

Who are the TWO WITNESSES?



6 Not only are the two witnesses identified as prophets in type and fulfilment, the **distinct message** they proclaim is also of **prophecy**. After a long delay, and a sure promise of "delay no longer" (Rev 10:6), the call of Jesus to those who "have been hearing in these days, these words" is to "be strong" (Zech 8:9) and "prophecy again **about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings**" (Rev 10:11)



7 Wearing **sackcloth** is a custom associated with mourning and earnest repentance before **imminent judgement**, great trouble or awakening. (Jonah 3:4-5, Dan 9:3-4, Esther 4:3, 1 Kings 20:32, Jer 4:8, Isa 37:1) The clothing of the two witnesses reflects their understanding of the nearness and severity of the solemn events before them. (Is 22:12, Jer 6:26, Jer 48:37, Ez 7:18, Amos 8:10) This will be most true in God's people only upon realising they have entered God's **appointed time of the end**.



8 The **subject of the prophecy** given by the two witnesses is the imminent judgment of the world by way of deeply troubling plagues such as described in the **third angels** message (Rev 14:9-13) and the **seven bowl of wrath** prophecies. (Rev 16)

9 The **scope of their ministry** is to "peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations" which covers **the whole world**. This is the same scope and timing and thus related to the sea beast rising, (Rev 13:7) the command to "prophecy again", (Rev 10:11) and the proclaiming of the 3rd angels message (Rev 14:6,7)

10 The **duration of their ministry** (3½ years) and subsequent death (3½ days) and resurrection shows the **similarity** between their experience and **Jesus**, who empowers them. They "follow him wherever he goes" identifying them as **part of the 144,000** (Rev 14:1,4)

11 This "great earthquake" is the **same magnitude and timing** as the "great earthquake, such as was not since men were on the earth" that marks the **closing of the seven plagues**, (Rev 16:18) and the same "great earthquake" that ushers the **appearing of God and Jesus** in the 6th seal (Rev 6:12) and also likely continues right through to the 7th Trumpet (Rev 11:19) These parallel prophetic visions all converge at the closing of Earth's history and second coming of Jesus.

11 Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood,[a] saying, "Rise and **measure** the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. **2** But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. **3** And I will give **power to my two witnesses**, and they will **prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days** [3½ years], **clothed in sackcloth.**" **4** These are the **two olive trees** and the **two lampstands** standing before the God[b] of the earth. **5** 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. **6** 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. **7** When they finish their **testimony**, the beast that ascends out of the **bottomless pit** will **make war** against them, overcome them, and kill them. **8** And their dead bodies **will lie** in the street of the **great city** which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our[c] Lord was crucified. **9** Then **those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations** will see their dead bodies **three-and-a-half days**, and not allow[d] their dead bodies to be put into graves. **10** And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these **two prophets tormented** those who dwell on the earth. **11** Now after the three-and-a-half days the **breath of life from God** entered them, and they **stood on their feet**, and great fear fell on those who saw them. **12** And they[e] heard a **loud voice** from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they **ascended to heaven** in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. **13** In the **same hour** there was a **great earthquake**, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and **gave glory to the God** of heaven. **14** The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly. **(Rev 11:1-14)**

12 The wicked inhabitants of the world otherwise **never want to repent** in fear or give glory to God. Not through the woeful scourges of the 5th and 6th trumpets, (Rev 9:20-21) not even through the final outpouring of God's wrath through the seven last plagues. (Rev 16:9,11) Their final submission here after the resurrection and great earthquake shows that these events occur **right at the very end** appearing of Jesus in glory at the close of the trumpets and plagues.

13 Wicked Ahab called **Elijah** the "**troubler of Israel**," (1 Kings 18:17-18) likewise Moses was seen to trouble all Egypt with the plagues. Prophets with **messages of judgment** from God are perceived as tormentors to those who wish to live unreprieved in sin and endless round of pleasure seeking.

14 The one hour terminology such as 'in the same hour' and 'in one hour' and 'the hour of' is always used in reference to the **final rule of the Beast** (Rev 17:12) and the **final judgment** (Rev 14:7) and fall of Babylon (Rev 18:10). Which signify the final hour of earth's history.

1 According to **God's own law** "by the mouth of two or three **witnesses** every word shall be established." (2 Cor 13:1, John 8:17) This is the requirement to **rise up against** anyone for sin and iniquity. (Deut 19:15) Furthermore "God does nothing, unless He **reveals His secret** to His servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7)

2 A candlestick or lampstand is translated from the same word (Greek: lychniai) and represents a **church**; the "seven lampstands are the seven churches." (Rev 1:20) A church is a group of God's people. The two witnesses are **two groups of God's people**.



3 According to a prophetic vision in the old testament, the two olive trees and two olive branches are "the **two anointed ones**, that **stand by the Lord** of the whole earth" (Zach 4:14) The Lord is Jesus, and the two anointed ones that stood next to Him were **Moses and Elijah** at the transfiguration. (Matt 17:2-4) They represent in type the two groups of people who will carry a special message to the world.

4 **Elijah** was the prophet that 'shut heaven' for 3½ years by praying that it "might not rain." (James 5:17, 1 Kings 17:1, Luke 4:25-26) **Moses** was the prophet that "struck the water in the Nile" and it "turned into blood." (Ex 7:19,20). Elijah and Moses are types frequently used to represent the messengers promised to come right before the end of time. (Mal 4:4-5, Matt 17:10-11)



5 The "**testimony** of Jesus is the **spirit of prophecy**." (Rev 19:10) The two witnesses are empowered and sent by **Jesus** himself. (Rev 11:3) They are those who "keep the commandments of God" (like Moses) and "go on before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah", (Luke 1:17) having "the testimony of Jesus Christ" which is the prophetic word. (Rev 12:17) The law and the testimony are a **mark and seal** of God's end time people, (Isa 8:16) "If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them." (Isa 8:20)

"The two witnesses are two groups of God's end time people represented by Moses and Elijah. Jesus Himself empowers them by His Spirit and sends them to testify to the whole world of His soon coming and final judgements of God. Their solemn prophecy 'torments' those who persist in rebellion against God and as they come to pass, the world is ushered into a time of great trouble such as never was. After the final warning is given to everyone, the Beast is allowed to move the nations to kill them and cast them out of the world 'as dead' by a decree of violence. Shortly after their apparent defeat they are gloriously delivered by the voice of God, an earthquake, a resurrection and the appearing of Jesus Christ."