

# God's Plan for the Future

## Study Sheet

(Content herein based on the work of David Jeremiah, *The Book of Signs*; and from personal study notes)

### The Tribulation: Two Witnesses

Revelation 11:3-13

#### The \_\_\_\_\_ of the witnesses (3-4)

*And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."*

#### The \_\_\_\_\_ of their persons (3)

*And I will grant authority to my two witnesses...*

The exact identities of the two witnesses remain a mystery although most scholars believe one of the witnesses to be the Old Testament prophet, \_\_\_\_\_. Here are five reasons for this belief:

1. Malachi prophesied Elijah would return to prepare the way of Christ's second coming. **Mal 4:5-6** – "*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. (6) And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.*"
2. God miraculously took up Elijah into heaven (**2 Ki 2:11** – *And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven*). The two witnesses will experience the same miracle (**Rev 11:12**).
3. The two witnesses will prevent rain from falling. Elijah did the same (**1 Ki 17:1** – *Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word."*); **Rev 11:6**.
4. Elijah called down fire from heaven. The witnesses will also employ fire in their ministry (**2 Ki 1:10** – *But Elijah answered the captain of fifty, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty." Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.*); **Rev 11:5**.
5. The drought Elijah imposed lasted three years, six months (**1 Ki 17:1** [see #3 above]; **Lk 4:25** – *But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land*; **Jms 5:17-18** – *Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. (18) Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit*). This is exactly the duration of the two witnesses' ministry (**Rev 11:3**).

Some scholars propose Enoch as the second witness. It is more likely, however, to be \_\_\_\_\_, for the following five reasons:

1. Both Moses and Elijah appear at Christ's transfiguration (**Mt 17:3** – *And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him*).
2. By God's power, Moses turned water into blood (**Ex 7:19-20** – *And the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their rivers, their canals, and their ponds, and all their pools of water, so that they may become blood, and there shall be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, even in vessels of wood and in vessels of stone.'" (20) Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded. In the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants he lifted up the staff and struck the water in the Nile, and all the water in the Nile turned into blood*). The two witnesses will perform the same miracle (**Rev 11:6**).
3. Moses' body was miraculously preserved for restoration (**Deut 34:5-7** – *So, Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD, (6) and he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab opposite Beth-peor; but no one knows the place of his burial to this day. (7) Moses was 120 years old when he died. His eye was undimmed, and his vigor unabated*). When the witnesses die, their bodies will also be restored (**Rev 11:11**).
4. Satan fought the archangel Michael for possession of Moses' body (**Jude 1:9** – *But when the archangel Michael, contending with the devil, was disputing about the body of Moses, he did not presume to pronounce a blasphemous judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you"*). He may have intended to prevent God's program of restoration in the last days.
5. Moses represents the law and Elijah the prophets. Since the witnesses will minister within the nation of Israel, this connection with Jewish Scriptures will underscore their message.

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The \_\_\_\_\_ of their prophecy (3)  
*...And they will prophesy for 1,260 days [3½ years] ...*

The \_\_\_\_\_ of their preaching (3)  
*...clothed in sackcloth.*

The \_\_\_\_\_ of their personalities (4)  
*These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.*

John the apostle likens the two witnesses as olive trees and lampstands (Rev 11:4).

An Old Testament prophet, Zechariah, also describes them as olive trees and lampstands.

**Zech 4:1-6; 11-14** – *And the angel who talked with me came again and woke me, like a man who is awakened out of his sleep. (2) And he said to me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. (3) And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left." (4) And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" (5) Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." (6) Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts..."*

*(11) Then I said to him, "What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?" (12) And a second time I answered and said to him, "What are these two branches of the olive trees, which are beside the two golden pipes from which the golden oil is poured out?"*

*(13) He said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." (14) Then he said, "These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth."*

Why are these two witnesses compared to olive trees and lampstands?

-Olive trees provide \_\_\_\_\_ -Lampstands provide \_\_\_\_\_

Two godly men in the book of Zechariah (*Zerubbabel*, governor of Jerusalem, and *Joshua*, a high priest) shared with zeal the prophetic message of truth (Zech 4:6). Even so shall the two witnesses in Revelation 11 be fueled by the power of God's Holy Spirit to shine light into the darkness of the Tribulation.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the witnesses (3, 5-6)

The power of their \_\_\_\_\_ (3)  
*And I will grant authority [give power] to my two witnesses...*  
 Their message will provoke intense hatred.

The power of their \_\_\_\_\_ (5-6)

The plague of \_\_\_\_\_ (5)  
*If anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed.*

God will give the two witnesses power to defend themselves in a unique way.

On Mount Carmel, Elijah called down fire from heaven. **1 Kings 18:37-38** – *Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." (38) Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.*

Even so, the two witnesses will also call down fire to kill those who try to harm them.

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The plague of \_\_\_\_\_ (6)

*They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying.*

The word "days" refers to the first 3.5 years of the Tribulation.

This matches the duration of the drought Elijah imposed on Israel (**1Ki 17:1; Jms 5:17**).

The plague of \_\_\_\_\_ (6)

*...They have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire.*

This power matches Moses' miracle when God used him to turn the water to blood (**Ex 7:20**). It reflects the plague mentioned in **Rev 8:8-9** – *The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. (9) A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.*

Contaminated water will cause wide-spread diseases.

*Note:* These miracles will not be performed out of anger or vindictiveness. Their purpose will be to fight the delusion that all is well, to convict them of their sinfulness and to awaken their need to repent.

**The \_\_\_\_\_ of the witnesses (7-10)**

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the witnesses (7)

*And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them*

The \_\_\_\_\_ of their bodies (8)

*Their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified.*

The \_\_\_\_\_ of their enemies (9-10)

*For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, (10) and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth.*

**The \_\_\_\_\_ of the witnesses (11-13)**

Their \_\_\_\_\_ (11)

*But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them.*

Their \_\_\_\_\_ (12)

*Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.*

Their \_\_\_\_\_ (13)

*And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.*