**March 1, 2021**

Greeting to all . . .

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirit. This month’s topic will be “**Who are the two witnesses in the book of Revelation?". These two witness are very mysterious with their powers which God has given them. Good questions to ask is – “Why did God bring these two witness to the world, why two witness and to whom?**

**In a nut shell, two witness were send to** will proclaim Gods message of judgment during the final stages of the Gentile trampling on Jerusalem. This time period is in the last 3 ½ years of the 7-year Tribulation. **Why two witness? . . .** because the Bible requires the testimony of two people to confirm a fact or verify truth. To Whom? . . . to the Jews and Gentiles left behind. The church is no longer here on earth but in heaven.

The two witnesses will proclaim to the world that the disasters occurring during the last half of the Tribulation are the judgments of God. They will warn that God’s final outpouring of judgment and eternal hell will follow. At the same time, they will preach the gospel, calling people to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The bigger question is “Who are these Two Witness”? Read on and find out . . .

Your Brother in Christ, Tony Gonzalez

**1 Peter 3:15**

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

**"Who are the two witnesses in the book of Revelation?"**

In [**Revelation 11:3–12**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev%2011.3%E2%80%9312) is a description of two individuals who will help accomplish God’s work during the [tribulation](https://www.gotquestions.org/tribulation.html): “I will appoint my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth” (verse 3). Nowhere does the Bible identify these two witnesses by name, although people through the years have speculated.

**Revelation 11 : 3 - 12**

* **3** And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”
* **4** These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.
* **5** And 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.
* **6** They 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.
* **7** And 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,
* **8** and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified.
* **9** For 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,
* **10** and 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.
* **11** But 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.
* **12** Then 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.

The two witnesses in Revelation will have miraculous powers to accompany their message ([Revelation 11:6](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev%2011.6)), and no one will be able to stop them in their work (verse 5). At the end of their ministry, when they have said all they need to say, [the beast](https://www.gotquestions.org/beast-of-Revelation.html) will kill them and the wicked world will rejoice, allowing the bodies of the fallen prophets to lie in the streets (verses 7–10). Three and a half days later, however, God’s two witnesses will be resurrected and, in full view of their enemies, ascend to heaven (verses 11–12).

There are three primary theories on the identity of the two witnesses in Revelation: (1) Moses and Elijah, (2) Enoch and Elijah, and (3) two unknown believers whom God calls to be His witnesses in the end times.

(1) Moses and Elijah are seen as possibilities for the two witnesses due to the specific miracles that John says the witnesses will perform. The witnesses will have the power to turn water into blood **(**[**Revelation 11:6**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev%2011.6)), which duplicates a famous miracle of Moses **(**[**Exodus 7**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Exod%207)). And the witnesses will have the power to destroy their enemies with fire **(**[**Revelation 11:5**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev%2011.5)), which corresponds to an event in Elijah’s life **(**[**2 Kings 1**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Kings%201)). Also, giving strength to this view is the fact that Moses and Elijah both appeared with Jesus at the transfiguration **(**[**Matthew 17:3–4**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2017.3%E2%80%934)). Further, Jewish tradition expects Moses and Elijah to return, based on the prophecy of Elijah’s coming in [**Malachi 4:5**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Mal%204.5) and God’s promise to raise up a prophet like Moses **(**[**Deuteronomy 18:15**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deut%2018.15)**,**[**18**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deuteronomy%2018.18)), which some Jews believe necessitates Moses’ return.

(2) Enoch and Elijah are seen as possibilities for the two witnesses because of the unique circumstances surrounding their exit from the world. Enoch and Elijah, as far as we know, are the only two individuals whom God has taken directly to heaven without experiencing death ([**Genesis 5:23**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%205.23)**;**[**2 Kings 2:11**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Kings%202.11)**).** Proponents of this view point to [**Hebrews 9:27**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb%209.27), which says that all men are appointed to die once. The fact that neither Enoch nor Elijah has yet experienced death seems to qualify them for the job of the two witnesses, who will be killed when their job is done. In addition, both Enoch and Elijah were prophets who pronounced God’s judgment ([**1 Kings 17:1**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Kings%2017.1)**;**[**Jude 1:14–15**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Jude%201.14%E2%80%9315)**).**

(3) Two unknowns are seen as possibilities for the two witnesses because of the lack of specificity in [Revelation 11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev%2011). Scripture does not identify the two witnesses by name, and no well-known person is associated with their coming. God is perfectly capable of taking two “ordinary” believers and enabling them to perform the same signs and wonders that Moses and Elijah did. There is nothing in [Revelation 11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev%2011) that requires us to assume a “famous” identity for the two witnesses.

There is an interesting passage in [**Zechariah 4**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Zech%204)that gives us a prototype of the two witnesses of Revelation. Zechariah has a vision in which he sees a solid gold lampstand. On top is a bowl of oil, and an olive tree stands on each side (verses 3–4). The lampstand gives its light without human maintenance, being constantly supplied by the olive oil flowing from the trees into the bowl. God’s message to Zechariah was that God’s work (rebuilding the temple) would be accomplished “not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit” (verse 6).

Zechariah asks about the meaning of the olive trees and the branches supplying the oil, and the angel who speaks to him says, “These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth” **(Zechariah 4:14).** In other words, God’s power to sustain His work is flowing through two individuals set apart for the task. In Zechariah’s context, these two individuals are Joshua (the current high priest) and Zerubbabel (the current governor of Judah). We can also see a foreshadowing of Jesus Christ here, as the Messiah would combine the offices of priest and king. Then we come to [**Revelation 11:4**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev%2011.4). In the description of the two witnesses, John says, “They are ‘the two olive trees’ and the two lampstands, and ‘they stand before the Lord of the earth.’” John quotes from[**Zechariah 4**](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Zech%204). The two witnesses of Revelation, like Joshua and Zerubbabel, will have God’s power flowing through them to accomplish God’s work.

So, who are the two witnesses of Revelation? The Bible does not say. All three views presented above are valid and plausible interpretations that Christians can have. The identity of the two witnesses is not an issue Christians should be dogmatic about.

High Lighted words in RED and Underscored words applied to show emphasis.

Source: <http://www.gotquestions.org/two-witnesses.html>