

Sunday Bible Study Session 1 – December 7, 2014

"Heralds of the 2nd Advent" – (Revelation 11:1-3)

Read [Revelation 11:1-14](#).

[Revelation 11:1-14 Outline:](#)

1. Verse 1 – Two Witness Identified
2. Verse 2 – Setting – Trib. Temple
3. Verse 3 – Preaching Ministry
4. Verse 4 – Analogy – Zechariah 4
5. Verse 5 – Protection and Provision
6. Verse 6 – Power of Two Witnesses
7. Verses 7-9 – Death (World Coverage)
8. Verse 10 – Satan's Christmas
9. Verse 11,12 – Surprise
10. Verses 13,14 – Judgment – Fear is Not Faith

[Revelation 11:1-4; 5-9; 10-14 Introduction:](#)

In [Chapter 11](#), we have the continuation of the subject of the Heralds – Heralds of the 2nd Advent. In 14 verses we have the story of TWO WITNESSES.

- At the First Advent, there were Angelic Heralds – [Luke 2:9-15](#) – and a human witness – John the Baptist – [John 3:28-31](#).
 - At the Second Advent, there is one Angelic Herald – [Revelation 10](#) – and two human heralds (witnesses) [Revelation 11:1-14](#).
 - These two are not specified by name – Why? It's the *Message* not the *messenger!*
 - God's Truth sustains – *not* Christian friends, *not* the preacher. People can disappoint, but *God always knows what's best.*
- I. Conjecture relative to the two witnesses:
 - 1) Enoch – A Gentile (Problem with this... Gentiles are not witnesses in Age of Israel).
 - 2) Elijah – A Jew – A Jew can be a witness in Age of Israel.
 - II. In the Jewish Age the Jews are responsible for the dissemination of the Gospel.

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- III. Two names presented by Jesus in [Matthew 16:28-17:3](#) – Mount of Transfiguration is a picture of the 2nd Advent. Christ is transformed as He will appear at the 2nd Advent. Moses and Elijah will be there.
- IV. What about John the Baptist? [Malachi 4:5, 6](#) – He is the human herald of the 1st Advent – Moses and Elijah are the heralds of the 2nd Advent.
- V. Note: If Christ had been accepted at his 1st Advent, then John the Baptist would have been Elijah. Elijah cannot be the herald twice. There was a battle over the body of Moses when he died – [Jude verse 9](#).
- VI. Conclusion: Moses and Elijah are the two heralds of the 2nd Advent. Christ was rejected by Israel – then He returns.
- VII. [Luke 1:16, 17](#) – John was put on the level as Elijah, as a herald, having the spirit and power of Elijah, but John is saying in [John 1:21](#) "I am not Elijah." If Jesus would have been accepted at the 1st advent, Elijah would have been the herald, rather than John the Baptist ([Matthew 11:11-14; 17:10-13](#)).

A final identification of the two witnesses is found in [Acts 3:21, 22](#) (Moses) and [Matthew 17:11](#) – (Elijah).

Elijah had been opposing Idolatry during the reign of Ahaziah, for which the king died by punishment from the Lord, and was succeeded by Jehoram. During that reign, knowing he was about to be taken, Elijah was walking with Elisha near the Jordan, and talking with him, when suddenly they were separated by chariots and horses of fire, and Elijah was taken up into heaven in a whirlwind.

Now, we see In Revelation 11:4 two witnesses presented.

REVELATION 11:4 – Analogy:

In [Revelation 11:4](#), we have an analogy to the two witnesses, taken from [Zechariah 4](#). God raised up Zechariah to stir the spiritual leaders. The Lord gave him 10 Visions, all in one night.

1. The Jews are given an opportunity to witness again.
2. They are encouraged to rebuild their Temple and Zechariah was one of the prophets to help them and encourage them along this line.
3. In the book of Zechariah (chapter 4) one olive tree represents Zerubbabel ([4:11](#)) the political ruler, the Son of David. Another olive tree represents Joshua, the High Priest, who was the spiritual leader. Note Zechariah's martyrdom in [Matthew 23:33-35](#).

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4. Olive oil was extracted from the olive tree; oil is a type of the Holy Spirit – and in Zechariah 4, where the two trees are mentioned, the oil was taken and placed in a drum – then they had a candlestick. There are 7 pipes from the drum going to each of the candles, or *bowls* (oil goes from the bowls into the wick and burns).
5. This is the testimony of Israel.
6. The leadership is Zerubbabel and Joshua.
7. Israel's darkest hour is in the tribulation, and they need a testimony. So, we have here in [Revelation 11:4](#) "*THE TWO OLIVE TREES – AND THE TWO CANDLESTICKS*" – ONE IS MOSES – THE OTHER IS ELIJAH.
8. The olive tree is used because it refers back to [Zechariah 4](#), and has to do with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Lord said to Zerubbabel ([4:6](#)) "*NOT BY MIGHT* [Mental strength or the strength of many], *NOT BY POWER* [Human good-strength of one], *BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS*".
9. A person cannot serve the Lord apart from the power of the Holy Spirit.
10. The reference to the olive trees of Zechariah refers to the importance of the Holy Spirit in *SERVICE*.
11. The two olive trees are Moses and Elijah, controlled by the Holy Spirit, called the two candlesticks – two witnesses "*standing before the Lord of the earth*".
12. Moses and Elijah did have the old sinful nature – yet they were two of the greatest believers of all times.
13. Just because they were great in the past does not mean they will be great when they come back to preach in the Tribulation. THE THING THAT MAKES THEM GREAT IS THE SAME THING THAT MAKES ANY BELIEVER GREAT: THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
14. God is going to bring back to Jerusalem two great men, Moses and Elijah. But they do not stand upon their past ability and success. (Illustration of how it could happen: "*I'm Moses – I LED the Jews out of Egypt – Elijah will tell you tomorrow night about his chariot ride...*" – NO!) God the Holy Spirit makes Moses and Elijah great, effective witnesses in the Tribulation – not *our* successes but *HIS* POWER.
15. Moses and Elijah understood, more than anyone in the Jewish Age, the Grace of God and the importance of the Spirit of God.