

# The Apocalypse

## “The Two Witnesses from Heaven”

### Revelation 10-11 – May 1, 2016

#### Our Sermon Series

<b>THE APOCALYPSE</b>		
<i>A 14-Week Sermon Series on The Book of Revelation</i>		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Mar 26-27	The Revelation of Jesus Christ	Revelation 1-3
April 3	The Throne in Heaven	Revelation 4-5
April 10	The 7 Seals in Heaven	Revelation 6
April 17	The People in Heaven	Revelation 7
April 24	The 7 Trumpets in Heaven	Revelation 8-9
May 1	The Two Witnesses from Heaven	Revelation 10-11
May 8	War in Heaven	Revelation 12
May 15	The Anti-Christ and the False Prophet	Revelation 13-14
May 22	The 7 Bowls in Heaven	Revelation 15-16
May 29	The Fall of Babylon	Revelation 17-18
June 5	The Second Coming of Jesus Christ	Revelation 19
June 12	The Millennium	Revelation 20
June 19	Heaven – Part 1	Revelation 21
June 26	Heaven – Part 2	Revelation 22

#### Quick Review

- Believers are taken up to heaven (4:1) before the Great Tribulation begins. This is known as the Rapture (1 Thess 4:13-18).
- Chuck Swindoll: “The tribulation is a period of seven literal years upon the earth following the rapture of the Church and ending with the second advent of Christ. The events of this era are contained in Revelation 6-19. It will be a time of unprecedented evil, anguish, affliction, and trouble upon the earth due to the unrestrained activity of Satan.”
- One possible outline of Revelation 6-19:
  - **First 3.5 years of tribulation** (Rev. 6-9)
  - **Mid-point of tribulation** (Rev. 10-14)
  - **Last 3.5 years of tribulation** (Rev. 15-19)
  - **Second Coming of Christ** (Rev. 19:11-16)
  - **Armageddon** (Rev. 19:17-21)
- The interpretive approach that I am taking during these sermons is called a pre-tribulation, pre-millennial view of Revelation. There are other ways to interpret this book.

#### The Ministry of Forerunners

- **Forerunner** – a person who goes or is sent in advance to announce the coming of someone or something that follows
- **John the Baptist – The First Forerunner**
  - Before Jesus' First Coming, God raised up John the Baptist to prepare the way for the Lord.
  - **Matthew 3:1-3** – *In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.'"*
  - John's message: “The King is coming!” (the first time)
- **The Forerunners of Revelation 10-11**
  - Before Jesus' Second Coming, God will raise up believers to prepare the way for the Lord.
  - Their message will be, “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
  - The Apostle John is a forerunner who delivers a bittersweet message that the King is coming (Revelation 10)
  - The Two Witnesses are forerunners who deliver a powerful message of the King's soon return (Revelation 11)
- **Today's Big Application** – Am I willing to be a forerunner in my generation to help prepare the way for the coming of the King?

#### Job Description of a Forerunner (Revelation 10-11)

- 1) **Deliver a message that is \_\_\_\_\_** (10:1-11)
  - This mighty angel delivers to the Apostle John a scroll which contains prophecies. When this angel roars, the 7 thunders are released. John is forbidden from writing these down. What were they? The angel declares, “Time is up. The mystery of God that the prophets foretold is about to be fulfilled.”
  - Warren Wiersbe: “In the Bible, a mystery is a ‘sacred secret,’ a truth hidden to those outside but revealed to God’s people by His Word (Matt. 13:10-12). The ‘mystery of God’ has to do with the age-old problem of evil in the world. Why is there both moral and natural evil in the world? Why doesn’t God do something about it? Of course, the Christian knows that God did do something about it at Calvary when Jesus Christ was made sin and experienced divine wrath for a sinful world. We also know that God is permitting evil to increase until the world is ripe for judgment (2 Thess. 2:7ff; Rev. 14:14-20). Since God has already paid the price for sin, He is free to delay His judgment, and He cannot be accused of injustice or unconcern. The signal for this mystery’s completion is the sounding of the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:14-19).”

- John MacArthur: "The act of eating the scroll symbolized the absorbing and assimilating of God's Word (Psalm 19:10; Jeremiah 15:16; Ezekiel 3:1-3). When John took the divine words concerning the remaining judgments, he found them both 'sweet as honey' and 'bitter.' Sweet because John, like all believers, wanted the Lord to act in judgment to take back the earth that is rightfully His and be exalted and glorified as He deserved. Yet the realization of the terrible doom awaiting unbelievers turned that initial sweet taste into bitterness."
- Application #1 – A forerunner chews on God's Word on a daily basis and shares it with others.
  - My plan for chewing on God's Word every day is...
  - For me, a sweet tasting part of God's Word is...
  - For me, a bitter part of God's Word is...
  - Someone I'm going to share God's Word with is...
- Video: "Chew" [3:28] found at dbpoetry.com

## 2) \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (11:1-6)

- God raises up two witnesses who minister during 3 ½ years of the tribulation.
- Ray Stedman: "These two witnesses appear dressed in sackcloth because their ministry is to strip away the delusions, lies, and satanic propaganda which the Antichrist promulgates as 'truth' in that day. For a period of 1260 days, God's 2 witnesses will testify of God before a world that has sold its allegiance to Satan and Satan's Antichrist."
- Who are they?
  - *Theory #1:* Elijah and Moses (2 Kings 1:10-12; James 5:17; Malachi 4:5; Matthew 17:10-11; Exodus 7:20)
  - *Theory #2:* Elijah and Enoch (2 Ki 2:11; Gen 5:24; Heb 11:5)
  - *Theory #3:* Two believers who minister in the spirit of Moses and Elijah
- Two main parts of their ministry:
  - (1) Pray down miracles
  - (2) Prophecy God's truth
- Application #2 – A forerunner prays for miracles and boldly declares God's truth.
  - A truth from the Bible that God is calling me to boldly and lovingly declare to others is...
  - A miracle that I am praying for in order to put God on display is...
  - Call to Prayer @ Grace Fellowship (card in bulletin)
  - National Day of Prayer at the Merrell Center this Thursday, May 5, at 7pm ([www.katyprays.org](http://www.katyprays.org))
  - Fire on the Altar: 50 Hours of Non-Stop Prayer and Worship at the Epi starting Thursday, May 5, at 8pm

## 3) Faithfully endure \_\_\_\_\_ (11:7-10)

- The Antichrist will kill these 2 witnesses and leave their bodies on the streets of Jerusalem for the whole world to stare at on CNN and reality TV as they celebrate their murdering.
- John Walvoord: "A righteous prophet is always a torment to a wicked generation."
- Application #3 – A forerunner is willing to be persecuted and even martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ and their stand on God's Word.
  - A way in which God is calling me to stand up for my faith regardless of the cost is...
  - Pray for the persecuted church <http://www.persecution.com/>

## 4) Be on the \_\_\_\_\_ (11:11-19)

- The two witnesses are resurrected and ascend to heaven on live TV. Then, immediately, there is a great earthquake that takes out 10% of Jerusalem. At that moment, the 7<sup>th</sup> angel blows the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet and the reign of Christ is announced.
- John MacArthur: "The sounding of the seventh trumpet marks a significant milestone in the book of Revelation. It sets in motion the final events leading up to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ and the establishment of His earthly millennial kingdom."
- Charles Ryrie: "With the sounding of the seventh trumpet comes an announcement... the dominion of the world is taken over by Christ. Some additional events have to transpire before all is realized, but the end is near now and the announcement can be made."
- Queen's "We Are the Champions" is cranked up on heaven's boom-box! (11:15-18)
- Contrary to Raiders Part V, the Ark of the Covenant is not in a warehouse in Washington DC. It is in God's temple, and fireworks are going off in heaven! (11:19)
- Application #4 – A forerunner is on the winning team! Things might look grim at moments, but God's victory is sure! We win!
  - If you have not already done so, identify yourself with God's team through faith in Christ and through public baptism.
  - Live as though your team wins. We do!