

THE TWO WITNESSES REVEALED

(David R Hughes) 9/29/2020

Revelation 11 niv

I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, with its worshipers. ² But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. ³ And **I will appoint (give power to – KJV) my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.**" (wearing sackcloth in biblical times was an outward symbol of the spiritual attitude of mourning, humility and repentance) ⁴ They are "**the two olive trees**" and **the two lampstands**, and "they stand before the Lord of the earth." ⁵ **If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies.** This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. ⁶ **They have power to shut up the heavens** so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and **they have power to turn the waters into blood** and to **strike the earth with every kind of plague** as often as they want. ⁷ **Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them and overpower and kill them.** ⁸ **Their bodies will lie in the public square (street) of the great city—which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt—where also their Lord was crucified.** ⁹ **For three and a half days some from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial.** ¹⁰ The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth. ¹¹ But **after the three and a half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them.** ¹² **Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.** ¹⁵ **The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever."** ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. ¹⁸ The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small and for destroying those who destroy the earth." ¹⁹ Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.

The Two Olive Trees

Zechariah 4 niv

Then the angel who talked with me returned and woke me up, like someone awakened from sleep. ² He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a solid gold **lampstand** with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven channels to the lamps. ³ Also there are **two olive trees** by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left." ⁴ I asked the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" ⁵ He answered, "Do you not know what these are?"

"No, my lord," I replied. ⁶ So 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 Almighty. ⁷ "What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of 'God bless it! God bless it!'" ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁹ "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me to you. ¹⁰ "Who dares despise the day of small things, since the seven eyes of the LORD that range throughout the earth will rejoice when they see the chosen capstone (plumb line) in the hand of Zerubbabel?" ¹¹ Then I asked the angel, "What are these **two olive trees** on the right and the left of the lampstand?" ¹² Again I asked him, "What are these two olive branches beside the two gold pipes that pour out golden oil?" ¹³ He replied, "Do you not know what these are?" "No, my lord," I said. ¹⁴ So he said, "These are **the two who are anointed to (bring oil and) serve the Lord of all the earth.**"

Jeremiah 11: 16-17 niv

The LORD called you (People of Judah) **a thriving olive tree** with fruit beautiful in form. But with the roar of a mighty storm he will set it on fire, and its branches will be broken.

¹⁷ The LORD Almighty, who planted you, has decreed disaster for you, because the people of both Israel (Northern Kingdom then divorced from God) and Judah (Southern Kingdom) have done evil and aroused my anger by burning incense to Baal

Romans 11: 11-26 niv (Speaking to the Roman Gentiles)

Again I ask: Did they (the Jews) stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. ¹² But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring! ¹³ I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry ¹⁴ in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ¹⁶ If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches. ¹⁷ If some of the branches have been broken off, and **you (Gentiles), though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in** among the others (unbroken branches of Christian Jews) and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, ¹⁸ do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. ¹⁹ You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." ²⁰ Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either. ²² Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. ²³ **And if they do not persist in unbelief, they (Jews) will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.** ²⁴ **After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be GRAFTED INTO THEIR OWN OLIVE TREE! (tree of end time converted Jews)** ²⁵ I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be

conceited: **Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles (tree of end time converted Gentiles) has come in,**²⁶ and in this way²⁶ all Israel will be saved. As it is written.

Acts 1: 8 niv

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"⁷ He said to them: **"It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be MY WITNESSES in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."**

Acts 2: 17-21

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, **I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh:** and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:¹⁸ And on my servants and **on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit;** and they shall prophesy:¹⁹ And **I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:**²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come:²¹ And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Jeremiah 5: 9-14 niv

Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?¹⁰ Go ye up upon her walls and destroy; but make not a full end: take away her battlements; for they are not the LORD'S.¹¹ For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously against me, saith the LORD.¹² They have belied the LORD, and said, It is not he; neither shall evil come upon us; neither shall we see sword nor famine:¹³ And the prophets shall become wind, and the word is not in them: thus shall it be done unto them.¹⁴ Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, **I will make MY WORDS IN THY MOUTH FIRE, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.**

Summary and comments:

When the Jews are converted at the end time, both olive trees will receive the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit to do great works of testifying, healing, prophesying, withholding rain, turning waters into blood and inflicting plagues on the God-rejecting world for three and a half years. One thousand two hundred and sixty days divided by the 360-day lunar year equals three and a half years. The whole unbelieving world will hate them with a fierce passion for their miraculous works. When the antichrist, the world's messiah comes to power, the unrighteous people will love and join him because he will make war on all these empowered spirit-filled Christians for the three and a half years of his reign. These Christians who display God's undeniable power continue making life difficult for the people of the world because they will not repent but the antichrist will overpower and kill the two witnesses. The Christians in Jerusalem will lie in the town square and the streets dead and unburied during those days viewed by all nations with festive celebrations for the worldwide death of these hated

Christians. At the end of those days God will resurrect all of the dead Christians to the astonishment of the world as the seventh angel sounds his trumpet and the Christians who survived the great tribulation will be changed “in the twinkling of an eye” to be with Him at Christ’s return to reign forever.

The Two Lampstands

Revelation 1: 12-20 niv

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw **seven golden lampstands**,¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man,^[d] dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.¹⁶ In his right hand he held **seven stars**, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.¹⁹” Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: **The seven stars are the angels (messengers) of the seven churches, and the SEVEN LAMPSTANDS ARE THE SEVEN CHURCHES.**

Revelation 2: 1-7 To the Angel (*messenger*) of the Church in **Ephesus** write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands.²² I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.³ **You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.**⁴ Yet I hold this against you: **You have forsaken the love you had at first.**⁵ Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. **If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.**⁶ But you have this in your favor: **You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.**⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.

Revelation 2: 8-11 To the Angel of the Church in **Smyrna** write:

These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.⁹ **I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich!** I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews (*true believers*) and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.¹⁰ **Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer.** I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. **Be faithful, even to the point of death,**

and I will give you life as your victor's crown. ¹¹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who is victorious will not be hurt at all by the second death.

Revelation 2: 12-17 To the Angel of the Church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. ¹³ I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. ¹⁵ Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give that person a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to the one who receives it.

Revelation 2: 18-20 To the Angel of the Church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. ¹⁹ I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. ²⁰ Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. ²² So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. ²³ I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. ²⁴ Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, 'I will not impose any other burden on you, ²⁵ except to hold on to what you have until I come.' ²⁶ To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations— ²⁷ that one 'will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery'—just as I have received authority from my Father. ²⁸ I will also give that one the morning star. ²⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Revelation 3: 1-6 To the Angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. ⁴ Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. ⁶ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Revelation 3: 7-13 To the Angel of the Church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. ⁸ I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews (*true believers*) though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name. ¹³ Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Revelation 3: 14-21 To the Angel of the Church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. ¹⁵ I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. ²⁰ Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. ²¹ To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. ²² Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Summary and comments:

These are the seven Gentile Churches (bodies of believers) begun and pastored by Paul with their various spiritual conditions at the time of John's revelation from Jesus Christ but they are also types of spiritual conditions that will exist within the body of Christian believers from that time to the end of the age.

Jesus made it clear which spiritual conditions were unacceptable needing repentance and which were acceptable to Him. Five of those churches, Ephesus, Thyatira, Pergamum, Sardis and Laodicea had some unacceptable conditions within them but Christ was pleased with two of the seven churches, Smyrna and Philadelphia. These two faithful spiritual bodies of believers' testimonies represent the lampstands that bring God's light and truth to the world and are the two Olive Trees. After the number of Gentiles are converted to Christianity and grafted to the original tree is fulfilled, many of the Jews will be converted establishing the two end-time trees who are the two witnesses of Revelation 11: 3. Both churches are slandered by people in the synagogue of Satan (false professing believers) who claim to be Jews (true

believers), but the Philadelphia Church is told that those liars claiming to be Jews will fall down at their feet and acknowledge God's love for them.

Revelation 12: 17 kjv

And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5: 17-20 kjv

¹⁷ "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew: 5: 14-16 kjv

¹⁴ **Ye are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. ¹⁶ **Let your light so shine before men,** that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Smyrna and Philadelphia reflect the end-time converted Gentile Olive Tree church which includes 9 of the 10 Lost Tribes of the Northern Kingdom named Israel. (Dan is not included in list of tribes in Rev. 7: 5-8) This church is slandered by a sinning church (synagogue of Satan) for keeping the commandments of God and having the testimony of Jesus. The end-time converted Jewish Olive Tree church (Judah, the Southern Kingdom including the Benjamin and Levi Tribes when "grafted into their own" Rom.11: 24) is slandered in Jerusalem and all Israel by non-believing Jews (synagogue of Satan) for the same reason. Because of their spiritual powers and testimonies, they will both be persecuted by the antichrist and his followers who will make war with them and kill many of them. These two churches are the end-time 144,000 sealed servants of God that includes 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes listed in Revelation 7: 5-8. The Lost Tribes consist of people from several western nations and north European nations where the northern kingdom of Israel migrated to after Assyrian captivity and settled. They lost their identity as Israel and became known as Gentiles because they ceased honoring God's Sabbaths (Ezekiel 20: 12) which was God's sign that they are His people. But God knows who they are, and which ones will be ready to be sealed and receive the power of His spirit and be His servants for the three and a half years at the end-time.

John 6: 27 esv

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food (word of God - Matt. 4: 4) that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. **For on him God the Father has set his seal**

Ephesians 1: 13-14 esv

In him you also, **when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,** ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Ezekiel 20: 12

Moreover also I gave them **my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them**, that they might know that I the LORD that sanctify them.

Exodus 20: 11

For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore **the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.**

Revelation 7: 1-8

After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth to prevent any wind from blowing on the land or on the sea or on any tree. ² Then I saw another angel coming up from the east, having the seal of the living God. He called out in a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm the land and the sea: ³ **"Do not harm the land or the sea or the trees until we put a seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."** ⁴ Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel. ⁵ From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben 12,000, from the tribe of Gad 12,000, ⁶ from the tribe of Asher 12,000, from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000, from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000, ⁷ from the tribe of Simeon 12,000, from the tribe of Levi 12,000, from the tribe of Issachar 12,000, ⁸ from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000, from the tribe of Joseph 12,000, from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.