

# REVELATION SERIES - LESSON 16

## REVELATION 11:6 - 12:6

Ch 11 - Who are these 2 witnesses?

When they make their appearance they are going to look like they came from the past.

It's ancient clothing and they will look very much out of place and I think it is intentional.

Their **DURATION** - Babylonian calendar uses 360 days.

So this chapter gives 1260 days as well 42 months. Both of these are 3 ½ years.

John uses different ways to describe the 3 ½ periods.

1260 = first 3 ½ years.

These prophets come in the first half of the 7 years of tribulation.

42 months = last half of the tribulation period.

Basically they are here in the first 3.5 years to evangelize.

God constantly gives us chances and opportunities because He is patient, longsuffering and not willing any should perish.

A new kingdom age is coming and God wants as many people as possible to get on board.

So He sends these 2 witnesses to share and preach for 3 ½ years.

Their **PROTECTION**

These 2 witnesses are given this ability to breathe fire on anyone trying to harm them.

We will also see they ultimately are killed and after 3 ½ years they are assassinated.

Who are these 2 Witnesses? 3 Views:

1. Minority View - Joshua & Zerubbabel  
Zech 4 = Joshua is a High Priest  
Zerubbabel is like a Governor
2. Elijah & Enoch

Elijah & Enoch have in common they were taken up before physical death.

Their **IDENTITY**

3. Majority view is Elijah & Moses.

Let me give you some of my reasoning:

1 - Malachi 4

Ma 4:4 - 6

Moses seems to represent the Law.

Elijah represents the prophets.

When you think about a summary of the O. T., it's Moses (the Law), Elijah (the Prophet).

2 - Matt 17 - Both these guys appear again.

Matt 17 - Jesus takes Peter, James and John on a mountain and He is transfigured before them.

Matt 17:1-8

Moses and Elijah who have been dead for centuries appear in some form.

It's interesting that Peter who never met them before recognizes them.

It's like these 2 tag team throughout the Bible, Mal 4, Matt 17.

3 - Another Reason is their particular powers.

Vs 6 - remember story of Elijah in 1 Kings 17.?

How long do these 2 witnesses minister in tribulation 1260 or 3 ½ years?

God uses Elijah and one of the things God did through him was to rebuke them of their idolatry and sin, was to pray God withhold rain.

Absence of rain was a sign of God's judgement.

Drought was for??? 3 ½ years!

James 5:17

God's judgement relented when it rained.

But it went 3 ½ year without raining under the ministry of Elijah.

Vs 6 - Also says "turn water into blood".

In Exodus between chapters 7 - 12, God outlines 10 plagues poured out on the Egyptians that had enslaved the Egyptian people.

The first of the ten plagues was the raising of the staff over the Nile River and it turned to blood.

So the similarities are uncanny and so similar to the powers they had in the O. T.

I believe God is going to bring them back and use them in the earth as His mouth piece.

Vs 7 - They are killed

Antichrist is (**ALLOWED**) by God to kill them!

Vs 8

Vs 9

Vs 10 - Tormented in the sense if you messed with them you would die.

Their **CELEBRATION** - Bible says they lay in the street 3 ½ days and people celebrate and even exchange gifts.

Vs 11

Vs 12

God shows His ultimate power by bringing them back to life.

Their Resurrection and Ascension (11:11-12)

It's worth noting what God said back in vs 9.

Vs 9

All who are looking at this, all peoples, tribes, languages, etc.

Vs 13 - Their contribution - when this earthquake happens and 7000 die and they ascend.

Vs 14

Seventh Trumpet

Vs 15 - 19

This is all happening in heaven with all these sights and sounds.  
The presence of God is shaking heaven.

Trumpet # 7

God is announcing He is taking over.

3 times the Bible talks about these 24 elders falling down and worshipping.

1) Ch 4 - Worshipping God as Creator

2) CH 5 - Worshipping God as Redeemer

3) Ch 11 - Worshipping God as Judge & King over All.

The 24 Elders falling down and worshipping is a picture of the church.

Ch 12 - this is a story about 3 main characters:

1 - Woman

2 - Child

3 - Dragon

One thing need to keep in mind is that this is in eastern mind set.

We in the West think chronologically.

Those in the East think circularly.

When you read Revelation for the most part, it is sequential.  
However, every now and then things are written and given not in  
chronological order.

It is giving us a back drop of events that happened even before  
Adam and Eve.

“Woman” - Roman Catholic Church believes this is the virgin Mary. It’s common in Roman Catholic art to see Mary standing on a crescent moon with 12 stars around her head taken from right here in Rev. 12.

Problem - say it’s a “great sign” = not literal, but it’s figurative.

This is not a literal woman but a sign (figurative).

Protestants, many of them, believe it’s the church. The problem is that when the church is referred to in Revelation in female terms, it’s only as the “bride of Christ”, not as a “woman giving birth”.

Mary Baker Eddy, founder of “Christian Science”. She believed the child she birthed is the religion of Christian Science.

So who is the woman?

Let scripture tell us.

Vs 1 - Clothed with Sun

Moon under Feet

Garland of 12 stars

Gen 37:3 - 11

Jacob had a son named Joseph who was betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery.

In Gen 37 - Joseph shares dream he had.

I had dreamed, said sun, moon & stars all bowed down to me.

SUN = Dad  
MOON = MOM  
STARS = YOU GUYS

All of that together represents Israel because Jacob had 12 sons and they are the tribes.

Woman

Also in other O. T. passages, Israel is pictured as a woman.

Isa 54, Jer 3, Ez 16, Hosea 2

