

INTRODUCTION

1. Disciples follow Jesus as He goes to the cross.
2. Rv 11:3-10 Review & then make further progress in v11-13

1st: The Conclusion of the Two Witnesses' Testimony & Our Eschatology

1. Why are the 2Wits killed? They *tormented* men [v10]; *hate light* [Jn 3:19-20]. Refused to be judged by God.
2. We relate to all men as men & call all men to discipleship to Christ: the Great Commission. Testimony is *finished* - martyrdom: cross -> resurrection glory
3. Tempted to prevent martyrdom of 2Wits by Christianizing culture [SS of Nov 6th]. Recent readings - Ethics? Yes. Eschatology? No. Our hope is the res.
4. At end of age, Xnty is not managing gov't but martyred by gov't. We live in Babylon. Daniel did good - furnace & lion's den too - be biblically realistic

2nd: The World Witnesses the Resurrection of the Two Witnesses - v11-12

1. 3.5 days = brief time at end of Church Age. v11-12 = events assoc'd w/ Christ's 2nd coming & resurrection of the dead [focus on 2Wits].
2. Ezek 37:5,10 return of exiles is a resurrection. While in Babylon - as good as dead. Church's situation at end of the age: Church at end of age: nations gloat: Where is God? 2Pt 3:3-4; Ps 79:10; Rv 6:10
3. Faith is tested: Why? How Long? Where Are You? Bewilderment - it seems as tho God is absent - Ps 22:1 *My God My God, why have you forsaken Me?*
4. General resurrection [Jn 5:28-29] but Jn focuses on the Church: all eyes are on the Church - Babs *watch* as God breathes life into the 2 corpses
 - i. Ezek sees res'd *army*. 1Th 4:15f - Rv19:14 = army
5. *Great fear* = *fear of torment* [Rv 18:10,15 Bab's demise]. Were *tormented* by 2Wits' warning of judgment & summons to repent - now *fear* on brink of Final Judgment & eternity.
6. v12 - World hears *voice from heaven* : *come up here*. 2nd coming will be very noisy - 1Th 4:16-17 *shout & trmpt*
7. *Come up here* - is this another vision [4:1; 17:1; & 21:9] or resurrection of the dead & ascension into cloud? It is actual, historical - end of this age.

8. Rv 11:11-12 - "rapture"? It is not "secret" not before tribulation - world *watching* the resurrection of the 2Wits - ascends into *cloud* = boundary of God's heavenly temple.
 - a. Elijah's ascension - 2 Kg 2:11
 - b. Jesus' ascension - A1:9-11

3rd: The World is Shaken in Final Judgment - v13

1. A climatic brief period of time - *in that hour*.
 - i. Jn's gospel, *the hour* = motif re: Jesus' death; now Jesus' Bride
 - ii. Rv 3:10-11 final *hour of testing*
2. *great earthquake* signals end of age & 2nd coming/ Final Judgment; Rv 6:12; 11:18-19; 16:17-18.
3. *10th of city fell* i.e. the *grt city* [v10, Bab] - the destruction of Babylon begins
4. *the rest* in Babylon, *watching* & realizing FJ has begun, *become terrified*
5. *gave glory to the God of heaven* - a forced acknowledgment: Pharaoh; Achan [Josh 7:19]; sailors in Jonah; Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar & Darius & Cyrus
 - i. Rv 14:6-7 - Phil 2:10-11 & 1 Ptr 2:12

Applic #1: Let Us Not Settle for a Truncated [short-sighted] Eschatology [hope]

1. We are *image of God* - made to be like God & to live w/ God in eternal Sabbath Rest. But in Adam, we all *fall short of the glory of God* - belief in a false eschatology that excludes God as Judge: *you surely shall not die*
2. History is a record of failed utopian projects: religionized political promises.
3. Yes, it is right [ethical] to be involved in cultural "goods" but our eschatological hope is not within the bounds of this age. We hope in the return of Jesus, the resurrection into the glory of God's eternal Sabbath.

Applic #2: Let Us Witness With Our Words, Lives, & if Necessary, Deaths

1. Since the Fall, God has given & guided the faith of His people thru death into the hope of the resurrection. But Satan uses death to scare men [Hb 2:14-15], paralyzing them in unbelief & fear. Faith displaces fear.

2. We [2 Wits] must worship & witness while threatened w/ death - by faith.

Applic #3: Let Us Be Sure That The Day of Judgment Is Certainly Coming

1. Let us witness & finish our testimony - be numbered among those beneath the altar [Rv 6:9-11] - we are invincible.
2. The hour is at hand - all will see the vindication of Christ's people: we overcome.