

YOUR FUTURE POWER

HERE IS SOMETHING AMAZING that will soon take place. YOU and I will receive the power of the Holy Spirit in a strength that has not yet been witnessed through God's people at any time in history. We will exercise the power of Moses and Elijah...and then much more.

Let's look at Revelation 11.

Revelation 11 continues the second woe with the appearance of God's two witnesses, who have been given great power through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (11:14). This power allows them to release judgment against the Antichrist's earthly rule in the same manner as Moses and Elijah. Often these two are interpreted as two men, yet the Bible reveals something different. These two are not men, as many have suggested, but are identified as two olive trees and two candlesticks (11:4). With this identification we know these two are Israel and the Church (as the evidence below will make clear) which have reawakened to the power of Christ after been purged and made white through the great tribulation of the Antichrist (Dan. 11:35; Rev. 6:9-11).

The witnesses, now filled with power, appear toward the end of the three-and-a-half years of great tribulation during the same time that Christ's trumpet judgment wrath is poured out. They will witness for Christ for three-and-a-half years, releasing His judgments on earth in a similar manner as Moses and Elijah and then much more. These power-filled witnesses are a small remnant who was not martyred by the Antichrist in the global holocaust of Jews and Christians known as the great tribulation. They now experience a true revival and the fullness of the Holy Spirit. They fully trust Christ during this period that has seen most of God's people, and over one-half of the earth's population up to this point, killed. Through the fire, the church and Israel are awakened and become power filled. The great revival that the church has longed for for so many years is now taking place.

For years I taught the traditional view that these two must be Moses, Elijah, or Enoch; but then it struck me that to draw this conclusion was without clear scriptural support. I began to look 2 again at this passage and realized the passage tells us who these two are—they are four—two olive trees and two candlesticks:

I will give power to my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. (Rev. 11:3-4)

I then had to ask if Scripture had anything to say about olive trees and candlesticks. It did, and what I discovered was that Scripture is clear concerning who the olive trees and candlesticks are—they are Israel and the church. Here are two Scriptures clearly identifying the olive trees:

If some of the branches be broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them partake of the root and fatness of the olive tree. (Rom. 11:17)

The LORD called your name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit. (Jer. 11:16a)

These Scriptures clearly identify Israel as the natural and green olive tree and the church as the wild olive tree grafted into Israel. To understand these witnesses as two men is to move away from the clear teaching of Scripture.

Scripture also clearly identifies the church as candlesticks:

The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which you saw are the seven churches” (Rev. 1:20)

Though each of the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3 are a candlestick, yet the two candlestick witnesses are not seven in number, but only two. The reason is because there were only two of the seven churches that were faithful witnesses of Christ, without any of their members encouraged to repent: the church at Smyrna and the church at Philadelphia (2:8-11; 3:7-13). Smyrna was encouraged to be “faithful, even to the point of death” (2:10). Philadelphia was honored with the words “because you have kept the word of my patience” (3:10). The other five churches were condemned and encouraged to repent because the majority of those claiming to be Christian did not have the Holy Spirit alive within them to be Christian. They conformed their Christianity and tolerated sin. Scripture is clear, the candlesticks refer to the church.

A second confirmation that Israel and the church are the two witnesses is the fact that God has called Israel and the church His witnesses, as these verses reveal:

Concerning Israel

Ye are my witnesses, says the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me (Isa. 43:10; cf. Deut. 7:6-8).

Concerning the church

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses to me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

Scripture is clear, the two witnesses are Israel and the church. To see them as two individual people moves us from the clear teaching of Scripture. As we understand the implications of you and me being the witnesses, there is absolute awe as we consider what we will soon experience. Reread these Scriptures about the two witnesses. Discern the reality of these witnesses and let them move you to great expectation and a renewed search for the power of the Holy Spirit within you.

Have you received the Holy Spirit since you committed your life to Jesus? It’s entirely possible to think you are committed to Jesus when your relationship with Him is only a works oriented and doctrine-based relationship without having the power of the Holy Spirit alive and active within you.

Ask yourself: Is the Holy Spirit alive and active within me? Without an active Holy Spirit you are not a Christian, even if you “believe” and claim the name of Christ (Romans 8:9).

Let us strive to be people who allow the Holy Spirit to rise up in us like a mighty wind.

This article is taken from my book, "*Revelation and the Age of the Antichrist*" which may be downloaded from hope-for-today.com.