

## **The Revelation of Jesus Christ**

### **The Ministry of the Two Witnesses**

Revelation 11:1-14

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
John is still interacting with the vision (cf. Acts 10:9-17) and is now given a tool and instructions to use it (v.1). This is the temple that is presently in use at this future time in the city of Jerusalem (cf. Rev. 11:8). Unlike the future prophesied temple in Ezekiel (Ezek. 40-42) there are no dimensions given for the measurements which John makes. The purpose of John's action was not to tell the size and shape of the temple, but rather to make a delineation between those who are protected by God (v.1) and those who are not (v.2; cf. Amos 7:7-9; Zech. 2:1-5). The duration of the affliction of Jerusalem (v.2) and the activities of the two witnesses (v.3) when compared to the prophesy of Daniel indicates that these activities occur in the last three-and-a-half years of the great tribulation (cf. Dan 9:27).
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
The identity of these two figures is the source of much debate and discussion (see below), but in contrast their activities are described with explicit clarity. The clothing that John sees them wearing indicates that they will primarily be preachers of judgment and repentance (Neh. 9:1 ; Joel 1:13 ; Luke 10:13; cf. Jon. 3:6; Luke 11:32). They will further serve as God's instruments of restoration and renewal of faithfulness for Israel (v.4; cf. Zech. 4:1-6; 12:8-10). These witnesses will be uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit to call upon the Lord to kill those who come against them (cf. 2 Kings 1:10-16), to withhold rain from the land and cause a drought (cf. 1 Kings 17:1), to turn the water into blood (cf. Ex. 7:17), and to strike the earth with every plague as they desire (cf. Ex. 7-10). These witnesses will be divinely protected until they finished their mission (v.7) and it is time for them to be killed at the hand of the beast who is the antichrist (Dan. 9:27; 2 Thess. 2:3-4). The world will rejoice at their deaths only to be shocked at their supernatural resurrection and ascension into heaven (vs.11-12).
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
There are several reasonable suggestions as to the identity of these two witnesses. Enoch and Elijah are put forward as options because neither of them experienced death in the past (Gen 5:18-24; 2 Ki. 2:9-12; Heb. 11:5). Elijah and Moses are put forward as options because the miracles which they performed are the types of activities which these witnesses will perform and both of these men were present with the Lord at the transfiguration (Matt 17:1-8). Another option suggested is that these two witnesses will be two individuals in the future whose ministries are in the spirit and power of Moses and Elijah but are not the men themselves (cf. Luke 1:17; Matt 17:9-13).