

Apocalypse Now (Revelation Revisited)

Session 8 / Wednesday, March 16, 2016

The Mighty Angel and the Little Scroll The Two Super Witnesses Revelation 10 and 11

1 After studying last week the 6th Trumpet Judgment and before coming to the 7th,
2 we have another “parenthetical” interlude - this one scribing the massive angel who
3 holds a small book and then the two mighty witnesses during the last half of the
4 Tribulation. We have now passed into the second half of the Tribulation - what is
5 commonly called THE GREAT TRIBULATION (final 3 ½ years). We continue:

6
7 Rev. 10:1-11

8 **And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud:**
9 **and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as**
10 **pillars of fire: [2] And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot**
11 **upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, [3] And cried with a loud voice, as when**
12 **a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. [4] And**
13 **when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard**
14 **a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders**
15 **uttered, and write them not. [5] And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and**
16 **upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, [6] And swore by him that liveth for**
17 **ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth,**
18 **and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that**
19 **there should be time no longer: [7] But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel,**
20 **when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath**
21 **declared to his servants the prophets. [8] And the voice which I heard from heaven**
22 **spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand**
23 **of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. [9] And I went unto**
24 **the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it,**
25 **and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as**
26 **honey. [10] And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it**
27 **was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.**
28 **[11] And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and**
29 **nations, and tongues, and kings.**

30
31 Who is this mighty angel? It is not Jesus. Our Lord does not appear in Revelation as an
32 angel. No, this “mighty angel” is exactly that - a mighty angel! Angels appear in the

1 book of Revelation 66 times. I suspect we would have a heart attack if one of these
2 great angels manifested himself to us. Consider carefully John's description of this
3 particular angel.... "robed or clothed in a cloud....a rainbow over his head....his face bright
4 as the sun....and his feet like fiery pillars."

5
6 This angel holds in his hand "a little scroll" or "book." When John describes the angel as
7 "standing on the sea and earth," he means this angel has authority over the entire planet.
8 The angel "cries with a loud voice," which is the signal for seven more thundering voices.
9 My friend, if you are in the Tribulation time, and you hear those voices, prepare to be
10 severely shaken!

11
12 We do not know what those seven voices are saying for John is not allowed to reveal it.
13 (Verse 4: "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down." I take
14 this to mean seven horrific declarations come thundering from God's throne but we at this
15 point in life could not handle their meaning.

16
17 Verse 6 reveals that "time will be no longer." No more delay, no more opportunity for
18 repentance. God's fury will not strike the Earth in all its dimension.

19
20 **Now John is told to take the little scroll and eat it - or digest it. Simple explanation here: the little scroll contains the information of what God is about to do and it's horrible. John is given the message and told to eat it - or digest it. This word age has been given us before in Scripture: Jeremiah 15:16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts. Ezekiel 3:1-3 Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. [2] So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll. [3] And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness. This is a great verse for any teacher or preacher of the Word: before you can expound upon it to others, you had better know it for yourself. Today many of God's people do not want to "digest the Word," they just want to snack on it at their leisure.**

21
22 John will experience that "eating experience" as both bitter and sweet - sweet in that it
23 leads to the return of Jesus to the Earth and bitter because of the awfulness of the coming
24 judgements.

25 THE TWO SUPER WITNESSES

1 The “parenthesis” continues for several more chapters in Revelation. Chapter eleven
2 deals with the spiritual life in Israel and chapter 12 concerns the coming persecution of
3 Israel.
4

5 Rev. 11:1-14 [The Message]

6 I was given a stick for a measuring rod and told, "Get up and measure God's
7 Temple and Altar and everyone worshiping in it. [2] Exclude the outside court;
8 don't measure it. It's been handed over to non-Jewish outsiders. They'll desecrate
9 the Holy City for forty-two months.

10 [3] "Meanwhile, I'll provide my two Witnesses. Dressed in sackcloth, they'll
11 prophesy for one thousand two hundred sixty days. [4] These are the two Olive
12 Trees, the two Lampstands, standing at attention before God on earth. [5] If anyone
13 tries to hurt them, a blast of fire from their mouths will incinerate them—burn them
14 to a crisp just like that. [6] They'll have power to seal the sky so that it doesn't rain
15 for the time of their prophesying, power to turn rivers and springs to blood, power
16 to hit earth with any and every disaster as often as they want.

17 [7] "When they've completed their witness, the Beast from the Abyss will emerge
18 and fight them, conquer and kill them, [8] leaving their corpses exposed on the street
19 of the Great City spiritually called Sodom and Egypt, the same City where their
20 Master was crucified. [9] For three and a half days they'll be there—exposed,
21 prevented from getting a decent burial, stared at by the curious from all over the
22 world. [10] Those people will cheer at the spectacle, shouting 'Good riddance!' and
23 calling for a celebration, for these two prophets pricked the conscience of all the
24 people on earth, made it impossible for them to enjoy their sins.

25 [11] "Then, after three and a half days, the Living Spirit of God will enter
26 them—they're on their feet!—and all those gloating spectators will be scared to
27 death."

28 [12] I heard a strong voice out of Heaven calling, "Come up here!" and up they
29 went to Heaven, wrapped in a cloud, their enemies watching it all. [13] At that
30 moment there was a gigantic earthquake—a tenth of the city fell to ruin, seven
31 thousand perished in the earthquake, the rest frightened to the core of their being,
32 frightened into giving honor to the God of Heaven.

33 [14] The second doom is past, the third doom coming right on its heels.
34

35 So who in the world are these “two witnesses?” Most Bible experts will say Moses and
36 Elijah. Those two Old Testament patriarchs would get my vote as well. They are
37 most impressive figures! John describes them as two olive trees and two lampstands
38 before the Lord of All. What is their work? To proclaim God's message of judgment
39 during the final stages of the Gentile trampling on Jerusalem (as the Tribulation begins to
40 draw to a close) and who will preach the Gospel so that the Jewish remnant can believe

1 and enjoy God's protection.

3 THEY WILL PROPHECY

5 This does not mean to tell the future. It means "to speak forth," to "proclaim," or "to
6 preach." We hear a lot of people today calling themselves prophets and telling their
7 listeners about the future - both private and in general. I have heard some of the most
8 nonsensical utterances come from some of these "prophets." The TWO WITNESSES
9 will prophesy - do what? They will proclaim to the world that the disasters occurring
10 during the coming last half of the Tribulation are the judgments of God. They will warn
11 that God's final outpouring of judgment and eternal hell will follow. But at the same
12 time they will proclaim the Gospel, calling people to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

14 Their ministry will last for twelve hundred and sixty days - the final three and a half years
15 of the Tribulation. During this time Jerusalem will under savage attack and many Jews
16 will have fled for their very lives into the wilderness. (Some believe this "safe area"
17 could be around Petra in the country of Jordan.)

19 The two witnesses will wear sackcloth, a rough heavy, coarse cloth worn n ancient times
20 as a symbol of mourning or distress, or grief

21 **Jacob: Genesis 37:34 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his
22 loins, and mourned for his son (Joseph) many days.**

23 **David (after the murder of general Abner) 2 Samuel 3:31 And David said to Joab,
24 and to all the people that were with him, Rend your clothes, and gird you with
25 sackcloth, and mourn before Abner. And king David himself followed the bier.**

26 **King Hezekiah when Jerusalem was attacked: 2 Kings 19:1 And it came to pass,
27 when king Hezekiah heard it, that he rent his clothes, and covered himself with
28 sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord.**

30 And so the two witnesses of Revelation don sackcloth as an object lesson to express their
31 grief for the wicked and unrepentant world. Despite the fact that the population is now
32 plagued by demon hordes, they will not repent.

34 WHY MOSES AND ELIJAH?

36 Why do many of us believe the two faithful witnesses will be Moses and Elijah?

- 37 • The miracles they will perform (destroying their enemies with fire, withholding
38 rain, turning water into blood, and striking the earth with plagues) are similar to
39 the judgments inflicted in Exodus by Moses and later in I Kings by Elijah. Elijah
40

1 called down fire from heaven: 2 Kings 1:10-12 And Elijah answered and said
2 to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from
3 heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from
4 heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. [11] Again also he sent unto him
5 another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O
6 man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly. [12] And Elijah
7 answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from
8 heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from
9 heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

- 10 • Elijah pronounced a 3 ½ year drought on the land. 1 Kings 17:1 And Elijah the
11 Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the Lord
12 God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain
13 these years, but according to my word. James 5:17 Elias was a man subject
14 to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and
15 it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. This is
16 the same length of time as the drought brought by the two witness in Rev. 11:7.
- 17 • Moses turned the waters of the Nile into blood: Exodus 7:17-21 Thus saith the
18 Lord, In this thou shalt know that I am the Lord: behold, I will smite with the
19 rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall
20 be turned to blood. [18] And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river
21 shall stink; and the Egyptians shall lothe to drink of the water of the river.
22 [19] And the Lord spake unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and
23 stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon
24 their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they
25 may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of
26 Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone. [20] And Moses and
27 Aaron did so, as the Lord commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote
28 the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of
29 his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.
30 [21] And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the
31 Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood
32 throughout all the land of Egypt.

33
34 It is also important to remember that both the Old and Jewish tradition expected Moses
35 and Elijah to return in the future: Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the
36 prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: Deut. 18:15
37 The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy
38 brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; 18 I will raise them up a
39 Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his
40 mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

The Two Witnesses Assassinated

Rev. 11:7-8

And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. [8] And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

This reminds me so much of the assassination of Benito Mussolini in April of 1945. His dead body (he had been shot by a partisan Italian) was hauled into a Milan, Italy, gas station - along with the body of his mistress Clara Petacci. They were strung up by their heels while the populace brutalized the corpses. Mussolini was evil; however the two witnesses were righteous - and still their bodies are allowed to just lie in a street in Jerusalem. For three and a half days, people will stare at their bodies and refuse them burial. Rev. 11:9 **And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.**

CNN, Fox, ABC, CBS, NBC and all the networks will have a field day with this sight of two hated bodies, just lying in the street. Rev. 11:10 **And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.**

But then - the unthinkable happens! Rev. 11:11-12 **And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. [12] And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them.**

I can promise you that will be the lead story on all the newscasts that night! There will be no more taunts of "Fraud, Fake, Etc." Their coming to life and their ascent into heaven - well out of sight of all people - will be evidence that they truly were men of God.

There will be three groups of people still on the earth:

1. The followers of Antichrist
2. The Tribulation Saints
3. Those still undecided

DESTRUCTION IN JERUSALEM

1 **Rev. 11:13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of**
2 **the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the**
3 **remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.**

4
5 God's wrath on the people who vilified His two witnesses will be revealed as a great
6 earthquake will hit the Holy City, destroying 10% of it and killing thousands. This may
7 influence multitudes of those still undecided to commit their lives to God.

8 9 THE SEVENTH TRUMPET JUDGMENT

10
11 Remember the sixth trumpet brought about the parenthetical chapters we have just
12 studied, beginning with that haunting silence that fell upon Heaven. Now the seventh
13 angel is about to sound his trumpet - and it will usher in the final set of judgments - The
14 Bowl Judgments.

15
16 **Rev. 11:15-19**

17 **And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying,**
18 **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ;**
19 **and he shall reign for ever and ever. [16] And the four and twenty elders, which sat**
20 **before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, [17] Saying,**
21 **We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come;**
22 **because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. [18] And the**
23 **nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they**
24 **should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the**
25 **prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and**
26 **shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. [19] And the temple of God was**
27 **opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and**
28 **there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great**
29 **hail.**

30
31 It is important to remember that between the three divine judgments - Seals, Trumpets
32 and Bowls - there is a parenthetical set of happenings. We shall see this happen again in
33 our subsequent study. But what a sequence of horrors is about to break upon the earth in
34 following chapters:

- 35
36 1. Terrible Persecution of Christ's Followers
37 2. Dominance of the Antichrist
38 3. Arrival and influence of the Unholy Spirit
39 4. And other sequences that paralyze Earth and its remaining inhabitants
40

1 But while the Earth and its population throb with pain, fear and death, in Heaven there is
2 music and joy. Loud voices in Heaven began to proclaim:

3
4 **THE KINGDOM OF THE WORLD HAS BECOME THE KINGDOM OF OUR LORD**
5 **AND OF HIS CRIST - AND HE WILL REIGN FOR EVER AND EVER.**
6

7 Is this not what Handel wrote in his classic Hallelujah Chorus? The angels in Heaven
8 now proclaim the very last section of the Tribulation and that Satan and his minions are
9 on borrowed time. **THE FOUR AND TWENTY ELDERS** (that's us, I believe!) begin
10 to sing a song of thanksgiving. Jesus now takes His rightful place of rulership. As a
11 result, the following happens on earth:

12
13 1. The nations become furious! **Psalm 2:1-12** **Why do the heathen rage, and the**
14 **people imagine a vain thing? [2] The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers**
15 **take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, [3] Let us**
16 **break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. [4] He that sitteth in**
17 **the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. [5] Then shall he**
18 **speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. [6] Yet have I set**
19 **my king upon my holy hill of Zion. [7] I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said**
20 **unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. [8] Ask of me, and I shall**
21 **give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for**
22 **thy possession. [9] Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in**
23 **pieces like a potter's vessel. [10] Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye**
24 **judges of the earth. [11] Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. [12]**
25 **Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is**
26 **kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.**
27

28 2. Eternity now prepares for the Great White Throne Judgment, lying just head as
29 fulfilled in Rev. 20:11-15 **And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it,**
30 **from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place**
31 **for them. [12] And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books**
32 **were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead**
33 **were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their**
34 **works. [13] And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell**
35 **delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man**
36 **according to their works. [14] And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This**
37 **is the second death. [15] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life**
38 **was cast into the lake of fire.**
39

40 3. And, oh, how glorious – **GOD'S TEMPLE IN HEAVEN WILL OPEN** and what a

1 sight that's going to be: Rev. 11:19

2 **And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the**
3 **ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an**
4 **earthquake, and great hail.**

5
6 But while there is ceremony and triumph in the City of God....all hell is about to break on
7 the earth. As we shall see in our next study.

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