

Study Guide: Two Witnesses-Lesson 5

Sunday PM-September 20, 2026

This study guide explores the identity of the two witnesses mentioned in Revelation 11. By looking back at the prophecies of Zechariah, we can understand how God uses specific individuals to lead His people toward restoration and spiritual revival. The lesson connects ancient history with the final three and a half years of human history, showing that God's work is always accomplished by His Spirit rather than human strength.

Short-Answer Quiz

1. What is the memory verse from Ecclesiastes 3:11, and what does it say about God's work?
2. In the book of Zechariah, which two historical figures was God encouraging to lead the rebuilding of the temple?
3. What was the symbolic meaning of the "filthy garments" worn by Joshua the High Priest in Zechariah's vision?
4. According to the lesson, what must the people do for the promise of restoration to be fulfilled?
5. Who is "the Branch" mentioned in Zechariah 3:8, and what is His role?
6. Describe the vision of the golden lampstand and the source of its oil.
7. What is the meaning of the phrase "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit" in Zechariah 4:6?
8. How does Revelation 11:4 describe the identity of the Two Witnesses?
9. What supernatural powers do the Two Witnesses possess to protect themselves and judge the earth?
10. Why do many Bible students suggest that the Two Witnesses might be the Old Testament prophets Moses and Elijah?

Answer Key

1. The memory verse is Ecclesiastes 3:11, which says: "He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end." It teaches that while God has a perfect plan, humans cannot fully grasp everything He does from start to finish.
2. The two figures were Joshua the High Priest and Zerubbabel the governor. God used the prophet Zechariah to motivate these two men to finish the business of building and restoring the temple after the Babylonian captivity.
3. The filthy garments represented the sin of Joshua and the nation of Israel, showing they were unworthy of God's favor on their own. In the vision, the removal of these clothes and the gift of rich robes symbolized God removing their iniquity and forgiving them.
4. The restoration is based on God's free love, but it also requires the people to be obedient. As stated in Zechariah 3:7, the Lord of hosts promised that if Joshua would walk in His ways and keep His command, he would be allowed to judge God's house and have charge of His courts.
5. "The Branch" is a title for the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The prophecy points to a future time when He will come to remove the sin of the land in one day and establish an eternal kingdom of peace.
6. The vision showed a solid gold lampstand (a menorah) with a bowl on top and seven lamps. Two olive trees stood on either side, automatically dripping oil through gold pipes into the bowl to keep the lamps burning without any human help.
7. This phrase means that God's work, such as keeping the nation of Israel alive or rebuilding the temple, does not depend on human agency or physical strength. Instead, the Lord Himself ensures His plans succeed through the power of His Holy Spirit.
8. Revelation 11:4 calls them "the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth." This specific wording links them back to the symbols used in Zechariah's vision regarding the restoration of Israel.
9. If anyone tries to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouths to devour their enemies. They also have the authority to shut the heavens so it does not rain, turn water into blood, and strike the earth with plagues whenever they desire.
10. They are identified as Moses and Elijah because the miracles they perform match those done by these prophets in the Old Testament. Elijah was known for stopping the rain and calling down fire, while Moses famously turned water into blood and brought plagues upon Egypt.

Essay Questions

1. **The Nature of Prophetic Fulfillment:** Explain the difference between "near fulfillment" and "far fulfillment" in biblical prophecy. How did Zechariah's visions apply to the people living in his day while also pointing toward the end times?
2. **Symbolism of the Menorah:** Analyze the vision of the golden lampstand and the olive trees. Why is the "automated" nature of the oil supply a significant message for leaders like Zerubbabel and for believers today?
3. **The Role of the High Priest:** Discuss the significance of Joshua the High Priest standing before the Angel of the Lord while being accused by Satan. How does God's reaction to Satan's accusations demonstrate His grace toward Israel?
4. **Restoration and the Millennial Kingdom:** Describe the "eternal kingdom" mentioned in the lesson, using the imagery of the vine and the fig tree. How does the coming of the Messiah change the way God's people worship?
5. **Comparison of the Witnesses:** Compare the actions of the Two Witnesses in Revelation 11 to the historical ministries of Moses and Elijah. In your opinion, why would God choose to use these specific types of miracles to announce the final message of redemption to the world?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Branch, The:** A prophetic name for the Messiah, Jesus Christ, representing His future reign and the restoration of the kingdom.
- **Captivity:** The period in history when the Jewish people were taken from their land and held as prisoners in Babylon.
- **Iniquity:** Immoral or grossly unfair behavior; sin. In the lesson, it refers to the spiritual uncleanness that God removed from Joshua.
- **Knesset:** The national parliament or legislature of modern Israel.
- **Menorah:** A sacred seven-branched lampstand used in Jewish worship, symbolizing the light of God and His presence.
- **Messiah:** The "Anointed One," referring to Jesus Christ, whom God promised to send to save His people and rule the earth.
- **Millennial Kingdom:** The thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ on earth mentioned in prophecy, which later leads into the eternal kingdom.
- **Plumb Line:** A tool used in construction to ensure a wall is perfectly vertical; in the lesson, it symbolizes the work of Zerubbabel in rebuilding the temple.
- **Prophecy:** A message inspired by God that often predicts future events or reveals God's will for His people.

- **Restoration:** The act of returning something to its former glory or position. This refers to God bringing Israel back to their land, their temple, and a right relationship with Him.
- **Two Witnesses:** Two powerful individuals empowered by God during the last three and a half years of human history to preach and perform miracles.