

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

- I. What you have seen (Rev 1).
- II. What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- III. What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).
 - A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)
 - B. The Seven Trumpets (8:2–11:19)
 - 1. Preparation for the Seven Trumpet Judgments (8:2–6)
 - 2. The First Four Trumpet Judgments (8:7–12)
 - 3. The Last Three Trumpet Judgments—**Three Woes** (8:13–11:19)
 - a. Introduction to the Woes (8:13)
 - b. **Fifth Trumpet**—Fiery Locusts from the Pit (9:1–12)
 - c. **Sixth Trumpet**—Loosing of the Four Angels Bound in the Euphrates (9:13–21)
 - d. **Parenthesis** (10:1–11:14)
 - The Mighty Angel (10:1–7)
 - The Book (10:8–11; cf. verse 2)
 - The Forty-Two Months of Gentile Dominion (11:1–2)

Scene: Tribulation Temple. Even though 11:19 refers to a heavenly sanctuary, John’s last standpoint was on earth. Thus, this courtyard must be on earth.

Cf. Daniel 9:24–27; Luke 21:20–24.

Cf. Hosea 5:15; Matthew 23:38–39.

The text (verse 1) anticipates both a defilement and a desolation of the sacred precincts of the Temple. Measuring the Temple area displays the Lord’s right of ownership. It also issues a challenge: He will retake His rightful possession and cast out the wicked intruder.

See, also, 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4.

- ✓ Note carefully the length of time (verse 2): 42 months = 1260 days (verse 3) and “a time and times and half a time” (12:14).
- The Two Witnesses (11:3–14)
 - Views:* (1) Moses & Elijah, (2) Elijah & Elisha, (3) Enoch & Elijah, (4) Law & Prophets, (5) Law & Gospel, (6) Old Testament & New Testament, (7) Representatives of Church Martyrs, (8) Two Faithful Churches in Chapters 2–3, (9) etc.
 - ✓ Identity of the two witnesses (verse 4).

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- ▶ See Zechariah 4:2–3, 14; 6:13.
- ▶ Cf. Malachi 4:4–5; Matthew 11:14.
- ▶ Cf. Matthew 17:3; Mark 9:4; Luke 9:30.
- ✓ Authority of the two witnesses (verses 3, 5–6).
 - ▶ To consume enemies by fire. 2 Kings 1:10–11.
 - ▶ To shut up the heavens so that it does not rain. 1 Kings 17:1.
 - ▶ To turn water into blood. Exodus 7:20.
 - ▶ To smite the earth with plagues. Exodus 8:1–12:29.
 - Enoch: No record of any priestly or kingly (leadership) ministry by divine appointment.
 - Moses: Exodus 3:1–4:17; 29:1–46; Psalm 99:6.
 - Elijah: 1 Kings 18:30–36 (cf. Leviticus 1:7–17); 1 Kings 19:15–16 (cf. 1 Samuel 16:1–13).
- ✓ Martyrdom of the two witnesses (11:7–10).
 - ▶ The Beast: First mention (verse 7).
 - ▶ Location: Jerusalem (verse 8).
 - ▶ Time: Last half of the Tribulation (cp. 7:14—successive events).
 - ▶ Celebration (verses 9–10).
- ✓ Resuscitation and translation of the two witnesses (11:11–13).
 - ▶ “After three days and a half” (verse 11a).
 - ▶ “The breath of life from God . . . and they stood” (verse 11b).
 - ▶ ““Come up here”” (verse 12; like Enoch).
 - ▶ An earthquake (verse 13). Earthquakes associated with sixth or seventh judgments in each series (6:12; 8:5).
- ✓ Resurrection or resuscitation?
 - ▶ See John 11:1–44; Matthew 27:52; Hebrews 9:27.
- ✓ The Second Woe Is Past (11:14).
 - ▶ Note that the third and final woe will come quickly—see 8:13.

Questions for Discussion

- a. How and why will the Temple be standing in the Tribulation Period?
- b. For what purpose does God appoint the ministry of the two witnesses?

Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

- ▶ Jesus prophesied about these events during His earthly ministry.
- ▶ Jesus fulfills the work of Daniel 9:24–27 related to these events.
- ▶ Jesus is the Lord of all the earth.
- ▶ Jesus had been crucified in order to be our sacrifice for sin.
- ▶ Jesus is the resurrection and the life.