



## Who are the Two Witnesses?

**“Increasingly, scholars are looking at Revelation as a Jewish text that reveals a heavenly Christ rather than a Christian text with Jewish attributes,”** – *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, p. 465.

**“Revelation shows no sense of a Christianity, or even of a Jewish-devotion, unmoored from Judaism.”** – *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, (New York, Oxford University Press, 2011), p. 464.

### Notes

Revelation 11:1-3 (NKJV) – <sup>1</sup> Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, “Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”

**Jerusalem is clearly identified:**

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| • The “ <u>holy city</u> ”                               | – Rev. 11:2 |
| • “ <u>Given to the Gentiles</u> ”                       | – Rev. 11:2 |
| • “ <u>Tread</u> ” upon                                  | – Rev. 11:2 |
| • “ <u>Great city</u> ”                                  | – Rev. 11:8 |
| • “ <u>Where also our Lord was crucified</u> ”           | – Rev. 11:8 |
| • “ <u>Which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt</u> ” | – Rev. 11:8 |
| • “ <u>Beloved city</u> ”                                | – Rev. 20:9 |
| • There will be a “ <u>New Jerusalem</u> ”               | – Rev. 21:2 |

This is the city where the “temple of God” is (Rev. 11:1)

**There are 4 temples in the Scriptures.**

1. Solomon's Temple was destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon in 586 BC.
2. The Second Temple is the one that Zerubbabel and Joshua rebuilt it (seventy years later) and destroyed by the Romans in 70 A.D.

- 3.** The Tribulation temple will be erected during the Tribulation period.

Daniel 9:27 (NIV) – He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.” “Covenant” - also “treaty”

Matthew 24:15 (NKJV) – “**Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place**” (whoever reads, let him understand)...

- 4.** The Millennial Temple is described in Isaiah 2 and Ezekiel 40–48.

Isaiah 2:2-3 (NKJV)

<sup>2</sup> Now it shall come to pass in the latter days  
*That the mountain of the **LORD's house***

Shall be established on the top of the mountains,  
And shall be exalted above the hills;  
And all nations shall flow to it.

<sup>3</sup> Many people shall come and say,  
“Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the **LORD**,  
To the house of the God of Jacob;  
He will teach us His ways,  
And we shall walk in His paths.”  
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,  
And the word of the **LORD** from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations,  
And rebuke many people;  
They shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
And their spears into pruning hooks;  
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
Neither shall they learn war anymore.

#### Two witnesses minister with power in Jerusalem.

- 42 months (Rev. 11:2) =  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  years ( $12 + 12 + 12 + 6 = 42$ )
- 1,260 days (Rev. 11:3 & 12:6) = 30 days per month x 12 months =  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  years
- Time, times &  $\frac{1}{2}$  time (Rev. 12:14) = 1 yr + 2 yrs +  $\frac{1}{2}$  yr =  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  yrs

#### When is the $3 \frac{1}{2}$ years of their ministry?

- The first  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  years, or
- The last  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  years, or
- Possibly an overlapping?

### How are the 2 witnesses described?

Revelation 11:4-6 (NKJV) – <sup>4</sup> These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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.

### Their description (Rev. 11:3-4):

Zechariah 4:11-14 (NKJV) – <sup>11</sup> Then I answered and said to him, “What are these two olive trees—at the right of the lampstand and at its left? ” <sup>12</sup> And I further answered and said to him, “What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains? ”

<sup>13</sup> Then he answered me and said, “Do you not know what these are?”

And I said, “No, my lord.”

<sup>14</sup> So he said, “These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.” Literally: “sons of fresh oil”

- Joshua (the high priest, Zechariah 3:1, 3, 6, 8, 9; 6:11)

Zechariah 3:1-5 (NKJV) – <sup>1</sup> Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. <sup>2</sup> And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire?” <sup>3</sup> Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. <sup>4</sup> Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, “Take away the filthy garments from him.” And to him He said, “See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.” <sup>5</sup> And I said, “Let them put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the LORD stood by.

- Zerubbabel (civil leader who returned from Babylon after captivity, Zech. 4:6-10).

Olive Trees – 2 Last Days’ witnesses endued with power of Spirit.

Two lampstands (at the right and left) – Joshua and Zerubbabel are **signs, pointing people to Jesus**.

Zechariah 3:8 (NKJV) – ‘Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, You and your companions who sit before you, For they are a wondrous sign; For behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH.

#### Their works (Rev. 11:5-6):

- Like Elijah: Stops rain, fire from mouth (1 Kings 17-18; Jam. 5:17-18; 2 Kings 1:9-14).
- Like Moses: water to blood and plagues.

#### Their identity:

##### ➤ Elijah

Malachi 4:5 (NKJV) – Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

Elijah appeared with Moses at the transfiguration.

##### ➤ Enoch

Enoch never died but was translated directly to God. (Gen. 5:24 & Heb. 11:5)

Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV) – And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.

But: 1. Millions / billions raptured saints also avoid death.  
2. If death is an issue, Moses' body is preserved.

- Revelation 11:4 says that these 2 witnesses are two olive trees.
- Zechariah 4:11 mentions 2 olive trees.

<b><u>Religious Leader (High Priest)</u></b>	<b><u>Civic Ruler</u></b>
Joshua (in Zech.)	Zerubbabel (in Zech.)
Elijah (spiritual rather than civic leader)	
<b><u>Satan's Imitation</u></b>	
False Prophet	Antichrist

##### ➤ Moses.

- Moses turned water to blood and brings plagues as the two witnesses do (Rev. 11:6). He appeared with Elijah at the transfiguration where Jesus talks about Elijah appearing in the Last Days (Mt. 17:11-12). But, Moses was also there. And, the body of Moses was preserved!

Jude 9 (NKJV) – Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”

Revelation 11:4 says the two witnesses are “olive trees.” Michael disputes over the body of Moses in Jude 9 with the words, “The Lord rebuke you!” The same words are used in Zechariah 3 when the Lord rebukes Satan in the context of the 2 olive trees.

**Why does God preserve Moses’ body?** (Deut. 34:5-6)  
 Jude 9 precedes Jude 14-15, which is clearly a prophecy about the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming.

Jude 14-15 (NKJV) – <sup>14</sup> Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, <sup>15</sup> to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”

The dispute over the preservation of the body of Moses is connected with the Last Days.

### What happens to the 2 witnesses?

**They are killed.** (Rev. 11:7-10) – <sup>7</sup> When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them. <sup>8</sup> And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. <sup>9</sup> Then those from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves. <sup>10</sup> 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.

- Attacked by “the beast” (*therion*) – (Rev. 11:7).
  - ❖ The unholy trinity:
    1. Satan: *therion* that comes up from the Abyss (Rev. 11:7)
    2. Anti-Christ: *therion* coming out of the sea (Rev. 13:1)
    3. False prophet: *therion* coming out of the earth (Rev. 13:11)
- They are untouchable until they finish their testimony (Rev. 11:7)

- They lie dead in the streets for 3 ½ days – (Rev. 11:8)
- They are not buried – (Rev. 11:9)
- The Gentiles (“peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations”) will gloat over their dead bodies – (Rev. 11:10)

**They are resurrected** (Revelation 11:11-14) – <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> And they 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. <sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

### The earth shakes as heaven comes to earth.

Revelation 11:15-19 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” <sup>16</sup> And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, <sup>17</sup> saying:

“We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty,  
The One who is and who was and who is to come,  
Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

<sup>18</sup> The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come,  
And the time of the dead, that they should be judged,  
And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints,  
And those who fear Your name, small and great,  
And should destroy those who destroy the earth.”

<sup>19</sup> Then the **temple of God was opened in heaven**, and the **ark of His covenant** was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Moses’ earthly tabernacle is a copy of the heavenly one. (Ex. 25:40; Heb. 8:5). Stay tuned for Revelation 15 (likely Oct 21).