The Two Witnesses - Who Are They? What is Their Purpose?

STUDY GUIDE | THE TWO WITNESSES

Finding the Ancient Path | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mncl2l5uQ18

Teaching Purpose

This Teaching examines the identity, prophetic signs and purpose of the two witnesses in Revelation 11. It compares the account with Zechariah, the ministries of Moses and Elijah, Jonah's call to repentance and the Transfiguration, then preserves the questions and alternative proposals raised by the fellowship.

Quick Answer

Revelation 11 describes two divinely empowered witnesses who prophesy, face the beast, are killed, and are raised by God. Their names are not supplied. The speaker argues that their powers and prophetic role point most strongly to Moses and Elijah, or to people ministering in their pattern, with the central purpose of calling the world to repentance and acknowledgement of God.

Core Distinction

Revelation expressly describes the witnesses' ministry and signs but does not identify them by personal name. Moses and Elijah are the speaker's preferred identification because of parallels with Exodus, Kings, Zechariah and the Transfiguration. The fellowship considers the possibility of two future people operating in their spirit and power. The proposed seven-year tribulation sequence and its precise timing are interpretations rather than explicit identifications in Revelation 11.

Teaching Outline and Key Takeaways

Introduction and giving

The speaker opens with a short update about outreach supported in India, Pakistan and Israel, then introduces the question of who the two witnesses are and why they appear in Revelation.

Identifying the witnesses

The speaker considers proposals involving two individuals, two houses, groups, ideologies or the church. He favors two literal people associated with Israel and Judah while acknowledging that Enoch and Elijah are another proposed identification.

Scriptural analysis

Revelation 11:3-6 introduces the prophetic ministry of the two witnesses, its 1,260-day duration, sackcloth, olive trees and lampstands. The speaker treats the details as evidence for individual prophets, though Revelation does not give their names.

The role of the prophets

Zechariah 4:11-14 is compared with Revelation 11, and the speaker traces the anointed-ones imagery to Luke 9 and the Transfiguration. Moses and Elijah are proposed as likely candidates, not explicitly named in Revelation.

Miraculous powers defined

The ministry's power to withhold rain, bring fire, turn water to blood and strike with plagues is compared with the historical ministries of Elijah and Moses in Kings and Exodus.

The significance of sackcloth

The speaker considers sackcloth as an image of grief, warning and repentance. Jonah's call to Nineveh provides the model for a prophetic message intended to turn people back to God.

Opposition and the beast

Revelation 11:7-10 describes the beast's opposition, the witnesses' deaths, public celebration and the city described spiritually as Sodom and Egypt. The speaker also offers speculative details about future public reactions and the beast's role.

Purpose and final mission

Revelation 11:11-13 records the witnesses' restoration to life, ascension and the earthquake. The speaker connects their ministry to the prophetic purpose of repentance, reverence and acknowledgement of God.

Summary of findings

The Teaching concludes that Moses and Elijah best fit the shared miraculous signs and prophetic role, while recognizing that this is an inference rather than an identification supplied by Revelation 11.

Q&A and closing thoughts

The extensive discussion questions the literal identification, timing, first or later half of tribulation, spirit-of-Elijah analogy, 144,000, resurrection, the state of the dead, Revelation 6 and 21, and the importance of humility in interpreting prophecy. The group closes in fellowship and prayerful encouragement.

Key Scriptures — Contextual Notes

- Revelation 11:3-13 - The chapter describes the witnesses' testimony, death, resurrection and ascension without giving their personal names.
- Revelation 11:3-6 - Two witnesses prophesy for 1,260 days; their portrayal includes sackcloth, two olive trees, lampstands and extraordinary powers.
- Revelation 11:7-10 - The beast overcomes and kills the witnesses after their testimony; the world observes and celebrates their deaths.
- Revelation 11:11-13 - God gives the witnesses life after three and a half days; they ascend and a severe earthquake follows.

- Zechariah 4:11-14 - Zechariah asks about the two olive trees and hears that the two anointed ones stand by the Lord of all the earth.
- Luke 9:28-36 - At the Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appear in glory and speak with Yeshua about His departure.
- 1 Kings 17:1 - Elijah announces the withholding of dew and rain except at his word.
- 1 Kings 18:36-39 - Elijah prays for Israel to know the LORD and turn back to Him; fire demonstrates God's answer.
- 2 Kings 1:9-12 - Fire from heaven consumes companies sent to seize Elijah after he invokes God's authority.
- Exodus 7:14-21 - The waters of Egypt are struck and become blood during the LORD's judgments through Moses and Aaron.
- Exodus 9:13-16 - The LORD commands Moses to confront Pharaoh with warnings and plagues so His power and name will be known.
- Jonah 3:1-10 - Jonah proclaims judgment in Nineveh; the people and king respond with fasting, sackcloth and turning from violence.
- Matthew 23:34-37 - Yeshua recalls the persecution of prophets and mourns Jerusalem's resistance to God's messengers.
- Ezekiel 16:44-52 - Jerusalem is compared with Samaria and Sodom in a prophetic rebuke of unfaithfulness.
- Deuteronomy 4:32-35 - Israel is reminded of signs, wonders and deliverance from Egypt so they may know the LORD is God.
- Deuteronomy 32:36 - The LORD vindicates His people when their strength is gone; a participant raises a possible connection to end-time servants.
- Malachi 4:5-6 - A future sending of Elijah is announced in connection with turning hearts before the day of the LORD.
- Matthew 17:10-13 - Yeshua discusses Elijah's coming and John the Baptist, illuminating the possibility of ministry in Elijah's role.
- Luke 1:16-17 - John's work is described as turning many to God in the spirit and power of Elijah.
- Genesis 5:24 - Enoch walks with God and is taken by Him, a text used in alternative proposals about the witnesses.
- 2 Kings 2:11 - Elijah is taken up in a whirlwind, prompting questions about his state and possible future return.
- Hebrews 9:27 - The passage describes death and subsequent judgment; some readers bring it into identification arguments.
- John 3:13 - Yeshua speaks about who has ascended into heaven, an issue debated during the question-and-answer session.
- Revelation 7:4-8 - John hears the number of the sealed servants from the tribes of Israel; participants ask how they relate to the witnesses.
- Revelation 6:9-11 - John sees souls of slain witnesses beneath the altar; the group discusses what this suggests about the dead.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 - Paul describes the resurrection of the dead in Messiah and the gathering of believers to meet the Lord.
- Revelation 21:1-3 - John sees a new heaven and earth and the dwelling of God coming to humanity.

- Revelation 12:6 - The woman is sheltered in the wilderness for 1,260 days; the group considers end-time chronology.

Reflection and Discussion Questions

1. What does Revelation 11 actually name about the witnesses, and what remains unidentified?

2. How do the olive-tree and lampstand symbols in Zechariah 4 inform the imagery of Revelation 11?

3. What are the strongest parallels between the witnesses' signs and the ministries of Moses and Elijah?

4. What does the Transfiguration show explicitly, and which further identification claims remain inferences?

5. How do sackcloth, Jonah 3 and the call to repentance help explain a prophetic witness?

6. What happens to the witnesses according to Revelation 11:7-13?

7. Which parts of the proposed tribulation timeline are stated in the passage and which are interpretive?

8. How does the example of John the Baptist affect the proposal that someone may minister in Elijah's spirit and power?

9. What important objections or alternatives were raised in the closing discussion?

10. How can humility and careful cross-reference study shape our response to unclear prophecy?

Practical Study Applications

- Read Revelation 11:3-13 in full and mark what is explicit before adding interpretive identifications.
- Compare Zechariah 4 with Revelation 11; identify shared images and the distinct contexts of the two visions.
- Study Moses in Exodus 7-9 and Elijah in 1 Kings 17-18 and 2 Kings 1; compare the signs without assuming identity is proven.
- Read Jonah 3 and consider repentance, mercy and the purpose of warning in prophetic ministry.
- Compare Luke 9 with Luke 1:16-17 and Matthew 17:10-13; discuss literal return versus a prophetic role in another person.
- Create two columns, "Text explicitly states" and "Speaker or participant proposes," when researching end-time timelines.
- Discuss disagreements respectfully and refrain from claiming certainty where Revelation does not identify the witnesses by name.