

# The **TWO** Witnesses

A time on our very near horizon, will explode with news and talk of the arrival of beings who can perform supernatural things. Are they good or evil? You will need to know!

## **DESTRUCTION BY FIRE**

Nobody, not Satan, his beastly coalition or the false prophet will be able to stop the preaching of the two witnesses of Revelation. “And if anyone wants to harm them, **fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies**. And if anyone wants to harm them, **he must be killed in this manner**. These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire” (Revelation 11:5-6).



The wicked who refused to repent in ancient times were destroyed by the Great Flood. In the last days, the wicked who refuse to repent will be destroyed by fire. That is the reason why the Apostle John recorded the deaths of the wicked by the two witnesses will be by fire. The Apostle Peter prophesied the future destruction of the earth by fire.

“‘Where is the promise of His coming?’ they will ask. ‘Ever since our fathers fell asleep, everything continues as it has from the beginning of creation.’ But they deliberately overlook the fact that long ago by God’s word the heavens existed and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world of that time perished in the flood. **But by the same word now the heavens and the earth exist, having been stored up for fire, being kept unto the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men**” (II Peter 3:7).

By the same word—the powerful word of Almighty God that destroyed the ancient world by a flood, that very same invincible power will destroy the wicked by fire. God begins purging the wicked through the work of the two witnesses. While the saints are persecuted by the little horn of Daniel for three and a half years, the two witnesses will be preaching and exposing the lies, the deception and trickery of the false prophet and the great harlot.

The spiritual war will be fully in the open. The skies will flash from supernatural forces, miracles will wow and lure unsuspecting people into compliance, great signs will be performed like magicians by the fallen, angelic sons of God. The battle to win over mankind by the fallen, angelic sons of God is so they can destroy them. God Almighty will battle to save them.

“For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened” (Matthew 21-22).

### **THE LITTLE HORN OF DANIEL, LAWLESS ONE**

The events coming during this final great battle on earth will all be a grand supernatural display of raw power. Satan will be on earth crouched in the shadows. He will give his throne, power and great authority to the beast that comes out of the Abyss (Revelation 13:2b). He is consolidating power as his last resort to save himself. Like the goalie in a hockey game, he pulls himself out to allow the little horn of Daniel in to be another offensive player. He will try to change set times and laws in order to pardon himself, Satan and the rebels with them.

“The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom. After them another king will arise, different from the earlier ones; he will subdue three kings. He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time” (Daniel 7:24-25).

The oppression from this vile character will strengthen the saints. They will prove their loyalty to Almighty God and their Saviour. Their passion for righteousness, truth and love for one another will fortify their strength so that they will stand against all odds. They will put their lives on the line to take the gospel to the whole world, while the two witnesses support them. The two witnesses will destroy by fire the unrepentant rebels. The purging of wickedness will jolt the weak and cause them to take a stand, to join with the righteous or stay with the wicked.

The two witnesses will display God’s power as Elijah and Moses did in their time. Their work will not be thwarted or stopped. Even with mankind’s ability to manipulate weather today, their effort will be nothing compared to what is coming.

The war to be seen by all of mankind will be the spiritual war between Almighty God and Satan. The arrival of these alien beings will be the terrifying beginning of the reign of Wickedness on earth. “The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or **Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him**” (Revelation 12:9).

Satan and his beastly coalition are set on destroying mankind. Their hatred is unquenchable. Jesus warned the disciples, “At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There he is!’ Do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect—if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time” (Matthew 24:23-25).

The little horn of Daniel will claim to be the saviour of mankind. For the time God allows him, he will subdue the sanctuary in heaven of the Prince of princes [Jesus Christ] and stop his daily work. "Out of one of them came another horn, which started small but grew in power to the south and to the east and toward the Beautiful Land. It grew until it reached the host of the heavens [God's army in heaven], and it threw some of the starry host [angels in heaven] down to the earth and trampled on them. It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host [Jesus Christ, the commander of God's army]; it took away the daily from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low... it will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated" (Daniel 8:9-11, 14).

This battle in heaven will be known on earth at some level. It may appear that God Almighty and Jesus Christ are struggling to subdue this rebel force. The little horn will declare his equivalency with the Prince of the host as mankind's saviour—"he sets himself up to be as great as the Prince of the host." God Almighty allows this rebel success as He is building His legal case based on his actions that violate of His law, against this unruly rebel and their alliance of fallen, sons of God.

Remember the warning by the Apostle Paul, "**The coming of the lawless one will be accompanied by the working of Satan, with every kind of power, sign, and false wonder, and with every wicked deception directed against those who are perishing, because they refused the love of the truth that would have saved them**" (II Thessalonians 2:8-9).

The truth that saves mankind is that knowledge of a Saviour, humbly accepting his redemptive sacrifice and following him wherever he goes.

The lawless one is the little horn of Daniel. He is accompanied by the working of Satan because Satan gives this rebel his throne, power and great authority (Revelation 13:2). So, now this vile rebel holding great power will perform great signs, wonders and claim to be the saviour of mankind. He will exalt himself above all gods. He will boast and self-glorify his every action, wielding power like mad Nero.

### **THE TWO WITNESSES DRESSED IN SACKCLOTH**

Such a saviour may boast of sacrificing his life for mankind, but he is a liar. While the little horn of Daniel is self-exalting, the two witness are dressed in sackcloth—the symbol of humility. They will beseech the people of the world to repent and turn to their true Creator, Almighty God. The sole purpose of distress is God's work to awaken all people to wickedness and turn to Him and His ways.

God will build his church through the power of His Spirit not by military might, not by force but by free will (Zechariah 4:2-10).

"Also, there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left. I [Zerubbabel] asked the angel who talked with me, 'What are these, my lord?'" (Zechariah 4:3-4)

The angel replied, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: **‘Not by might not by power, but by my Spirit,’** says the LORD Almighty. ‘What are you, O mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone of ‘God bless it! God bless it!’ Then the word of the LORD came to me: ‘The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it’” (Zechariah 4:6-9a).

Through the great outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit in the last days, God’s ministry and congregation on earth will grow. This growth will not involve military might of force and tyrannical demands; it will be the awakening to wickedness and the humble acceptance of God’s grace.

Zerubbabel will be resurrected to finish his job at the beginning of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. “O mighty mountain,” God Almighty addresses the government of Wickedness that will be crushed and made flat—void of any power and influence on that flattened surface God’s church will grow, Zerubbabel will build it and the capstone will be Jesus Christ.

All of God’s work in ancient times with His people was to turn their hearts to Him. “At the time of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet approached the altar and said, ‘O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant and have done all these things at Your command. Answer me, O LORD! Answer me, so that **this people will know that You, the LORD, are God, and that You have turned their hearts back again**’” (1 Kings 18:36-37).

The forces at play during this time will be enticing. Mystery Babylon will be sweeping sleeping mankind into trading with her. She is a theological body. Her wares will cost them dearly. “Cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and bodies and souls of men” (Revelation 18:11-14).

God uses a lot of imagery in Revelation. This grand theological trading enterprise will work to allude mankind into thinking that they can save themselves, that they are already gods within, that they do not need a saviour, that the little horn of Daniel will gift them extended life and God’s law of sin resulting in death can be overturned. Do not believe this wily ruler; he will be a master of intrigue.

## **THE NUMBER 2: LEGAL WITNESS**

God is building His church, His holy kingdom of royal priesthood. Creation on earth was destined for this special and highly honourable calling. The two witnesses are God’s two priests who will teach the world about God’s word and His law.

God sends two witnesses because the number two is consistently symbolic in God’s word as a legal witness (Revelation 11:3). The breaking of His law demands a minimum of two witnesses must testify before the offender can be prosecuted.

God gave His law to ancient Israel. **“One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established”** (Deuteronomy 19:15) and **“On the testimony of two or three witnesses a person is to be put to death, but no one is to be put to death on the testimony of only one witness”** (Deuteronomy 17:6).

Christ sent His disciples out “two by two” (Mark 6:7) also pointing to the knowledge that what these disciples were providing was a legal witness to all who heard them. God often places two people to work together. Zerubbabel served as governor and Joshua served as a high priest when the temple of rebuilt after the captivity of the house of Judah. God used Moses as the leader and Aaron as the high priest for ancient Israel prior to their exodus. God’s judgement follows His requirements of an appropriate legal witness.

### **THE TWO OLIVE TREES**

Zerubbabel asked the angel, “What are these two olive trees beside the two gold pipes that pour out golden oil?” The angel replied, “These are the two who are **anointed** to serve the LORD of all the earth” (Zechariah 4:13-14). The Apostle John recorded the angel identifying the two witnesses, **“These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth”** (Revelation 11:3-4). Anointing takes place by God when He establishes a king or priest.

The book of Revelation recorded God saying, “And I will give power to **my two witnesses**, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days” (Revelation 11:3). The two witnesses of Revelation are the two olive trees in Zechariah. They are anointed to the special role of priests of God.

God’s imagery of olive trees was intentional. It was understood in ancient times that God describes different leaders as different trees. Jotham provides a very clear example of God’s language.

Jotham declared, “Listen to me, citizens of Shechem, so that God may listen to you. One day the trees went out to anoint a king for themselves. **They said to the olive tree, ‘Be our king.’ But the olive tree answered, ‘Should I give up my oil, by which both gods and humans are honored, to hold sway over the trees?’** Next, the trees said to the fig tree, ‘Come and be our king.’ But the fig tree replied, ‘Should I give up my fruit, so good and sweet, to hold sway over the trees?’ Then the trees said to the vine, ‘Come and be our king.’ But the vine answered, ‘Should I give up my wine, which cheers both gods and humans, to hold sway over the trees?’ Finally, all the trees said to the thornbush, ‘Come and be our king.’ The thornbush said to the trees, ‘If you really want to anoint me king over you, come and take refuge in my shade; but if not, then let fire come out of the thornbush and consume the cedars of Lebanon!’” (Judges 9:7b-15)

Jotham’s discussion revealed him asking different leaders to rule over the people of Shechem. The wicked leader, the thornbush, planned to destroy the great law-abiding “cedars of Lebanon” if he

was not selected. Note the response in regard to the olive tree. **“They said to the olive tree, ‘Be our king.’ But the olive tree answered, ‘Should I give up my oil, by which both gods and humans are honored, to hold sway over the trees?’** Both the sons of God in heaven and people on earth are honoured by the “oil” that is produced through them that shines brightly.

The fruit from the olive tree is well-known for the production of oil used in ancient times in the lanterns to shed light, for cooking, and for its medicinal properties. Through a process of grinding and crushing, **the olives were pressed into a paste and then crushed again through a woven bag, until the oil was extracted.** This process mirrors the journey of a special group of people who are prepared by God work in His priesthood. They are crushed and tried, tested and separated, purified and perfected men and women in God’s ministry—the saints. God’s special servants have all been persecuted, hated and attacked by those serving Wickedness.

The oldest olive tree today is in Greece with an age of around 2,000 years. These trees live a long-time producing fruit well into their old age. The wood from the tree is resistant to decay. All of these characteristics resemble the resilient ministry in God’s family who shine bright lights of truth and God’s word.

#### **TIMELINE**

God said, **“And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days...”** (Revelation 11:3).

They will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, which is the same length as the reign of the fourth beast on earth, 3 ½ years. The two witnesses are killed by the beast from out of the Abyss at the end of the Second Woe. Christ’s and God’s wrath will have begun. This indicates that they arrive onto the international scene very close to the arrival of Satan and the beast from out of the Abyss. These two witnesses will be the example of God’s humble priesthood, speaking the pure word of God, keeping the laws of God and urging mankind to repent lest they fall into God’s judgement and death by fire.

After the two witnesses are killed by the beast, their bodies lay on the street for three and a half days. A day for each year they preached. Their bodies are not buried. Wicked people rejoice and exchange gifts.

After the three and a half days, they are resurrected and they go up into heaven. Jesus’ ministry on earth lasted three and a half years; the two witnesses complete the great witness and its completion is marked by a great earthquake.

#### **EARTHQUAKES SHAKE THE WORLD: A DISPLAY OF GOD’S POWER MARKING THE COMPLETION OF A GREAT WITNESS**

Great earthquakes occur after every significant witness.

#### **JESUS’ DEATH AND THE STONE ROLLED BACK**

After Jesus died and when the angel of the LORD rolled back the stone of his burial place an earthquake occurred.

“Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The **earth shook and the rocks split**... When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw **the earthquake** and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, ‘Surely he was the Son of God!’” (Matthew 27:50, 54)

“After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a **violent earthquake**, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it” (Matthew 28:2).

#### AFTER THE PERSECUTION OF THE SAINTS

Upon the opening of the sixth seal, after the great persecution during the fifth seal, there was a great earthquake. “The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red, and the stars in the sky fell to earth, like late figs drop from a fig tree when shaken by a strong wind. The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich and the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains. They called to the mountains and the rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?’” (Revelation 6:12-17)

All of these people who cry out to the mountains and rocks will have been warned by the saints, God’s repenting people and the two witnesses that this Day of Wrath is coming and they can be saved from it, if they repent. They are people who believe the lies of Wickedness; they hold to the fallacy that Wickedness has the upper hand over Almighty God.

#### PRAYERS OF THE SAINTS

After the seventh seal is opened, “smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel’s hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth; and there came peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning and an earthquake” (Revelation 8:4-5).

#### RESURRECTION OF THE TWO WITNESSES

The enemies of the two witnesses are terrified when they see their dead bodies resurrected into eternal beings. “But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, ‘Come up here.’ And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on. At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapse. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe has passed, the third woe is coming soon” (Revelation 11:11-14).

The earthquakes are markers displaying God's power and end to the persecution of His beloved children.

### WHO COULD BE THE TWO WITNESSES?

What is known about the two witnesses is that they are two mortal priests who:

- Know the spiritual enemy very well.
- Are filled with God's Holy Spirit, spiritually tested, tried and true.
- Know God's law and theology very, very well.

Only two mortals recorded in the Bible have not died. Possibly Elijah and Enoch could be the two witnesses. Having watched mankind from heaven for thousands of years, they would be very much aware of their sins and the type of spiritual enemy of mankind.

### ELIJAH

It was Elijah who brought fire down from heaven and stopped the rain prior to him going up into heaven. It was Elijah who said to God's people that they cannot serve two masters. Elijah's work is unfinished. Like Zerubbabel, Joshua, the high priest, Ezekiel and Jeremiah, the work God gave to them remains unfinished.

"Shortly before the LORD took Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal" (II Kings 2:1).

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

### ENOCK

Enoch has not died. God said that all mortals will die the first death because of sin. Possibly, Enoch was taken and saved for the final great end-time witness.

"Enoch walked with God, and then he was no more, because God had taken him away" (Genesis 5:24).

"By faith Enoch was taken up so that **he did not see death**: "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God" (Hebrews 11:5).

While many questions remain, what is absolutely certain is that the gospel legal witness will go out to all of the people in the world and then the end will come. Nobody will be able say that they did not know. Nobody will be able to say that truth was hidden from them.

*Compiled by Janette Andrejowich.*

<https://sharingsharpens.ca>