

REVELATION 10-11 ANGELIC EXPLANATION 2 – GOD GIVES PROPHETIC DIRECTION

1. Introduction

- a. The **second angelic explanation** (Revelation 10:1-11:13) occurs immediately after the world crisis described in the **first six trumpet judgments** (Revelation 8-9) and in context to the unprecedented escalation of sin, deception and demonic activity (Revelation 9:21). It answers the question, “**How will the saints know what to do?**” in light of the unparalleled devastation, inevitable confusion (in the natural) and increased deception with false signs (Revelation 13:13; 16:14; 18:23; 19:20; Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9). This section covers the entire final 3½ years.

Revelation 9:20-21 *The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues [Seals and first 6 Trumpets], did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up **worshiping demons and idols ...**²¹ nor did they repent of their **murders** or their **sorceries** or their **sexual immorality** or their **thefts**.*

- b. In Revelation 10-11, John assures us that God will release unprecedented **prophetic direction** and **great power**. God promises through the prophet Joel that in the end-times, there will be a **dynamic move of the Spirit** prior to Jesus’ return that will far eclipse the book of Acts, **touching all nations** (Joel 2:28-31; Acts 2:17-21). This outpouring will occur **before** the Day of the Lord or Jesus’ second coming, where all of the saints will receive revelation through dreams, visions, etc., being manifest in many ways on international, national and regional levels (Acts 2:17-21; Ephesians 4:11-13; Revelation 11:10, 18; 16:6; 18:20, 24).

Joel 2:28 *And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on **all flesh** [all nations]; your sons and your daughters shall **prophesy**, your old men shall dream **dreams**, your young men shall see **visions**.²⁹ And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.³⁰ And I will show **wonders** in the heavens and in the earth: **Blood and fire and pillars of smoke**.³¹ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, **before** the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.³² And... **whoever calls** on the name of the LORD shall be saved. (Acts 2:16-21)*

- c. The Lord released a down payment of Joel’s prophecy on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:16-21). However, it was not completely fulfilled in Peter’s generation, as evidenced by the sun and moon not growing dark with signs of blood, fire and smoke. The initial outpouring in Acts 2 was **limited** to only **120 believers in one city**, Jerusalem. The fullness requires a **global dimension on all saints**, including all components fulfilled. This will be our most glorious hour (Ephesians 4:11-15; 5:27; Revelation 12:10-11; 19:7; Daniel 11:32-35, John 14:12)!
- d. There will be many deceivers with false signs deceiving many, even within the Church (Matthew 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9; Revelation 13:13; 16:14; 18:23; 19:20). We need not fear deception if we’re **rooted in the word of God**, by a **living relationship with the Holy Spirit** and connected in **true community**. There will be sufficient grace for the weakest believer to stand faithfully under pressure if a love for truth has been cultivated (2 Thessalonians 2:10).

Matthew 24:4 *Take heed that no one deceives you.⁵ **Many** will come... and will deceive **many**...¹¹ Many false prophets will rise up and deceive **many**.²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show **great signs and wonders** to deceive, if possible, **even the elect**.*

- e. In Revelation 11, John highlights **two witnesses**, who will stand at the epicentre of the prayer movement, preaching with great power and releasing God’s judgments against the Antichrist’s empire

for the final 3½ years of the Great Tribulation. They will move in power far beyond anything Elijah or Moses did in the OT.

2. The forerunner anointing

Revelation 10:1 *I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. ² He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, ³ and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.*

- a. The angel's glory reveals various aspects of the authority that is **available** and **released** upon God's messengers. The description of the angel is important, because it's a prophetic statement concerning the anointing that the Spirit will manifest upon those carrying the type of ministry that the angel is releasing. When an angel appears, their stature is commensurate with the purpose for which they're sent (Daniel 10-12). The **greater the purpose**, the **greater the glory** and the **greater the anointing** released to those commissioned.

Daniel 10:5 *I looked, and behold, a certain man [angel] clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! ⁶ His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in colour, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude. ⁷ And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me... a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves... ¹² Then he said... ¹⁴ Now I have come to **make you understand** what will happen to your people in the **latter days**, for the vision refers to many days yet to come... **12:4** But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and **seal the book** until the time of the end...*

- b. In Revelation 10 there are **eight dimensions of glory** that are revealed as available to all those who position and set themselves apart to be influenced by the contents of this chapter (Daniel 11:32). Those who say "yes" will be anointed as **forerunners** to operate at various levels of these eight dimensions of glory as commissioned by this mighty angel at international, national, regional and local spheres of influence.
 - i **Mighty angel**: forerunners will operate in the power of the Holy Spirit (Daniel 11:32; Revelation 11:3)
 - ii **Robed in a cloud of glory**: forerunners will experience God's Shekinah glory (Acts 2:1-4, 16-19)
 - iii **Rainbow around his head**: certainty of God's promises and message of tender mercy (Isaiah 62:4-5)
 - iv **Face shines like the sun**: emphasizes God's might in their inner man reflected through their bright countenance (Ephesians 3:17). Joy is strength. John was described as a burning and shining lamp (John 5:35).
 - v **Feet are like pillars of fire**: walking in reality of God's holy judgment to establish love (Haggai 2:6-9) nb Isaiah 61/Luke 4 – proclamation of Day of Vengeance is part of Forerunner ministry.
 - vi **Little book open in hand**: prophetic revelation of the word, as they "eat the scroll" (Ezekiel 3:1-4)
 - vii **Feet on sea and land**: emphasizes the global authority of this mandate as a whole, each messenger individually taking possession of their allotted inheritance across the earth (Deuteronomy 11:24; Joshua 1:3; 14:9). This point is restated 3x (Revelation 10:2, 5, 8) to underscore complete authority of the entire earthly situation.
 - viii **Cried out like a lion**: prayer and proclamation with the boldness of a lion (Amos 3:7-8; Proverbs 28:1)

3. Seven Thunders prophets

Revelation 10:2 He [angel] had a **little book open** in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,³ and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.⁴ Now when the **seven thunders uttered their voices**, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them.”

- a. This **little book** is not the same as the scroll taken from the Father’s hand by Jesus (Revelation 5:7). There is no other being “worthy” to look upon it or read from it. Only Jesus operates in the fullness of that scroll.
- b. An **open book** reveals the **know-ability of its contents**. When the mighty angel read the little book, making the contents of the book known, it had an impact in the spirit realm causing “seven thunderous voices” to release **seven prophetic messages**. We know they are messages, as John was “about to write them” (Revelation 10:4). Here the thunders are **personified** and are probably angelic beings. Whatever they may be, it is clear that the source of their message is from the Holy Spirit, under the Father’s authority.
- c. God has concealed **key prophetic information** that He will reveal to the global end-time Church (Revelation 10:4). God will raise up end-time **forerunner messengers** who will carry these “seven thunders” messages to the ends of the earth, as expressed through the angel having his “right foot on the sea and left foot on the land” (Revelation 10:2). This will occur **before** Jesus returns, as a witness to all nations (Joel 2:28-31; Matthew 24:14).
- d. John **understood** the prophetic messages, but was told to “seal them up” until the end-times like Daniel (Daniel 12:9). Whenever God gives a prophecy to a prophet, but then says, “seal it”, it **means hold back the information for now**, but only until the appointed time. This is God’s way of letting the saints know that He has something to say, but not yet. We can either passively ignore them or actively press in to receive them.

Revelation 10:3 When he cried out, **seven thunders** uttered their **voices** [messages].⁴ I was about to write; but I heard a voice... saying, “**Seal up** the things which the seven thunders uttered, and **do not write** them.”

- e. John may now be receiving prophetic insight into the same information that Daniel “sealed” 500 years earlier. Daniel 10-12 is a parallel passage to Revelation 10-13 in which Daniel sealed up similar **prophetic information** from an angel of similar glory with a similar oath related to the same 3½-year time frame (Daniel 12:4-10). However, John hears the “seven thunders”, which is additional information to what Daniel received, but is restrained from releasing it like Daniel was. In the same way that John received Daniel’s “sealed” information 500 years later, God will unlock John’s “seven thunders” messages in the end-times.

Daniel 12:4 Daniel, **shut up the words**, and **seal the book** until the **time of the end**;⁵ “How long shall the fulfilment of these wonders be?”⁷ ...he [angel] held up his right hand and his left hand to heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever, that it shall be for a **time, times, and half a time** [3½ years]; and when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished...⁹ And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are **closed up and sealed till the time of the end**.¹⁰ none of the wicked shall understand, but the **wise shall understand** [forerunner messengers].

- f. We are believing God to raise up **thousands of forerunner messengers**, releasing His power in their region.

Daniel 11:32 *the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. ³³ And those of the people who understand shall instruct many...*

4. Releasing the Seven Thunders messages

Revelation 10:5 *The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven ⁶ and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, ⁷ but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.*

- a. It is a matter of **justice** and **mercy** that God reveals His acts beforehand to His prophets to warn the people (Amos 3:7; Matthew 24:14). As was the case with Nineveh, God's justice demands sending His prophetic voices before His judgment as a warning for what's coming next (Jonah 3). This gives everyone an opportunity to repent and agree with God or suffer the consequences of their rebellion against the Lord and His ways.

Amos 3:7 *Surely the Lord GOD **does nothing**, unless He reveals His secret to His servants **the prophets**.*

Jonah 3:2 *"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and **preach to it the message** that I tell you."*

- b. The weather forecast provides invaluable information of soon coming crisis, such as tsunamis or hurricanes, so that people can safely prepare for it. Military leaders are held responsible for a crisis that results from ignoring critical military information. In a similar way, **prophetic leaders** will be responsible to act on **prophetic information** that must not be ignored as irrelevant or unimportant. God requires His messengers to learn the message, before blowing the trumpet of warning, even to the oppressors.

Ezekiel 33:6 *If the watchman sees the sword coming and **does not blow the trumpet**, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person... **his blood I will require at the watchman's hand**.*

- c. The **seven thunders messages**, though not revealed yet, are clearly messages with global influence that assist God's messengers in bringing the **mystery of God** to completion, prior to Jesus' second coming when God's wrath will be poured out (Revelation 15-16). The mystery of God includes the Father's eternal plan to prepare a **mature bride** that will rule in equally yoked partnership with Jesus, while He prepares to dwell in unhindered face-to-face communion with His people in paradise upon the earth forever (Revelation 19:7; 22:4).
- d. There is **no more delay**, because the **appointed time** has come that seventh angel should sound his trumpet, signalling Jesus' return to the earth, when He will **remove** everything that hinders love and **receive** His glorious inheritance of a Bride without spot or wrinkle, holy and without blemish (Ephesians 5:27) who is equally yoked with Him in mature love "unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13). This answers the martyr's cry in the fifth seal "How long until You bring justice?" (Revelation 6:9-11).

Revelation 6:9 *The fifth seal, I saw... those who had been slain... **10** And they cried, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"*

- e. The **mystery of God** is finished, as the **full number of martyrs** is complete (Revelation 6:11). This occurs when the angel is "about to sound". The final martyrs killed, completing the **full number** are the two witnesses who are martyred just prior to the sounding of the seventh trumpet, thus the phrase "when he is **about to sound**", signalling Jesus' return to the planet.

- f. **In the days of the sounding of the seventh trumpet** - Jesus will take manifest leadership of the earth in partnership with a fully prepared and equally yoked bride. Jesus' second coming is a "royal procession", including many events occurring within a 30-day period. (Compare Daniel 12:11 with Revelation 11:3; 12:6.)

5. Preparing end-time messengers – "eating the scroll"

Revelation 10:8 *Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."⁹ So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "**Take and eat it**; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."¹⁰ Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.¹¹ And he said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings."*

- a. John **eating the scroll** (Revelation 10:8-11), as Ezekiel and Jeremiah did (Ezekiel 2:8-3:3; Jeremiah 15:16) is a prototype for God's end-time messengers. The principle being taught is that forerunners must take time to "chew on" and "digest" the word of God and as we do, we will naturally speak forth what we see and hear (Jeremiah 20:9; Amos 3:7-8; Revelation 19:10). In context, it's speaking of the unique dynamics and unusual events of the end-times, which once we "taste", we are **affected by** and then **held accountable** for telling others about.

Ezekiel 3:1 *"Son of man, eat what you find; **eat this scroll**, and go, speak to the house of Israel."² So I opened my mouth, and He caused me to **eat that scroll**.³ And He said, "Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you." So I ate, and it was in my mouth like **honey in sweetness**.⁴ Then He said: "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and **speak with My words** to them."*

- b. John is told to **eat the scroll**, but is warned by God that its contents are both **sweet** and **bitter**, even as they were for Daniel. Joel declares that the Day of the Lord is both great and terrible (Joel 2:11; Malachi 4:5). It's **sweet** for those who say "yes", but it's **bitter** for all those who say "no!" to God and His ways.

Revelation 10:9 *...eat it; and it will make your stomach **bitter**, but it will be as **sweet** as honey in your mouth.*

- i Sweet: message of victory, salvation and justice with deliverance to the oppressed worldwide.
- ii Bitter: message of global judgment upon mankind that brings persecution to messengers (Luke 19:41).
- c. Both Daniel and John had **unusual revelation** in context to **unusual devotion** to the word from their youth (70 years) then being visited when older. John's past faithfulness to the word (Revelation 1:2, 9) determined his future increase of revelation (Revelation 1:1). The prophet Daniel, who modelled fasting, praying and studying (Daniel 9:20-22; 10:1-13), was given the most panoramic view of Israel's future history due to his diligence in the word of God (Daniel 9:2, 20-27). David's love and commitment to the word directly correlated with his future revelation of it as well (Psalm 119:148; 1 Chronicles 28:11-19). If we value what God has already said through His word, by giving diligent study to it and obeying it with a spirit of excellence, then we have confidence that He will reveal more. **A king can be anointed in one day, but it takes a lifetime to raise up a deliverer.**
- d. John was told by the angel that he **must prophesy**, as God only releases His **full purposes** in partnership with His people who prophesy them (Jeremiah 1:7-10; Amos 3:7; Jonah 3:2).
- e. Saying that he must prophesy **again** may indicate that this was **prophesied before**, as in Daniel's initial message, revealing that this "little book" is in fact the revelation given to Daniel. Or it may indicate that John had already prophesied concerning the future "peoples, nations, tongues and kings" by writing

down what was previously shown him, thus he was prophesying again by adding **additional information** to what he had previously already revealed. Or it could indicate the **future prophesying** of end-time messengers.

6. The measuring line of God and the Tribulation Temple

Revelation 11:1 *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." 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.*

- a. The first command given to John after receiving his commission to prophesy is to **rise and measure** the paradox and tensions related to what God is doing in the "Tribulation Temple" in Jerusalem (Revelation 11:1- 2). The problem is that this temple isn't either **all good** or **all bad**. In the midst of this temple there will be terrible demonic activities, but related to it there will also be redemptive activities as well.

Revelation 11:1 *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.*

- b. The **Tribulation Temple** will be **built** by unbelieving Jews before the Great Tribulation and **desecrated** by the Antichrist to begin it (Matthew 24:15; Mark 13:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:4; Revelation 11:1-2; 13:12-18; Daniel 8:13; 9:26, 27; 11:31, 36-37; 12:11). It is called the "Temple of God" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4; Revelation 11:1) and is not the same as the **Millennial Temple**, built by Jesus at the beginning of His 1000-year Millennial reign (Ezekiel 37:26-28; 40-48; Isaiah 2:3; 60:13; Jeremiah 33:18; Joel 3:18; Micah 4:2; Habakkuk 2:20; Haggai 2:7-9; Zechariah 6:12-15; 14:16-21; Malachi 3:1-3).
- c. The word "**measure**" means to **carefully evaluate** and is used in context to weighing and thinking through the different issues related to the activity of God-fearing Jews in Jerusalem in the end-times (Matthew 7:2). This will require **spiritual discernment** and **prophetic insight** into the paradoxes and tensions surrounding this temple. Amos had a plumb line in his hand to measure the purity of Israel. We are to measure the purity and purpose of God, with all complexities, surrounding the temple, altar and worshipers.

Amos 7:8 *The LORD said, "Amos, what do you see?" I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said: "Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel..."*

- d. The Antichrist desecrates the temple, establishing the **Abomination of Desolation** claiming to be God.

Matthew 24:15 *When you see the 'Abomination of Desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place... ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.*

2 Thessalonians 2:3 *The son of perdition [Antichrist], 4 who... exalts himself above all that is called God... so that he **sits as God in the temple of God**, showing himself that he is God.*

- e. God-fearing Jews will be involved in God's purposes in some Temple activities before they are saved. We are not to dismiss all their activities in the Temple as worthless because they're still in process, but neither are we to see them as **saved** until they **come to faith in Jesus**. "God-fearing Jews" not yet saved, will in some ways parallel the "God-fearing Gentiles" like Cornelius (Acts 10). The temptation of some will be to quickly criticize everything they do as "bad" while others will quickly rejoice as if all is "good".

- f. This command to **measure the temple** is part of John's commission to prophesy, which involves establishing understanding for God's people (Revelation 10:11). There is a continuum between Temple activities, the salvation of the 144,000 (Revelation 7; 14:1-4) and the later salvation of all Israel (Romans 11:26).

7. Jerusalem will be trampled for 3½ years

Revelation 11:2 *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 [Jerusalem] underfoot for forty-two months.*

- a. The court being "**given to the Gentiles**" may happen a few years before the ultimate trampling of Jerusalem which occurs during the final 3½ years of the Great Tribulation.
- b. Jesus prophesied that Jerusalem would be **trampled by Gentiles** and **surrounded by armies**. This was partially fulfilled in 70 AD by the Roman's and will be ultimately fulfilled in the Great Tribulation.

Luke 21:20 *But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. ²¹ Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. ²² For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. ²³ But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. ²⁴ And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. (Zechariah 12:3; 14:1-2)*

- c. To be **trodden under foot** speaks of being totally conquered and even crushed to the ground. Grapes were "trodden under foot" (Judges 9:27; Isaiah 16:10). This speaks of Jerusalem's total defeat under the reign of the Antichrist and his armies, including the Ten Kings. Daniel saw a picture of this occurrence (Daniel 8:13) and the ultimate fulfilment of it by the Antichrist Beast "**trampling**" all nations (Daniel 7:19, 23). They will "**tread Jerusalem**" underfoot, but Jesus will ultimately "**tread them**" (Isaiah 63:1-6; Revelation 14:17-20; 19:15).

Daniel 8:13 *Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to that certain one who was speaking, "How long will the vision be, concerning the daily sacrifices and the transgression of desolation, the giving of both the sanctuary and the host [army] to be trampled underfoot?"*

- d. The outer court has been **given to the Gentiles**. Roman armies destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD. In AD 637 the Arabs under Omar conquered Jerusalem and the "Dome of the Rock" or "Mosque of Omar" was built on the temple site and remains to this day with the inscription, "God has no son".
- e. Jerusalem is called the **holy city**, because it was the **only** city on earth that the **Lord placed His Name** upon (Jeremiah 25:29; Daniel 9:18-19). It is the **great city** in which Jesus was crucified (Revelation 11:8) and is the **city of the great King** to which He will return and rule from in the Millennium (Matthew 5:35).
- f. The **times of the Gentiles** pertains to the domination of Jerusalem by **Gentile power** (Luke 21:20-24), which began when Nebuchadnezzar totally conquered Jerusalem in 586 BC. This period ends at Jesus' return (Daniel 2; Revelation 11:15-19). The **fullness of the Gentiles** spoken by Paul (Romans 11:25), includes the **full number** of Gentiles being saved, who walk in the **fullness** of power, **understanding** and **godly character** and thus, fulfilling the **fullness of God's purpose** for them in this age (Ephesians 4:13; 5:27).

- g. The **42 months** is the same **3½ year time frame** as the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21; Revelation 7:14). There is no reason to interpret this as symbolic. There are 8 Scriptures and 4 different phrases that describe this 3½ year period. **Half a Week** (Daniel 9:27), **1,260 days** (Revelation 11:3; 12:6), the **times, time, and half a time** (Revelation 12:14; Daniel 7:25; 12:7), and **42 months** (Revelation 11:2; 13:5). Different terminology is used so that the meaning is clear and that no one would be able to dismiss this significant prophetic time frame as symbolic.

8. The revelation of the Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:3 *And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”⁴ These are the **two olive trees** and the **two lampstands** standing before the God 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... 10 these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth*

- a. The Lord will raise up **Two Witnesses** to release **prophetic direction** with **great power** during the final 3½ years, who function with a similar anointing as Moses and Elijah, on a global and ultimate scale in confronting the Antichrist. They will stand at the epicentre of the prayer movement, preaching with great power and releasing God’s judgments against the Antichrist’s systems for the final 3½ years of the Great Tribulation. They will move in power far beyond anything that Elijah or Moses operated in. The end-time worship movement will support the Two Witnesses through prophetic declaration and intercession.
- b. Who are they? We know that both of these prophets already **stood beside the Lord** in Zechariah’s day (Zechariah 4:3, 11-14; Revelation 11:4). We also know through Scripture that besides the final generation of those caught up in the rapture, it has been appointed for **all men to die once** and then the judgment (Hebrews 9:27). Therefore, according to Scripture, the **only** two men that have not died yet, but were taken by God by Zechariah’s day are **Enoch** (Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5) and **Elijah** (2 Kings 2:11). Could they be the two?

Zechariah 4:2 *And he said to me, “What do you see?”³ **Two olive trees**... one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left.”¹¹ Then I answered, “What are these **two olive trees**—at the right of the lampstand and at its left?”¹³ Then he answered me and said, “Do you not know what these are?” And I said, “No, my lord.”¹⁴ So he said, “These are the **two anointed ones**, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.”*

- c. We know that **Elijah** is returning to earth before the second coming (Malachi 4:6; Matthew 17:11; Mark 9:12).

Malachi 4:5 *Behold, I will send you **Elijah** the prophet **before** the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.⁶ 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.”*

- d. The **Two Witnesses**, along with the support of the **144,000**, release the end-time judgments by prophetic decrees like Moses. Elijah shut the heavens, so that no rain fell, creating a severe drought and subsequent famine in his original earthly ministry (1 Kings 17:1; 18:1-2; Luke 4:25; James 5:17). He also released fire from heaven (1 Kings 18:20-40; 2 Kings 1). The False Prophet parallels the magicians of Egypt (Exodus 7:11, 22; 8:7).

Revelation 11:5 *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 [3½ years]; and they have power **over waters** to turn them to blood, and to **strike the earth** with all plagues, as often as they desire...*

- e. The plagues of Egypt are the prototype of the end-time judgments of God (Exodus 7-12) released through intercession (Revelation 5:8; 8-9; 16). The confrontation between Moses and Aaron against Pharaoh using the ten plagues of Egypt gives us insight into the confrontation between the Two Witnesses, supported by the Church and the 144,000 of the remnant of Israel against the Antichrist, the False Prophet and his armies.
- f. The miracles done by Elijah and Moses and the teamwork of Moses and Aaron will be seen again through the Two Witnesses. The O.T. prophets believed that the miracles of Egypt would occur again in the end-times (Micah 7:15; Isaiah 10:22-26; 11:12-16; 30:30; Jeremiah 16:14-15; 23:7-8; Ezekiel 38:22; Joel 2:30).

Micah 7:15 *“As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, I will show them wonders.”*

- g. In Revelation 12:13-14 there is food supernaturally provided for the remnant of Israel in the wilderness. The Two Witnesses will most likely participate in releasing this provision like Moses (Exodus 16:1-36; 17:1-7) and Elijah (1 Kings 17:14-16; 18:41-46; 19:5-8).

Revelation 12:13 *Now when the dragon saw that he had been cast to the earth, he persecuted the **woman** [faithful remnant of ethnic Israel] who gave birth to the male Child [Jesus].¹⁴ But the **woman** was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the **wilderness** to her place, where she is **nourished** for a time and times and half a time [3½ years], from the presence of the serpent.*

- h. The Two Witnesses will command **fire** through the words of their mouths, destroying their enemies (v. 5). When God’s people faltered between serving God and Baal, Elijah said, “**the God who answers by fire, He is God**” (1 Kings 18:20-40). Elijah called fire down upon King Ahaziah’s troops, killing them (2 Kings 1:10-12). The False Prophet will also “make fire come down from heaven” (Revelation 13:13).

Revelation 13:13 *He [False Prophet] performs great signs, so that he even makes **fire come down from heaven** on the earth in the sight of men.*

- i. The Lord will anoint these two prophets to “strike the earth with **all plagues**, as often as they desire”, because they walk in such profound unity with the Spirit of God. They have been before the Lord since Zechariah’s day (Zechariah 4:3, 11-14; Revelation 11:4), therefore they have been transformed in meekness and humility to such a degree that God gives them a “blank check” to operate in unprecedented power for the final 3½ years of natural human history. They will not operate in “showmanship” or vengeance in any way (Luke 9:51-56), but only for the sake of **love**, the **glory of Jesus** and the **good of His people**.
- j. They are **clothed in sackcloth**, as even their garments depict the “**eschatological mourning**” that they operate in. They see the glorious victory for the saints that lies just ahead, yet feel the bitterness of global judgment and destruction that the unbelieving world has brought upon itself. These two prophets are **global intercessors** as they **take their stand** before the Lord on behalf of the people (Ezekiel 22:30), operating in the spirit of Joel 2. **Note:** It never states they are confined to the city of Jerusalem for the entire 3½ years.

Joel 2:12 *“Now, therefore,” says the LORD, “Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”¹³ So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm...¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly;¹⁶ gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the*

elders, gather the children and nursing babes...¹⁷ Let the **priests** [intercessors], who minister to the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar; let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

9. The Two Witnesses killed

Revelation 11:7 When they finish their testimony, the Beast [Antichrist] 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 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 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.

- a. The Two Witnesses will **finish their testimony** at the end of the 3½ year period of time, called the Great Tribulation. In verse 3 we are told that they will prophesy **exactly 1,260 days** or 3½ years (Revelation 11:3).

Revelation 11:3 I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy **1,260 days**, clothed in sackcloth.

- b. The Beast that **ascends out of the bottomless pit** (Revelation 11:7; 17:8 [2x], 11) is the Antichrist after being revived from a mortal sword wound to the head at the beginning of the Great Tribulation (Revelation 13:3, 12, 14). This occurs at the same time that Satan is cast from heaven (Revelation 12:7-12) and that the Antichrist declares himself to be God, while in the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). These events are all related.

Revelation 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as if it had been **mortally wounded**, and his **deadly wound was healed**. And all the world marvelled and followed the beast.⁴ So they **worshiped the dragon** who gave authority to the beast; and they **worshiped the beast**, saying, "Who is like the beast?"

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no one deceive you... for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,⁴ who **opposes and exalts himself above all** that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he **sits as God** in the temple of God, showing himself that **he is God**.

- c. All nations will see their bodies lying **3½ days** in the street of the city of Jerusalem, which is referred to spiritually as "Sodom" and "Egypt", referring to the similarities between them. The **3½ day period of death** may be prophetic of the **3½ year period of death** that the unbelieving world has embraced by choice.
- d. The unbelieving world will **rejoice** over them, **make merry** and **send gifts** to one another, because the two prophetic voices that "tormented" them by speaking truth are finally silenced by death.

10. The Two Witnesses resurrected

Revelation 11:11 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 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.

- a. When considering the timing surrounding these events, we know that the Two Witnesses prophesy for exactly **1,260 days** or 3½ years (Revelation 11:3). We know that they are then killed and their bodies seen lying in the street and not allowed to be buried for exactly **3½ days**. Lastly, we know that

sometime after 3½ days they are resurrected in light and glory, causing great fear (Revelation 11:11) before ascending to heaven in a cloud.

- b. During this 3½ day period, although after the 1,260 days of the Great Tribulation, we know that **Jesus' second coming procession** and the **rapture of the saints has not yet occurred**, because...
- i The nations are rejoicing, making merry and sending gifts (Revelation 11:10), whereas at Jesus' return at the seventh trumpet all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him (Revelation 1:7).

Revelation 11:9 *The peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies 3½ days...¹⁰ And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another...*

Revelation 1:7 *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

- ii They hear a **loud voice from heaven** saying to them, "Come up here!" (Revelation 11:12). It's no accident that the Holy Spirit had John record the **exact phrase** being used, as this is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ who said "Come up here" to John, calling him up to heaven the same way (Revelation 4:1). If Jesus had already returned to earth at His second coming, He wouldn't still be in heaven saying, "Come up here".

Revelation 11:12a *And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here."*

Revelation 4:1 *And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."*

- iii Lastly, these two men will be raised from the dead before all nations and ascend to heaven in a cloud (Revelation 11:12). At Jesus' return, He will be coming from heaven to earth with **all the saints** upon clouds (Zechariah 14:5; 1 Thessalonians 3:13). Therefore, if Jesus' second coming and the rapture of the saints had already taken place, these would be the only two saints in heaven at this time, which is highly unlikely.

Revelation 11:12b *And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.*

1 Thessalonians 3:13 *that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.*

- iv In vs. 13 there's an earthquake **following** their ascent. Could this be the same one that accompanies Jesus' second coming with "lightnings, noises, thunderings, an **earthquake** and great hail" (Revelation 11:19)?

The **mystery of God is finished**, as the full number of martyrs is complete (Revelation 6:11). They are **the last two martyrs** and the **first two resurrected** from the dead, fulfilling the "last shall be first" (Mark 10:31) and another fulfilment to the "sudden destruction" which follows "peace and safety" (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3).

Revelation 10:7 *but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.*

Mark 10:31 *But many who are first will be last, and the last first."*

- c. These two have been uniquely sustained with natural bodies in the presence of the Lord for over 2,000 years, much in the same way as Moses in God's presence upon Matthew Sinai for eighty days. They were chosen by God to receive the **final martyrs crowns** and the **first resurrected bodies** (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:52).

11. Conclusion

- a. We're not going to consider the remaining verses of chapter 11, because verses 15-19 deal with the blowing of the 7th trumpet and the return of Jesus, which requires a session of its own.
- b. The heading to today's session is "God gives prophetic direction" – that is the main point of these two chapters. To be prepared as forerunners, it's important that we are familiar with the main events of the last days, but we also need to know what resources and help will be available to the generation in which the Lord returns. If that is not our generation, then we need to be able to prepare the next generation so that they are equipped and their hearts are prepared.
 - i There will be prophetic messages that will guide and direct the saints, and the release of these messages will be co-ordinated by the Holy Spirit. The maturity of the Body of Christ by then will have reached a level where discernment of false prophecy will be able to weed out the genuine from the deception, and thus the saints will know what to do, how to pray and so on.
- c. Studying Revelation will help us grow in knowledge and also in confidence in Jesus' leadership. We also have the indwelling Holy Spirit and he is very good at encouraging and strengthening those who will avail themselves of his ministry. Here is what he will do:

Isaiah 11:2 *And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*