

The Revelation

Lesson 9

6. Trump Six – Woe Two – (9:13-11:14)

a) Announcement from the Golden Altar (9:13-14)

Rev 9:13 Then the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, ¹⁴ one saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

John heard a **“voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God.”** We need to be reminded that the sounding of the first trumpet occurred after the fire was taken from this golden altar, placed in a fire-pan, covered with incense which were the prayers of the saints and then, the fire-pan was hurled to the ground. With the sound of the sixth trumpet, John heard a voice from the same altar say, **“Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.”** Both Peter and Jude tell us about these angels.

2Pe 2:4-11 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but preserved Noah, a preacher of righteousness, with seven others, when He brought a flood upon the world of the ungodly; and *if* He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing *them* to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly *lives* thereafter; and *if* He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (~~for by what he saw and heard *that* righteous man, while living among them, felt *his* righteous soul tormented day after day by *their* lawless deeds~~), *then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh in *its* corrupt desires and despise authority. Daring, self-willed, they do not tremble when they revile angelic majesties, whereas angels who are greater in might and power do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.

Jude 1:6-7 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day, just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire.

These four angels were godless rebels against the Almighty. These angels were so sinful that the LORD had not allowed them to roam the earth since they had committed their horrible sins. Even before Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan, these angels were bound and kept away from the ability to tempt humanity.

It was in the area of the Euphrates that Adam and Eve first saw the light of day. It is one of the four rivers that formed a boundary line around the Garden of Eden. On one side of this boundary line, man committed his first sin; on the other side, he killed his first man. The first martyr who loved the LORD was dead – Abel was his name. Beside this same river, men

rebelled against the LORD and refused to scatter to populate the world and the LORD had to bring upon them the judgment of the separation by languages. Back to this same river the Israelites were dragged into exile, some to Assyria, some to Babylon. All were within range of these four evil angels who could not break their bonds to be set free to torment people until this point in the story. Thank God, John was seeing only the rehearsal of what is to come. Thank God, the Church will not experience their torment.

b) Reason for the Four Angels (9:15)

Rev 9:15 And the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released, so that they would kill a third of mankind.

When the LORD had the four evil angels bound, the time clock for their release began its countdown. We know it as seven thousand years thanks to the writings of Polycarp who was a disciple of this John of this REVELATION. He was the same Polycarp who pastored the Church in Smyrna and was martyred there. These angels had a target, the death of one-third of humanity. If this happened in 2018, the death toll worldwide would be 2.53 billion out of 7.6 billion people. If by chance only the western nations were considered here, the death toll would be 225 million people out of the European population of 742 million people in 2018.

The five months were over, that being the time allotted to the *locusts* to sting but not to kill. It was now time to kill and these four angels would set out to do the job. They would not be alone. They have an army.

c) Army with the Angels (9:16-21)

Rev 9:16 The number of the armies of the horsemen was two hundred million; I heard the number of them.

The army coming with the four evil angels was large, 200 million strong. That being the case, a well-prepared army of 200 million would have no difficulty killing 225 million unprepared humans as the population of the European nations. If we were to look at a world-wide slaughter of 2.53 billion people, each soldier in the angel's army would need to kill only about 13 persons—a doable task for a well-trained supernatural soldier. What will this army look like?

(1) Their Look (9:17)

Rev 9:17 And this is how I saw in the vision the horses and those who sat on them: *the riders* had breastplates *the color* of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses are like the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone.

The armor of the riders on these horses was the color of a hot fire when it flames and flashes. **“Hyacinth”** is like a sapphire – bright blue. **“Brimstone”** is like sulfur – bright yellow. The armor of the riders brings color to our picture of these creatures, but their horses strike fear. The horses looked to John like they had the **“heads of lions and out of their mouths proceed fire and smoke and brimstone.”** Mouths that breathe fire and smoke are dangerous enough, but to mix burning sulfur that spews from the mouth is frightening.

Inhaling the fumes will cause difficulty in breathing and swollen lungs. Skin contact will cause severe burns.

(2) Their Plagues (9:18)

Rev 9:18 A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which proceeded out of their mouths.

Here is where John repeats himself from verse 9:15; the intent of this army was to kill one-third of humanity of the population of the world with these three plagues. One-third died!

(3) Their Power (9:19)

Rev 9:19 For the power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails; for their tails are like serpents and have heads, and with them they do harm.

With the picture John has already painted of these creatures we can readily understand why the plagues they bring are so deadly. But with this verse, we can see a better picture to explain their effectiveness. **“... power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails.”** They were efficient warriors from the front and from the back. Their tails had multiple heads that breathed fire, smoke and sulfur. No wonder they could bring such destruction. Their leader and king, *Abadddon/Apollyon, the destroyer*, had to be proud of his soldiers. After all, the angels had been waiting for this moment since before Adam and Eve sinned.

(4) Their Limit (9:20-21)

Rev 9:20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; ²¹ and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

You would think that such evil destruction would cause a surviving people to turn to God, but not so. The destruction of the plagues of these 200 million creatures with their four evil angels and their destroyer king only made the majority of the people of the world angrier at God. It drove them further from Him and closer to their own gods, such as those that would be the natural and logical idols of *A Humanist Manifesto*. You may think that the death of 2.53 billion people is tribulation enough for any world, but the time of the Tribulation has yet to begin for the Nation of Israel. With the deaths of 2.53 billion people, nations will finalize the redrawing of their boundary lines and seal the establishment of new governmental relationships.

d) Angel with the Little Book (10:1-7)

(1) His Look (10:1-2)

Rev 10:1 I saw another strong angel coming down out of heaven, clothed with a cloud; and the rainbow was upon his head, and his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire; ² and he had in his hand a little book which was open. He placed his right foot on the sea and his left on the land;

John is about to be let in on a little secret that has been written in the little book that this angel has. John sees the angel and he sees the book.

(2) His Cry (10:3)

Rev 10:3 and he cried out with a loud voice, as when a lion roars; and when he had cried out, the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices.

When John heard the cry of the strong angel's voice, he heard it as a lion's roar, but he also heard **"the seven peals of thunder uttered their voices."** What are the seven peals of thunder? Notice that the seven peals of thunder were in response to the lion's roar. The next verse will provide a little more insight.

(3) His Command (10:4)

Rev 10:4 When the seven peals of thunder had spoken, I was about to write; and I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and do not write them."

John was not allowed to record the words of the seven peals of thunder. Why? These seven peals must have been in total rebellion to what the voice of the lion had roared. The LORD was writing this book and Satan must have been trying to get his word in edgewise. But the LORD would not have it. *"John, don't record what you have heard the thunder say, it is not to be written down."* This book is God's Word, it is not Satan's. He may have had a part in the story through the Scripture, but this last book of the Bible is being presented by the LORD for the purpose of declaring the pageantry of His Second Coming and the gathering of His Holy nation of Israel to Him as their Messiah. This is not a book for Satan to put his two cents into the text. The LORD has let Satan and man have their own way enough in this world. It is time for the LORD to have His. An oath is needed.

(4) His Oath (10:5-6)

Rev 10:5 Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land lifted up his right hand to heaven, ⁶ and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, WHO CREATED HEAVEN AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE EARTH AND THE THINGS IN IT, AND THE SEA AND THE THINGS IN IT, that there will be delay no longer, ⁷ but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.

The strong angel was loyal to the LORD. He gave his pledge to the LORD. He knew the LORD, he was created by the LORD on the first day and he had seen everything the LORD had done down through time. It was time for the march to the Second Coming and that would begin with the blast of the seventh angel with the seventh trumpet.

The strong angel says an interesting thing, **"then the mystery of God is finished."** The prophets of old were taught it, but did they really understand it? We surely do not understand it all. Nevertheless, we all will one day when Jesus breaks through the eastern skies to be the King of all.

e) Instructions to John (10:8–11:2)

(1) Eat the Book (10:8-10)

Rev 10:8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven, *I heard* again speaking with me, and saying, "Go, take the book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the land." ⁹ So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he said to me, "Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." ¹⁰ I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter.

What was in the book that John ate? The message was sweet in his mouth but sour in his stomach. What was written in that heavenly book? We actually know! It is the rest of the story, the good and the bad mixed together. The voice from heaven is about to tell John to prophesy again – what he learned from eating the little book.

(2) Prophecy Again – Prophecy within the Prophecy (10:11)

Rev 10:11 And they said to me, "You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings."

The little book had a message about the **“peoples and nations and tongues and kings.”** Some of it was easy to swallow, some of it was hard. Nevertheless, it was John’s job to tell the rest of the story.

It is important to note at this point; this is a *prophecy within the prophecy* of the book. From 10:11 through 11:14, John is going to foretell the events that will take place after the sounding of the sixth trumpet is complete which is also called the second woe. He will see the events and write them as he sees them. At this time in the story, the evil four angels and their 200,000-creature army are still warring against one-third of the population.

(3) Measure Temple, Altar and Worshipers (11:1)

Rev 11:1 Then there was given me a measuring rod like a staff; and someone said, "Get up and measure the temple of God and the altar, and those who worship in it.

But before John could write, the LORD wanted him to be brought up to speed concerning several important and special things. The text states that John was given the job of measuring the Temple of God – the whole Temple in heaven - not just the throne room where he has been, but the Golden Altar that has already been mentioned and the size of the multitude that worshiped within its walls.

(4) Dismiss the Outside Court (11:2a)

Rev 11:2a "Leave out the court which is outside the temple and do not measure it, for it has been given to the nations;

But the courtyard prepared for the Gentiles that surrounded the Temple was not to be measured. Where is this courtyard? Where does it begin and where does it end? It begins at the outside wall of the Temple where God lives and it extends throughout the entire universe

of created things. All of God's creation surrounds His eternal home. The courtyard is our temporal home.

Measuring the Temple of God and just looking at the size of the great courtyard for all the nations must have been as sweet as honey in the mouth of John, but then comes the bitter.

(5) Holy City Trampled 42 Months (11:2b)

Rev 11:2b and they will tread under foot the holy city for forty-two months.

This verse had to bring a souring in the stomach of John. Out in the vast courtyard that surrounds the Temple of God is a little galaxy that the LORD created and we call it the *Milky Way*. Deep inside that galaxy is a little planet called *Earth*. In one little spot on *Earth* there is a little plot of land about seven miles wide and seven miles long. That plot of land is called the city of *Jerusalem*. It is known as the *holy city* and it is reserved by God and it belongs to God. His people know it as the *holy city*. To think that the *holy city* John loved so much, the city where the LORD was crucified and resurrected, would be trampled on for forty-two months (three and a half years). It is prophecy. It is looking ahead. It is prophecy within prophecy. Other things must take place first. John has seen the wonderful Temple of God that will one day grace the landscape of Jerusalem when it comes down to earth. He has measured it; he knows it. But he has also seen the enemies outside the walls of the current Jerusalem in place on earth. They are ready to attack, ready to devour, ready to **“tread under foot,”** for three and a half years or 42 months. As the strong angel said in this section, **“but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.”** In other words, the ungodly, the enemies of God, all those in opposition to God, would soon see with their own eyes the total fulfillment of His Word, His prophecy and His promises. That means that the horrific prophecies He directed at His adversaries would be fulfilled. Even though they would be the recipients of the punishment, they would doubt at that moment that they were, in fact, wrong in their belief. Neither would they ever doubt the existence of the supreme God again. Everyone who has sought to live in a world without God will realize that was a mistake. They have been warned repeatedly about their sin by His prophets. John is one of those prophets and he had the honor of being the last to tell the sweet and bitter story that will be recorded in the Bible. Sweet for those who love the LORD, bitter because of those who do not. But that does not mean he was the last of the LORD's prophets. The LORD has two more in his arsenal of prophets and John was about to see the rehearsal of their work in the time of the Tribulation.

(6) Two Witnesses to Prophecy 1260 days (11:3-14)

(a) Their Authority (11:3)

Rev 11:3 "And I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

John is still prophesying about the future. This prophecy within the prophecy began in 10:11. The LORD says to John, **“I will grant *authority* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”** These two witnesses will arrive shortly and **“will prophesy.”** **“Will”** is an important word in the context of this passage. It means that it did not happen in the past, nor was it happening at this place in the

vision, but it would happen next, after the four evil angels and the 200,000-creature army are through killing one-third of the population

The witnesses will be **“clothed in sackcloth.”** Sackcloth was made from woven goats’ hair. It was thick, coarse, and strong. These sacks were used for carrying all kinds of dry goods. Liquids were carried in bags made from skins. The sackcloth clothing was made from this same material. Sackcloth like this is still available but most people have never seen it. We can compare it to thick and stiff burlap which is made from jute fibers rather than goats hair. Sackcloth clothing in the Bible was usually worn by the prophets of God and these two witnesses are certainly sent from God for a purpose. Elijah and Elisha certainly wore them and so did John the Baptist.

Great speculation abounds as to the specific identity of these two witnesses. Who are they?

(b) Their Look (11:4)

Rev 11:4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.

The LORD identifies these two witnesses as **“the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.”** Here we are forced to consider this same wording found in Zechariah 4.

The Two Anointed Ones

Zec 4:1 Then the angel who was speaking with me returned and roused me, as a man who is awakened from his sleep. ² He said to me, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it; ^{Zec 4:3} also two olive trees by it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left side."... ¹¹ Then I said to him, "What are these two olive trees on the right of the lampstand and on its left?" ¹² And I answered the second time and said to him, "What are the two olive branches which are beside the two golden pipes, which empty the golden *oil* from themselves?" ¹³ So he answered me, saying, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." ¹⁴ Then he said, **"These are the two anointed ones who are standing by the Lord of the whole earth."**

Here we see chapter 4, but many commentators use chapter 3 to prove the identity of the two witnesses as being the **“two olive trees.”** Chapter 3 tells the story of Joshua, the High Priest during the days of the rebuilding of the Temple in Jerusalem after the return from exile in Babylon. Satan was at the Throne of God accusing Joshua of being unfit to serve in the rebuilt Temple. The LORD rejected Satan’s attack on Joshua.

Here in chapter 4, between verses 3 and 11, Zerubbabel, the governor, was promised that because he was the one who laid the foundation stone on the Temple, he would be the one to put the capstone on the building to complete it. Because of human interference from neighboring clans along with dysfunction occurring in the Persian government, the building of the Temple was stalled and ultimately took 20 years to complete.

Many commentators name Joshua and Zerubbabel as the two anointed ones, the two olive trees and, therefore, the two witnesses of the Revelation. Actually, Joshua and Zerubbabel were aided in their attempts to serve the LORD by the two anointed ones rather than being the anointed ones. Other commentators name Moses and Elijah while others name Enoch and Elijah. But the issue at hand is that these **“two anointed ones who are standing by the LORD of the whole earth”** were in operation here and at least 2,500 years later in the story line of the Second Coming of the LORD.

Zechariah’s vision indicates that the **“two olive trees”** fill the pipes and the bowls with oil that feeds the flames for light from the lampstand. It also indicates that these **“two olive trees”** are the **“two anointed ones.”** In the Hebrew, **“the two anointed ones”** is rendered as *the two sons of oil*. As *sons of oil*, these are the ones who aid servants of the living God in their ability to accomplish the tasks He has assigned to them. Joshua and Zerubbabel were not the **“two anointed ones”** of Zechariah nor the Revelation.

The best conclusion must be that these two witnesses who arrive in Jerusalem at the beginning of the Tribulation will be sent by the LORD, whether earthly humans or heavenly creatures, to protect the nation of Israel for 1260 days, arriving at the beginning of the Tribulation. If they are humans, the LORD will endow them with great power as he did Moses, Elijah, Elisha and the Apostles. If they are heavenly creatures, the LORD will present them in human form as He did the angels who visited Lot in the village of Sodom and seemed to be human to the town folk. He also allowed them to die as if they were human and be resurrected – neither being impossible with God.

(c) Their Power (11:5)

Rev 11:5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire flows out of their mouth and devours their enemies; so if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way.

Powerful might be an understatement in describing these two anointed ones. The world is full of those who hate Israel; therefore, they would naturally hate these two who have arrived in Jerusalem to protect Israel. Just as there are nations that want to annihilate Israel today, there will be nations that want to annihilate these two witnesses. But, these two will be given authority from God to strike back with a flaming force resulting in immediate death.

(d) Their Ability (11:6)

Rev 11:6 These have the power to shut up the sky, so that rain will not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.

But the power of these two witnesses would not stop with the flames from their mouths; they have the ability to stop the rain **“during the days of their prophesying”** – 1260 days. These two will have the power to turn water to blood and **“strike the earth with every plague, as often as they desire.”** The LORD allowed Moses to do the same but with one big caveat, the LORD told Moses what to do, when to do it and how to do it; here, the witnesses are totally in control of when they turn the water into blood and the plagues they choose to use and when they wish to use them. Stopping the rains for the 1260 days will bring economic hardship to Israel. As hated as Israel is among the nations, if Israel cannot produce its own food and no other nation has food to sell to it, or if no other nation will willingly sell

food to it, it will put Israel in a time of stress and tribulation nationally.

(e) **Their Death (11:7)**

Rev 11:7 When they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the abyss will make war with them, and overcome them and kill them.

With the task of the two witnesses completed on earth, the LORD will allow **“the beast that comes up out of the abyss”** to kill them. Here, we must ask the question, “Which beast?” Those who have read the rest of this book know that two beasts will come shortly that will control the nations surrounding the Mediterranean Sea. They will join together to form what we will call the Revived Roman Empire because they will unite into a new nation the remnants of the ten countries formed by their conquerors after the fall of the Western and Eastern Roman Empires. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream prophesied them as ten toes that will one day reunite into an empire that would be controlled by evil leaders. One beast would be seen coming out of the sea, the other would be seen coming from the land.

However, to this point in the story, John had not seen these beasts arrive and take their places of power. Specifically, the important point here is that he had not seen a beast coming out of the abyss. He had, however, seen the door to the abyss opened by a star that fell from heaven and allowed creatures to come out of the abyss to torment mankind. Is John speaking of a beast that has already come (9:1) or a beast that is still to come in the future (13:1)? What is the answer? It is found in the context of this section which began in 10:8 where John was instructed to eat the little book and then prophesy about the ministry of the two witnesses (10:11). Therefore, when John says, **“the beast that comes up out of the abyss,”** he is speaking of the beast that is yet to come out of abyss beginning in 13:1. It is a prophesy of the beast that will soon appear in the story which will be one of the rulers of the new nation comprising the ten nations spoken of above.

(f) **Their Viewing (11:8)**

Rev 11:8 And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which mystically is called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified.

The city is Jerusalem; it was the only place of the LORD’s crucifixion. No other city can make that claim. Why then is it called **“Sodom and Egypt?”** It is a very strange metaphor! Sodom indicates a *vice* and Egypt indicates a *vanity or emptiness*. Sodom was guilty of the sin of homosexuality; Egypt was guilty of the emptiness of the worship of every god in the book except the true LORD God. Both are detested by the LORD! Not to get too far ahead in the story, soon the beast will be in control of Jerusalem, with his throne established there and his new worship imposed by the false prophet. Then, Jerusalem will be a center of vice and vanity.

(g) **Their Enemies (11:9)**

Rev 11:9 Those from the peoples and tribes and tongues and nations *will* look at their dead bodies for three and a half days, and will not permit their dead bodies to be laid in a tomb.

Upon their deaths, they will not be buried. Their bodies will lie where they died for three and a half days in order that the people of the world can see their decomposing bodies.

(h) Their Rejection (11:10)

Rev 11:10 And those who dwell on the earth *will* rejoice over them and celebrate; and they will send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.

In a gruesome tale, the dead bodies of the two witnesses will become the focus of great joy to people throughout the world even to the point of sending gifts to each other in delight. Why? The Scripture answers, **“because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth.”** It means what it says. We must not miss the magnitude of those words. The ministry of these two witnesses may have been focused on Jerusalem, but their ministry affected the people of the world. Specifically, no rain! It may even indicate that during the 1260 days of their ministry, they visited other parts of the world because of the **“torment”** they inflicted on the world’s population.

We must not miss an important point at this juncture. These two witnesses were the enemies the world and the enemies of the defiant Israel, too.

(i) Their Resurrection (11:11)

Rev 11:11 But after the three and a half days, the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were watching them.

Two witnesses were dead in the streets of Jerusalem for **“three and a half days.”** Jerusalem sits on the earth at the longitude line of 31° 46’ 48” North. For comparison, north on Highway 45 from Houston, Jerusalem would sit just a few miles north of Centerville, Texas or at mile marker 170. But it also on the same longitudinal line as El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. The temperatures in Centerville and El Paso have average highs of around 98° in July and average lows of around 33° in January. But the average highs in Jerusalem are of around 85° in July and the average lows of around 44° in January. Quite a difference! Depending on the time of year of the deaths of these two witnesses, the decomposition should start very rapidly regardless of the season. But, these are no normal beings – these are the LORD’s anointed ones. The expectation of their following the normal rate of decay is unlikely!

Only recently has the technology been in place to allow the entire world to see and celebrate their deaths in real time. Even now, webcams can be directed at them and the world can login with portable devices to see them on the ground. What a surprise will take them by storm when the two witnesses stand to their feet, alive with the **“breath of life from God.”** It is the same breath of life mentioned by Ezekiel concerning the dry bones (Eze. 37:5, 9-10). It was the same breath breathed into Adam (Gen 2:7), life eternal – life to a soul that never dies. Imagine the dread felt by their dissenters! They knew the tribulation they felt while the two were alive. What kind of tribulation came with these two resurrected beings?

(j) [Their Ascension \(11:12\)](#)

Rev 11:12 And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." Then they went up into heaven in the cloud, and their enemies watched them.

The enemies really had nothing to worry about at the resurrection of the two witnesses, but they did not know that. The witnesses were through with their duties here on earth. The same loud voice that had called to John in the beginning of the REVELATION called to these anointed ones and said, "**Come up here.**" It was time for them to return to heaven to stand with the LORD. Just as Jesus ascended into heaven through the clouds from the Mount of Olives, these two ascended into heaven from the streets of Jerusalem, in clear view, in sight of the whole world who were the "**their enemies.**" Imagine the fear that gripped the hearts and souls of the people of the world! What would come next? It would get worse, but not because of these two anointed ones.

(i) [The Earthquake \(11:13a\)](#)

Rev 11:13a And in that hour there was a great earthquake,

During the hour that the two witnesses rose into the air and into heaven, a "**great earthquake**" occurred in Jerusalem. This earthquake was different from the others mentioned in the REVELATION. This earthquake was strong enough to do great harm in the beloved *holy city*.

(ii) [The City \(11:13b\)](#)

Rev 11:13b and a tenth of the city fell;

The earthquake caused "**a tenth of the city**" to fall. That means that 10% of the buildings and homes in the city were destroyed.

(iii) [The Dead \(11:13c\)](#)

Rev 11:13c seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake,

In the earthquake that destroyed 10% of the structures, "**seven thousand people were killed.**" Some have interpreted 10% of the city to equal 7,000 people, but that would mean that only 70,000 people were in the 49 square mile land area of the city of Jerusalem. Today, in 2018, the population of Jerusalem is about 898,617. Ten percent of that population would be 89,867 people, far more than 7,000. There is no reason to believe that the population in Jerusalem will decrease to 70,000 at this point in the story of the REVELATION. Therefore, it is best to interpret that the 10% will be the destruction of the building structures and the 7,000 will represent actual people killed out of the population that should be more than a million at that time. For years the city has been growing at a rate of almost 11% per year.

In 2018, the division of the population in Jerusalem is interesting. Of the population of 898,617 people, only 516,808 are Jewish and about 381,809 are Muslim. However, at the time of the REVELATION story, the Jews will be in total control of the city and the entire state of Israel. The Dome of the Rock, Islam's mosque will no longer be there, a new temple will replace it; however, that is not part of the story in the REVELATION. We will come

back to that point in the last lessons in this series after we have mastered all the details found directly in the REVELATION. Then we can gather other *End Time* information from all the Bible passages and insert them into the story where they belong with much greater clarity and understanding of all the *End Times* story from all the biblical sources. Remember, in this REVELATION, the LORD was using John in the same way He used him in the writing of his Gospel and the three small letters – to fill in final details that were not covered in all the rest of the Scripture.

(iv) The Salvation (11:13d)

Rev 11:13d and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

In the 1980 Jerusalem Law document, the city was finally recognized as Israel's undivided capital. Because the Nation of Israel is both a bloodline (heritage) and a belief (religion), Jerusalem is also the capital of the faith of the Jews. Here we must tread on sacred but important ground that may be unpopular but has already been addressed by the LORD in the seven letters to the seven churches found in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. We mean no disrespect to the Jewish faith of today; however, one of the main purposes of the Second Coming of the LORD is to change the hearts and beliefs of the Nation of Israel to accept Him as their Savior, their Messiah whom they rejected upon His first appearance on earth but will accept before His second.

To understand the text **“and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven,”** we must review the history leading to John's writing of this vision and secure in our minds the place of Israel then and now. We begin by asking the question, *“What did John know about the history of Israel leading up to 95 AD?”* The answer is *everything!* He was a Jew of the Jews anyway you want to add it up. He was of the bloodline of Jacob, the same as Judah, David, Solomon, Rehoboam and Jesus. He knew all the history back to Moses and what Moses had written in the book of Genesis and everything else by the other authors through 65 books of the Bible. He understood the kings, the exiles, the Temples and the struggle with Rome. He followed John the Baptist first and then switched his loyalty to Jesus, his first cousin, following the LORD's baptism. He was chosen to be an Apostle; he saw the miracles of the boy raised from the dead and the lunatic healed as well as the man who was once blind but then could see. He had been with Jesus when he was privileged to see Moses, Elijah and Jesus speaking together at the transfiguration. He was in the boat when the storm threatened to capsize it and he saw Jesus calm the storm. He was there when the woman threw two pennies into the treasury as her gift to the LORD. He was in the upper room. He was at the crucifixion, right by the side of Jesus' mother. He was at the tomb. He was at the ascension. He knew the greatest enemy of Christianity, that radical Jewish Rabbi named Saul. He also knew him after he fell to his knees in front of Jesus on the Damascus Road and was changed from a hate filled Jew to a loving Christian and became one of the single greatest evangelist to the Gentile world on record. Furthermore, John knew the evil that had come over the Nation of Israel toward Jesus and His followers. He knew Israel had rejected its Savior and turned on those who were believers who carried the name Christian. He had seen the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem and the radical change that the rabbis of the Jewish faith installed on the Nation of Israel that made it look very little like the faith of Judaism designed by the LORD. He had, at his fingertips, all 65 books of the Holy Writ. He was the last Apostle to head the Church. He knew that the faith of the Jews was no

longer viable; he knew the hatred of the Jewish Synagogues directed at the Christian Churches. Three of the special Churches in this REVELATION were especially persecuted by Satan's Synagogues. He understood why the LORD call the Jewish worship houses Synagogues of Satan, and all the synagogues of all the world are still such in the LORD's eyes today! Why? Because they do not believe in Jesus, because Satan won the battle to blind the eyes of the Jewish leadership and therefore lead all of Judaism away from the belief in the true Messiah! That remains unto this day and will until the death and resurrections of the two anointed witnesses of the LORD.

How will the LORD change the hearts and minds of the religious leaders in the Nation of Israel and put their belief and trust in the Messiah they missed? We have it in this passage. It will occur with the tribulation that the two witnesses will bring on the Nation of Israel in the 1260 days of their ministry coupled with their deaths, resurrections and ascensions. When John says, **“and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven,”** he is speaking about all the rest of the Jews in the capital of Israel, every religious Jewish leader, every political Jewish leader, every man, woman, boy and girl living in Jerusalem, all in one accord will **“give glory to the God of heaven,”** the true God, the true Messiah, the Christian Savior, the One they had missed but will have found! Because of their change of heart, the whole of Judaism will return to the LORD, blinded eyes healed so they can see and hardened hearts healed so they can feel.

Here, in verse 14, we have the salvation of the Nation of Israel. It cannot mean anything else! If John says they are giving glory to the God of heaven, it is the true God of heaven, not the imaginary version created by the Rabbis in 70 AD. Israel finally will believe in Him and all its people will belong to Him because of their new-found faith in Jesus Christ.

(k) Their Purpose (11:14)

Rev 11:14 The second woe is past; behold, the third woe is coming quickly.

The second woe began with the sixth trumpet's freeing of the four evil angels held at the Euphrates River since the early days of creation. They brought along their terrifying army of 200 million creatures who killed one-third of humanity on earth, a terrible affliction on all the nations of the world. The first woe was pointedly a threat to the nations of the world.

After their destruction of human lives was in progress, the sixth trumpet sounded, the second woe, and John was told to prophesy about the two witnesses who would come in the future in the prophecy. Their purpose would be to reclaim the hearts of the bloodline of Jews and lead them back to the Messiah. The second woe would purposefully be a threat to the established sinful Nation of Israel.

Now, the third woe will be a precise threat to the evil empire totally controlled by Satan.

With the second woe in the past, the story of the purpose of the two anointed witnesses has been told.