As the body of Christ, we are commanded -- not asked, -- to go into all the world and preach the gospel, or good news to every creature. Knowing that time is short, we must share the good news with all before it is too late. Jesus, himself, said these words: **John 9:4** *“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”*