

Revelation Chapter 11
The Two Witnesses
Bible Study Notes

'And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.'

These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth'

Revelation 11:3-4

Revelations chapter 11 & 12 do not flow from chapter 10 but are more like interval chapters. Which summarise many of the events mentioned during chapters 1-10.

As a result of this, many read Revelation chapters 11 & 12, thinking that the events mentioned in those chapters have not yet taken place, when they are actually describing past events.

A rule of thumb to remember is that Revelation 1-10 mainly deal with Church history, 13-22 deal with last day and future events and 11 & 12 are interval summary chapters.

As we finished up Revelations Chapter 9 part. II & Chapter 10, we noticed that those events dealt with the period of Church history stemming from the blowing of the sixth trumpet which began in the fall [autumn] of 1844. It was at this time that there commenced a numbering of both the righteous and the wicked; the setting a part of the future inhabitants of the Heavenly Jerusalem was taking place. The time of judgement had first commenced, of which we are still living in, and the proclamation of the 3 angel's messages of Revelation 14 are to be preached unto all the world, to prepare a people fit for Heaven.

With that being said, we will now get into our study, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

v.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.**'*

Here we see John is taken in vision to the time of the blowing of the 6th trumpet [1844] when the judgement began in heaven, 'for the hour of God's judgement had come'. He is told to rise up and measure the temple and those who worship there.

This is a reference to God's people being judged and 'measured up' against God's standard to see if they are fit to enter in through the gates of Heaven. As we mentioned in our previous study, this time of judgment commenced in 1844 at the end of the 2,300-year prophecy, first given by the prophet Daniel in **Daniel 8:24**.

Says the Apostle Peter, '*For the time has come for **judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?**'* **1st Peter 4:17**

*'Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and **begin at My sanctuary.**'* So, *they began with the elders who were before the temple.'*

Ezekiel 9:6

Many in the Church today believe the non-biblical teaching that the reference to the temple refers to the nation of Israel and whilst this was true in the times of the Old Testament up until the days of Jesus crucifixion, the period of the nation of Israel came to an end after they themselves, His own people, put Him to death on the cross.

Daniel 9 explicitly tells us that 70 weeks (490 years) would remain for the Jews to turn from their wicked ways and to return to true Bible based religion and not the apostate form of religion which they promulgated, **[Daniel 9:24-26]**, See further information on this in my study notes called **The 2,300 days and 70 weeks of Daniel**.

The terms 'the temple' and 'Jerusalem' in the New Testament refer to God's faithful people on earth, that is the True Church, regardless of nationality or ethnic background. This true and faithful Church, also called the Bride of Christ, encompasses all the true Bible believing and practicing persons throughout all denominations. Notice I said all the TRUE **BIBLE BELIEVING AND PRACTICING PEOPLE**, for there are many apostates in all denominations, however, Jesus has many sheep in all denominations, but according to **Revelation 18:1-4 & John 10:16**, He is calling them out of Babylon to be part of the last day remnant of believers that shall exist just before His 2nd Coming. **There shall be one-fold and one Shepherd.**

In the days of Moses, God chose the literal nation of Israel to be His people, set apart from the heathen nations of the world, to proclaim the first coming of the Messiah to the world. However, because of their continuous apostasy and eventual rejection of the same Messiah who they were to preach unto the then world, they were thus rejected as God's people and it was at that time, more specifically after the first Christian martyr, Stephen, that the gospel then went out to the entire world **[Acts 7:59,60- Acts 8:1,4]**, first by those faithful Israelites who followed Christ and then by the many others in the world who have come after them.

Read: **Galatians 4:21-31, John 4:20-24, Hebrews 12:22-24, Philippians 3:20-21, Ephesians 2:19-22, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4.**

Notice the parallels below in the Old Testament where God's people in those days were also **measured**.

*'Then I raised my eyes and looked, and behold, a man with a **measuring line** in his hand. So, I said, "Where are you going?" "And he said to me, "**To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length.**"*
Zechariah 2:1-2

*'In the visions of God, He took me into the land of Israel and set me on a **very high mountain**; on it **toward the south was something like the structure of a city**. He took me there, and behold, there was a man whose appearance was like the appearance of bronze. He had a line of flax and a **measuring rod in his hand**, and he stood in the gateway.*

*And the man said to me, "Son of man, look with your eyes and hear with your ears, and fix your mind on everything I show you; for you were brought here so that I might show them to you. Declare to the house of Israel everything you see." Now there was a wall all around the outside of **the temple**. In the man's hand was a **measuring rod** six cubits long, each being a cubit and a handbreadth; and he measured the width of the wall structure, one rod; and the height, one rod.'* **Ezekiel 40:2-6**

In closing, John in vision, is seeing the time of judgment for the Christian Church [*synonymous with the cleansing of the Sanctuary*], which commenced at the blowing of the 6th trumpet in 1844 and this judgment shall cease once the time of probation closes for mankind, that is, during the mark of the beast crisis. God's people are being measured to see if they are living the faith that they profess, they are being measured and weighed against the perfect law of liberty, the Law of God, His 10 commandments; **it is the foundation of the kingdom of God.**

'So, speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.' **James 2:12**

v.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.'

Immediately we see the period of papal rulership mentioned, **42 months [1,260 years]**, this therefore shows us that we are referring to the period which ran from **the year 538-1798**. We have covered this timespan on many occasions, so I will not go back in detail on this. John is told not to '*measure the court*', which is '*outside the temple*', for it was given to the Gentiles.

Now as we know, the temple in the Holy City represents the true Church, those who are **Spiritual Israel**, God's people, therefore, the Gentiles here referred to are those **Spiritual Gentiles**, those who are not part of God's elect, i.e., they represent the wicked who persecuted the true Church of God under the leadership of the Papacy during its reign and will do the same when the Papacy regains its power in these last days.

*'The Gentiles are those who are not true Jews or true believers but rather counterfeit Jews (see **John 1:47; John 8; Romans 2:28, 29; Romans 9:6-8; Galatians 3:28, 29**). These 'counterfeit believers' are not judged in 1844 but only the righteous.'* Pastor Stephen Bhor

It is these gentiles [*the papacy and its allies*] who persecuted the saints and trampled it underfoot for 1,260 years, referring to the period from 538-1798. This is just a repetition of what we have seen in previous chapters of Revelation. However, what is new is that we see that after this period of 42 prophetic months where the saints of God were martyred and persecuted, then the temple [the true Church], is judged; here begins the period of judgement or measuring of the Church which commenced in 1844.

The Books of Daniel & Revelation refer to this period of **42 months** [*1,260 days, time, times & half a time, 3 ½ years*] in different ways and from different perspectives. We should note that the below chapters all cover the same period of time, but from different perspectives or points of emphasis.

- **Daniel 7**- the emphasis falls upon what the papacy did as a system during this time in blaspheming the name of God, persecuting the saints and thinking to change the Law of God.
- **Revelation 12**- the emphasis falls upon the great red dragon, Satan, who was the driving force behind the persecution of the saints by the Papacy.
- **Revelation 13**- The emphasis appears to fall upon the attack on the name of God, the Heavenly beings, the Heavenly Sanctuary and the saints of God. This is the emphasis in **Daniel 8** as well.
- **Revelation 11** [*of which we are now studying*]- However shows us **the attack upon the Word of God** by the Papacy and its agents.

Notice the below quotes:

*"**The war against the Bible**, carried forward for so many centuries in France, culminated in the scenes of the Revolution [French]. That terrible outbreaking was but the legitimate result of Rome's **suppression of the Scriptures**."*

Great Controversy p. 265

*"It was popery that had **begun the work** which atheism was **completing**. The policy of Rome had wrought out those conditions, social, political, and religious, that were hurrying France on to ruin."*

Great Controversy p. 276

For 1260 years, God allowed the Gentiles to trample the city of Jerusalem [God's faithful Church] as well as upon the truth revealed by the two witnesses and then **after this period** God would begin to measure the most holy place and those who worship there [the commencement of the judgement of those who profess the name of Christ.]

There is a close link between **Daniel 8** and **Revelation 11:1, 2**. In Daniel 8, after the trampling of the Prince, the host and the sanctuary for 1260 years, **the process to cleanse the sanctuary begins**. In Revelation 11, the Gentiles trample upon Jerusalem and then **the temple is measured**. Both the cleansing of the sanctuary and the measuring of the temple refer to the same event, which is the judgment of those who profess the worship of God, the wicked and those who do not profess worship in God are not judged at this time, as we shall see later in the Book of Revelation.

Albert Barnes captured the meaning of the Gentiles who trampled the holy city for 42 months:

He says, "This, as we have seen, would properly mean that **a separation was to be made between what was the true church and what was not, though it might seem to belong to it. The one was to be measured or estimated; the other was to be left out**, as not pertaining to that, or as **belonging to the Gentiles**, or to paganism. **The idea would be that though it professedly pertained to the true church, and to the worship of God, however, that it deserved to be characterized as paganism**. Now this will apply with great propriety, according to all Protestant notions, to the manner in which the papacy was regarded by the Reformers and should be regarded at all times. **It [the Papacy] claimed to be the true church, and to the eye of an observer would seem to belong to it, as much as the outer court seemed to pertain to the temple. However, it had the essential characteristics of paganism, and was, therefore, properly to be left out, or cast out, as not pertaining to the true church.... the Roman Catholic communion, as an organized body, is to be regarded as no part of the true church—a conclusion, which is inevitable, if the passages of Scripture which are commonly supposed by Protestants to apply to it are correctly applied"** Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database Copyright © 1997, 2003, 2005, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved)

v.3-4

*'And I will give **power to my two witnesses**, and they will prophesy **one thousand two hundred and sixty days**, clothed **in sackcloth**. These are the **two olive trees** and the **two lampstands** standing before the God of the earth.'*

Many today believe that these two witnesses are two literal people who will prophesy in these last days, but they fail to understand the symbolic context of the Books of Revelation and Daniel and therefore have a very skewed way of interpreting Bible prophecy. As I have mentioned many times in previous studies, we must allow the Bible to interpret itself.

The Holy Spirit has put all in the Bible that is necessary for understanding the Bible, if something is not clear in one part, go to another part which is similar in context for a better understanding.

For example, Revelation 13 talks about beasts, and by only reading that one chapter you would never know what a beast in Bible prophecy represents, however if one goes to Daniel 7 & 8, one will see that the definition of a Beast is given there, **representative of a Kingdom**. Therefore, we would be able to understand in Revelation 13, that a beast is referring to a kingdom.

The same logic is true of this verse in **Revelation 11:3-4**. As mentioned earlier, many falsely teach that the two witnesses are literal people, yet the Bible says that the two witnesses are *'the two olive trees'* and *'the two lampstands.'*

We must therefore ask ourselves, what are these olive trees and lampstands, and fortunately for us, the Bible gives the meaning to these symbols.

*So, I said, "I am looking, and there is **a lampstand of solid gold** with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with **seven pipes to the seven lamps. Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left.**"* So, I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?"

Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?"

And I said, "No, my lord. "So, he answered and said to me:

"This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel:

*Not by might nor by power, **but by My Spirit,**' says the LORD of hosts.*

*Then I answered and said to him, "**What are these two olive trees—at the right of the lampstand and at its left?**"*

*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?**"*

Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?"

And I said, "No, my lord."

*So, he said, "**These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth.**" **Zechariah 4:2-6, 11-14***

Here we get a very vivid picture from the prophet Zechariah of a golden lampstand, with two olive trees on either side of it. From the two olive trees are two olive branches which drip olive oil into the two golden pipes which then give fuel to the lamps so that they may burn and **give light**.

This is potent sanctuary language that takes us back to the Books of Exodus and Leviticus, where we learn that the Golden Lampstand was to be ever burning before the Lord and to be fuelled by pure pressed olive oil.

It was this oil that caused the seven branched candle stick to give light and to be continuously burning before the presence of the Lord in the Holy Place of the Sanctuary.

*'Then Samuel took the horn of oil and **anointed him** in the midst of his brothers; and **the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward.** So, Samuel arose and went to Ramah. **1st Samuel 16:13***

The Psalmist tells us *'Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.'* **Psalms 119:105**

It is this light that comes from the golden candlestick, which is fuelled by the pure olive oil **[the Spirit of God]**, that is symbolic of the Word of God, both the **Old & New Testament**.

It is the Old & New Testament [*the Bible*] as preached by the faithful true Church that represent the *two faithful witnesses*.

It is interesting to note that the Bible calls them the two witnesses, yet we also see that they are one, in purpose, in unison.

They prophesy together, they pour out plagues together, they suffer persecution together, they are both 'killed' together and 'resurrected' together, and they even ascend to heaven together. Thus, although they are two witnesses, **they act as one** and in unison.

These two witnesses receive the power to prophecy, as we see in verse 3, that would mean that they have the gift of prophecy. The context of the power seen in these two prophets, in verse 5 & 6, points us directly back to the Old Testament prophets of Moses & Elijah.

We are told that the two witnesses have power to shut up heaven that it does not rain, power to turn water into blood and to smite the earth with all types of plagues, all of which we see in the accounts of Moses & Elijah.

These two witnesses are not Moses & Elijah; however, they act in the spirit and power of Moses & Elijah. The Prophet Malachi tells us that before the 2nd Coming of Jesus, God will have a people in the last days, who will come in the Spirit and power of Elijah. They will preach the Word with power and hold fast to Bible truth, they will preach the Law of God given to Moses for all Israel, and they will turn the hearts of the people back to the true God. We see here a symbolic appearing of Moses & Elijah in the preaching of God's truth found in His Word. I have covered this 'end time Elijah' in my study notes called '*The Return of Elijah*', have a look at that for a better in-depth study of what is being said.

*'Remember **the Law of Moses**, My servant, which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you **Elijah the prophet** before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers...'* **Malachi 4:4**

*'The Bible describes God's scriptural message in terms of twosomes. **The Bible is one book, a unity, composed of two parts**. The Bible is a two-edged sword, two witnesses, two candlesticks, two olive trees, two keys, Moses and Elijah and the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. **The Old Testament and the New Testament are two distinct Testaments, but they bear witness to one Jesus**. Although they are two, they give witness to One. The Old Testament gives witness to Jesus **[John 5:39, 40; Deuteronomy 18:15,16,18,19; Job 19:25-26; I John 1:1, 2; I Peter 1:10-12]** as does the New. In fact, the reason why John wrote his gospel was to give witness to Jesus **[John 21:24, 25]**.'*

Pastor Stephen Bhor

*And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed **in sackcloth**...' verse 3*

In Scripture God's people use sackcloth when the wicked persecute them. Sackcloth also represents the darkness of error and persecution and affliction. See **2nd Kings 19:1-3, Esther 4:1-4, Isaiah 50:3, Revelation 6:12**.

This period of 42 months or 1,260 years in which the two witnesses prophesied in sackcloth, represents the time from the year 538 AD to 1798 AD, when the Holy Scriptures were suppressed by the Roman Church. Many suffered persecution and martyrdom for even possessing a Bible and thus we see the symbolism of the sackcloth, the oppression, persecution, etc. This period of oppression and spiritual darkness is seen in the 4th trumpet of Revelation 8.

v.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.'*

The fire that we see proceeding out of the mouth of the two witnesses, reminds us of two text in the Book of Jeremiah that have a similar context.

*"Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name." But **His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones**; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not." **Jeremiah 20:9***

*"Therefore, thus says the Lord God of hosts: "Because you speak this word, behold, **I will make My words in your mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.**" **Jeremiah 5:14***

Men cannot with impunity trample upon the word of God. The meaning of this fearful denunciation is set forth in the closing chapter of the Revelation: "I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

v.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.'*

The book of Revelation tells us that those who add or take away from the testimony of the book of Revelation will receive the plagues that are written in the book (**Revelation 22:18**). Thus, the book of Revelation pours out plagues upon those who seek to change its message.

But how do the two witnesses have power to shut the heavens, and what does it mean by 'so that no rain falls?' It is because they have the keys of the kingdom of Heaven, in this way they are permitted to shut the heavens.

*'And I will give you **the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'* **Matthew 16:19**

*'The dual form 'keys' without a qualifying number refers to **two keys**. Thus, the keys have the same meaning as the **two witnesses**. How do the two witnesses—the keys—open and shut heaven? The answer is that when God's messengers preach the Word of God through the ministration of the Holy Spirit, people either **accept or reject** the message. **If they reject it, the kingdom of heaven closes. If they accept message, the kingdom of heaven opens before them.**' Pastor Stephen Bhor*

'Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"'

*Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit... Then those who **gladly received** his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.' **Acts 2:37,38,41***

Notice that with one sermon preached from the Word of God [**two witnesses**], the Apostle Peter 'opened' the kingdom of Heaven to three thousand persons.

Compare this with the actions of the Scribes & Pharisees, who were tasked with teaching the Word of God to the people, but because of their hardened hearts and rejection of truth they caused the kingdom of heaven to be shut up to the people.

'Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat.... "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.' **Matthew 23:1,2,13**

'Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered.' **Luke 11:52**

'The keys of the kingdom of heaven'" are the words of Christ. All the words of Holy Scripture are His and are here included. These words have power to open and to shut heaven. They declare the conditions upon which men are received or rejected. Thus, the work of those who preach God's word is a savour of life unto life or of death unto death. Theirs is a mission weighted with eternal results.' E.G. White, Desire of Ages, page 413-414

In the books of **1st Kings 17 & 2nd Chronicles 6:26-27**, we are shown that when God's professed people do not heed His commands or walk in His statutes or obey His Word, then the heavens will be shut up and no rain shall fall upon His people or upon the land. In the spiritual sense, this shows us that when professed Christians reject Bible truth and heed not the Word of God, then they shall receive no spiritual blessings or no outpouring of the Holy Spirit; the 'rain' here mentioned is synonymous with the Holy Spirit. There shall in essence be in a spiritual drought in the Church and in the land.

This is exactly what we see having taken place during the 1,260-year period when the two witnesses prophesied in sackcloth as mentioned in verse 3. Thus, **the apostasy of the Christian church** was the reason for the shutting of heaven in the days of the prophecy of the two witnesses [538-1798]. The Word of God and the Holy Spirit were scarce in those days as they were in the days of Elijah [**1st Kings 17**] and as we have seen from our study in **Revelation 9**, this rejection of the Word of God first by the Papacy and then by the nation of France, led to national apostasy and national ruin.

v.7

When they finish [are finishing] their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

When compared with **Revelation 9:1-12**, one would notice that verses 7 & 8, here mentioned are a further expansion of **Revelation 9:1-12**. The same period of time is here being mentioned which is the period of the 5th trumpet.

It was during this time that widespread spiritual darkness fell over the kingdom of Rome, especially in the domain of France. It was during the French Revolution and the reign of terror that we see the nation of France publicly rejecting the Word of God, going as far as to burn Bibles in the streets, prohibit the possession of Bibles by punishment of death and even going as far as to publicly denounce the existence of God and turn over to national atheism.

It is here we see that the two witnesses are 'killed.'

Revelation 9:1-12 describes this period of time of as a spiritually dark period, where the smoke ascended out of the pit and the sun and the air were completely darkened, satan and his evil angels had triumphed in rejecting the truth and word of God in France, and national apostasy followed.

Go back to the study notes on Revelation 9 pt.1 for a more in-depth look to this period of time.

Notice the below quotations on the period here mentioned.

*"The beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them." The atheistical power that ruled in France during the Revolution and the Reign of Terror did **wage such a war against God and His holy word** as the world had never witnessed. The National Assembly did abolish the worship of the Deity. **Bibles were collected and publicly burned with every possible manifestation of scorn.**" Great Controversy p. 273*

"The restraining Spirit of God, which imposes a check upon the cruel power of Satan, was in a great measure removed [the shaft of the bottomless pit was opened with the key and Satan and his angels were given free reign], and he whose only delight is the wretchedness of men was permitted to work his will. Those who had chosen the service of rebellion were left to reap its fruits until the land was filled with crimes too horrible for pen to trace." Great Controversy p. 286

"When they shall have finished [are finishing] their testimony." The period when the two witnesses were to prophesy clothed in sackcloth, ended in 1798. As they were approaching the termination of their work in obscurity, war was to be made upon them by the power represented as; the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit.' In many of the nations of Europe, the powers that ruled in church and state had for centuries been controlled by Satan through the medium of the papacy. But here is brought to view a new manifestation of satanic power."

"It had been Rome's policy, under a profession of reverence for the Bible, to keep it locked up in an unknown tongue and hidden away from the people. Under her rule, the witnesses prophesied, 'clothed in sackcloth.' But another power beast—the beast from the bottomless pit—was to arise to make open, avowed war upon the word of God." Great Controversy p. 268-269

v.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.'*

Notice here that we are dealing with the great city where Jesus was crucified, which is spiritually called Sodom and Egypt. Notice that this is symbolic, and does not represent Jesus' literal crucifixion, nor literal Sodom [as this was destroyed in the days of Lot] or literal Egypt.

We should notice that with the exemption of **Revelation 21:10**, where the New Jerusalem is described, the term 'the great city' refers always to Spiritual Babylon. (**Revelation 14:8; 16:19; 17:18; 18:10, 16, 18, 19, 21**).

Historians have referred to France as the eldest daughter of the papacy because she was the papacy's first and staunchest supporter. France persecuted God's people to the death more than any other kingdom of Europe (for example the [St. Bartholomew Massacre](#)).

*"Unhappy France reaped in blood the harvest she had sown. Terrible were the results of her submission to the **controlling power of Rome**. Where France, under the influence of Romanism, had set up the first stake at the opening of the Reformation, there the Revolution set up its first guillotine. On the very spot where the first martyrs to the Protestant faith were burned in the sixteenth century, the first victims were guillotined in the eighteenth. **In repelling the gospel, which would have brought her healing, France had opened the door to infidelity and ruin.** When the restraints of God's law were cast aside, it was found that the laws of man were inadequate to hold in check the powerful tides of human passion; and **the nation swept on to revolt and anarchy.** The war against the Bible inaugurated an era, which stands in the world's history as the Reign of Terror. **Peace and happiness were banished from the homes and hearts of men.** No one was secure. He who triumphed today was suspected, condemned, tomorrow. Violence and lust held undisputed sway." Great Controversy p. 282*

*"According to the words of the prophet [John], then, a little before the year 1798 **some power of satanic origin and character would rise to make war upon the Bible.** And in the land where the testimony of God's two witnesses should thus be silenced, there would be manifest **the atheism of the Pharaoh [EGYPT] and the licentiousness of Sodom.**" This prophecy has received a most exact and striking fulfilment in the history of France." Great Controversy p. 269*

We are told that this beast [nation] will possess characteristics similar to that of Egypt and Sodom, let us therefore go back to the Old Testament to get a better understanding of this.

In the time of the Exodus, we see Pharaoh arrogantly defying the authority & existence of God.

*And Pharaoh said, "**Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.**" **Exodus 5:2***

*"Behold, I am against you, O Pharaoh king of Egypt, O great monster who lies in the midst of his rivers, Who has said, **'My River is my own; I have made it for myself.'** **Ezekiel 29:3***

Notice the defiance of Pharaoh to the one true God, Jehovah. This defiant and atheistic spirit which we see exhibited by Pharaoh, represented here by Egypt, is the same spirit which we see in France, around the time that the testimony of the two witnesses was coming to an end.

*'The great city' is also compared, 'spiritually,' to Sodom. **The corruption of Sodom in breaking the law of God was especially manifested in licentiousness.** And this sin was also to be a pre-eminent characteristic of the nation that should fulfil the specifications of this scripture." Great Controversy p. 269*

Even to this day, we use the terms sodomy and sodomize to describe sexual perversion.
[Genesis 19:5-8, Jude 1:7]

*"Where also our Lord was crucified." France also fulfilled this specification of the prophecy. In no land had the spirit of enmity against Christ been more strikingly displayed. In no country had the truth encountered more bitter and cruel opposition. **In the persecution which France had visited upon the confessors of the gospel, she had crucified Christ in the person of His disciples.**" Great Controversy p. 271*

The church is the body of Christ, and whoever touches His body touches him. When Saul of Tarsus went on the road to Damascus to persecute Christians, Jesus met him and said, 'why do you persecute me?' In the parable of

the sheep and the goats (**Matthew 25:31-46**) Jesus stated that what we do unto others we do unto Him. Whoever who touches His people, touches the apple of His eye (**Zechariah 2:8**). We are his body, his sheep, his army, his bride.

Jesus is the Word of God in person and the Bible is His written biography. France, the eldest daughter of the papacy crucified Christ by crucifying the Bible. By killing the two witnesses, they killed Christ because the two Testaments give witness to Christ. It is possible to crucify Jesus afresh (**Hebrews 6:4-6; 1st Corinthians 11:27**). The Bible received the same vile treatment in the French Revolution that Jesus did in his trial and execution. The revolutionaries tried, judged, mistreated and executed the Bible. However, Christ in the two witnesses resurrected and ascended to heaven.

v.9-10

'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. 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.'

In ancient Rome, denying a person burial was the utmost insult reserved only for the worst criminals. This is the way that France treated the two witnesses during the Revolution.

On **November 23, 1793**, the national assembly gave a decree that all churches and religious services were to cease. On **June 17, 1797**, France gave a decree allowing religious services once again. This was exactly 3 ½ literal years, and as we know from Scripture, in time prophecies 1 prophetic day is equal to 1 literal year.

'And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness. After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.'

Numbers 14:33-34

'For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee each day for a year.' **Ezekiel 4:5-6**

Here we see the exact fulfilment of prophecy where the two witnesses would be 'dead' for three and a half prophetic days and the Word of truth would lay dead in the streets in the figurative sense.

*"Infidel France had silenced the reproving voice of God's two witnesses. **The word of truth lay dead in her streets**, and those who hated the restrictions and requirements of God's law **were jubilant.**"* Great Controversy p. 274

"Deprived of the Bible, and abandoned to the teachings of bigotry and selfishness, the people were shrouded in ignorance and superstition, and sunken in vice, so that they were wholly unfitted for self-government." Great Controversy p. 281

v.11-12

*'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. 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.*

As mentioned before, on **November 23, 1793**, the national assembly gave a decree that all churches and religious services in the nation of France were to cease. **On June 17, 1797**, exactly one year before the Papacy was to receive its mortal wound [Revelation 13:3] France gave a decree allowing religious services once again. This was exactly 3 ½ literal years and at the end of this period, the Word of God and the truth was yet again revived in the land of France.

It was in 1793 that the decrees that abolished the Christian religion and set aside the Bible passed the French Assembly. Three years and a half later a resolution rescinding these decrees, thus granting toleration to the Scriptures, was adopted by the same body." Great Controversy p. 287

Since France made war upon God's two witnesses, they have been honoured as never before. In 1804 the British and Foreign Bible Society was organized. This was followed by similar organizations, with numerous branches, upon the continent of Europe. In 1816, the American Bible Society was founded. When the British Society was formed, the Bible had been printed and circulated in fifty tongues. It has since been translated into many hundreds of languages and dialects." Great Controversy p. 287

After the French Revolution, protestant Europe looked back on its extremes with disgust, and sought with fervent effort to elevate the Bible to greater prominence than ever. The British Bible society, established in 1804, and the American Bible Society, established in 1816, began distributing large numbers of Bibles. In 1804 the total number of Bibles in circulation was about four million in over fifty languages. Today there are billions of Bibles in hundreds of languages making it the world's most widely circulated book.

source: Amazing Discoveries Revelation 11 Bible Commentary.

The breath of life from God had yet again entered the two witnesses, and they were yet again to be proclaimed throughout the nation of France, and the wider European continent. Which for more than one thousand years, the truth was suppressed, and the Word of God hidden away from the people. It was then after this time that the Bible was printed on a large scale and by the formation of many Christian missionary groups, the Word was then able to spread all over the world to many lands, thus opening the eyes of millions to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

v.13-14

*'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 remnant** were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly.'*

*"France was **shaken as if by an earthquake**. Religion, law, social order, the family, the state, and the church—all were smitten down by the impious hand that had been lifted against the law of God." Great Controversy p. 286*

Only a fraction of the great city fell during the French Revolution. **Revelation 16:17-21** describes the final global and cataclysmic earthquake that will destroy the totality of Babylon. The events of the French Revolution actually foreshadow the events that will transpire during the last three plagues of Revelation 16.



INTERLUDE

v.15-18

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!**" And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, 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**. 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.**"

John's vision of the two witnesses comes to an end, and now he is taken in another vision to 2nd Coming of Jesus. It is at this time that the 7th and final angel sounds his trumpet, proclaiming the victory of the saints and the second coming of Jesus, as King of kings and Lord of lords.

It is at this time that the dead in Christ shall be raised and the living who remain and are victorious shall be translated. The angels shall gather the elect from the four winds and take them to meet the Lord in the air. The earth is ripe for harvesting; the righteous are victorious and the wicked shall be destroyed by fire.

'**For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord.**'

1st Thessalonians 4:16-17

*“And He will send His angels with **a great sound of a trumpet**, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” **Matthew 24:31***

*‘The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly.
The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out.
That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation,
A day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, **a day of trumpet and alarm**
Against the fortified cities and against the high towers.’ **Zephaniah 1:14-16***

As we see from Scripture, when Jesus comes in the clouds with glory and power, both the righteous and the wicked shall receive their due reward, the righteous to everlasting life, the wicked to everlasting destruction.

v.19

*‘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.’*

John is again taken back to the blowing of the **6th trumpet**, which commenced the start of the judgement for all who profess the name of Christ [*in 1844*]. He sees the ark of the covenant, which as we know is in the Most Holy Place of the Sanctuary and in this Heavenly Ark, as it was in the earthly, is located the 10 Commandments, the perfect law of liberty by which the Church of God is judged [**James 2:12**]. It was at this time that the Great High Priest, Jesus Christ, commenced the work of judgement, as was done by the earthly high priest when he also entered the most holy place of the earthly sanctuary.

It is at this time that the cleansing of the Heavenly sanctuary [**Daniel 8:24**] takes place until the time of probation comes to an end for all that dwell on the earth. This is the period in which we are currently living, since the year 1844 when the 6th trumpet was blown in the Heavenly Sanctuary.

The mystery of the gospel shall soon be completed as we can see from the current events taking place around us and the signs of the times, then we shall see the mark of the beast crises, persecution and the falling of the 7 last plagues. Immediately after these events shall be the blowing of the 7th & final trumpet and then Jesus shall come in great glory for His saints and to destroy the wicked.

Friends, we do not have much time, let us awake from our slumber, for the Bridegroom cometh, and He cometh sooner than we realise.

*‘Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth,
Who have upheld His justice.
Seek righteousness, seek humility.
It may be that you will be hidden
In the day of the LORD’s anger.’*
Zephaniah 2:3