

Briefing Document: Two Witnesses Lesson 7

Sunday PM-October 4, 2026

Executive Summary

This briefing document synthesizes the teaching on Revelation 11:7–14 from the "Two Witnesses" lesson series. It covers the martyrdom, public dishonor, divine resurrection, and ascension of God's two end-times prophets in Jerusalem.

The narrative marks a major turning point in biblical prophecy. The Antichrist, emerging from the abyss, temporarily overcomes the witnesses once their ordained ministry finishes. A hardened, unbelieving world celebrates their deaths globally. However, God restores them to life after three and a half days, commanding them to ascend to heaven. This event is followed immediately by a targeted earthquake that destroys key leaders in the Antichrist's regime.

Unlike the unrepentant Gentile nations, the surviving Jewish remnant in Jerusalem responds with godly fear and true faith, giving glory to God. This event fulfills key prophecies regarding Israel's end-times conversion, setting the stage for the final series of judgments and the return of Jesus Christ.

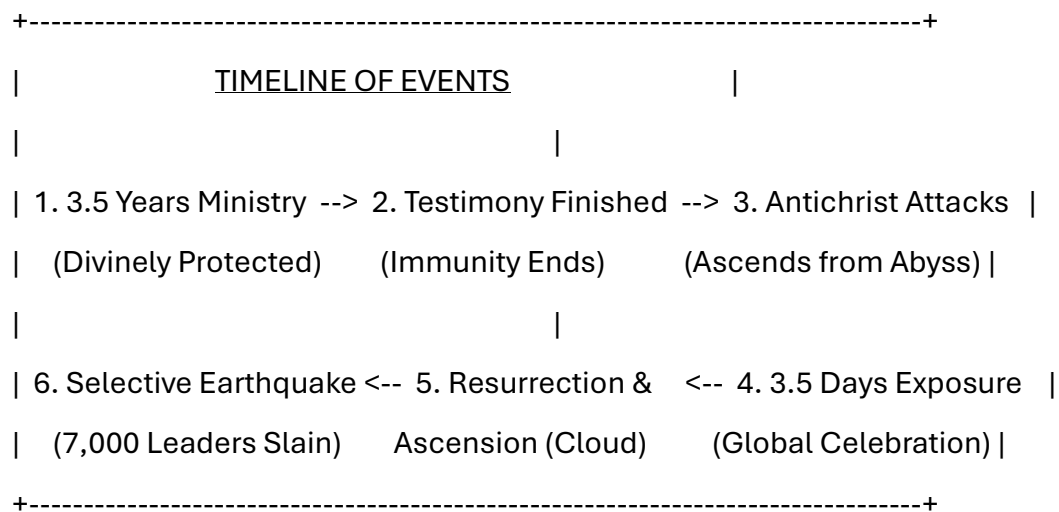
Organizational Context and Announcements

Before the thematic study of Revelation 11, several operational items, ministry updates, and biblical clarifications were established:

- **Monthly Ministry Focuses:**
 - **Operation Christmas Child (OCC):** Collecting hairbrushes, combs, clothing, fabric, pencil cases, and plastic cups to fill gift boxes for children overseas. Online box-building options are also available.
 - **Benevolence Ministry:** Highlights dedicated church personnel quietly assisting individuals experiencing severe hardship.
- **Key Events and Schedule:**
 - **Recovery Meetings:** Support group meetings occur Tuesdays and Fridays at noon.
 - **Harvest Festival:** Scheduled for October 28th (no evening service; features food and family activities).
 - **Men's Breakfast:** October 10th at 7:30 AM.
 - **Fundraisers and Community:** Team Trivia Night and the Intended Hope dessert/silent auction take place on October 24th.

- **Upcoming Teaching Series:** Following the conclusion of the Two Witnesses lessons, a new prophecy-focused series titled "Why He Must Return" will begin.
- **Scripture Memory Verse:**
 - Jeremiah 32:17: "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You."
- **Clarifications from Previous Lessons:**
 - **Zechariah 4:10:** The reference to the "number seven" represents the complete vision and all-seeing eyes of God scanning the earth.
 - **Ocean Depths:** Clarified that while ocean depths exceed the height of the tallest mountains, earlier statements exaggerating this scale as two or three times deeper were corrected.
- **Prayer Needs:**
 - Intercession requested for ongoing medical recovery and spiritual support for congregation members, including Renee, Donna, and Gene.

The Martyrdom and Public Dishonor of the Two Witnesses



The Emergence of the Beast (Revelation 11:7)

For three and a half years, the two witnesses preach on the streets of Jerusalem with divine immunity, consuming any attackers with fire from their mouths. This protection changes only when their assigned mission is complete.

- **Completion of Testimony:** Revelation 11:7 states, "When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them." The prophets remain invincible until their work is finished.
- **First Mention of the Beast:** This passage contains the first of 36 references to "the beast" in the Book of Revelation.
- **Nature of the Antichrist:**
 - He ascends metaphorically out of the "bottomless pit" (the abyss or hell).
 - He is a human figure entirely empowered, controlled, and possessed by Satan.
 - At the midpoint of the seven-year Tribulation, after making and breaking a covenant with Israel, he desecrates the Jerusalem temple, declares himself to be God, and enforces global rule.

Desecration in the Great City (Revelation 11:8)

Rather than receiving a proper burial, the dead bodies of the two witnesses are left exposed in the streets of Jerusalem.

- Revelation 11:8: "And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified."
- **Spiritual Condition of Jerusalem:** Although designated as a holy city in future prophecy (Revelation 21:10), Jerusalem at this time is spiritually characterized as "Sodom and Egypt." These names signify extreme moral corruption, oppression, violence, and pagan godlessness.
- **Refusal of Burial:** Leaving corpses exposed in public streets is an ancient and modern method used by enemies to inflict maximum insult and dishonor.

Global Celebration among Unbelievers (Revelation 11:9–10)

The death of the prophets triggers worldwide jubilation among unregenerate humanity.

- **Worldwide Observation:** Revelation 11:9 notes that people from every tribe, tongue, and nation will view the decaying bodies for three and a half days. Modern satellite broadcasting and digital streaming media make this global viewing possible.
- **The Reaction of the Earth-Dwellers:**
 - The phrase "those who dwell on the earth" is used 12 times in Revelation to describe unconverted, persistent rebels against God.

- Revelation 11:10: "And those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them, make merry, and send gifts to one another, because these two prophets tormented those who dwell on the earth."
- **A Twisted Holiday:** The global population celebrates the death of the witnesses as if it were a major holiday, exchanging gifts. Despite enduring demonic swarms, natural disasters, and God's wrath, humanity directs its intense hatred toward the two prophets who confronted them with truth, called for repentance, and brought plagues upon the earth.

Divine Intervention: Resurrection, Ascension, and Judgment

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	<u>RESPONSES TO DIVINE JUDGMENT</u>	
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The Unconverted Mass (Gentiles)	The Jewish Remnant (Jerusalem)	
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* Celebrates death of prophets	* Witnesses resurrection and ascension	
* Refuses to repent or give glory	* Overcome by godly fear and awe	
* Blasphemes God during plagues	* Repents and gives glory to God	
* Faces ultimate destruction	* Enters into true saving faith (Sozo)	
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Resurrection and the Two-Person Rapture (Revelation 11:11–12)

The celebration of the world is cut short by a direct display of God's sovereign power.

- **Restoration of Life:** Revelation 11:11 states, "Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them." Just as God breathed life into Adam, He physically restores the decaying bodies of the prophets live on global broadcasts, shocking spectators into immediate terror.
- **The Command to Ascend:** Revelation 11:12: "And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up here.' And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them."
- **Limits of Miracles:** The resurrection and ascension do not result in global mass conversions. As noted in Luke 16:31, "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead." Miracles and signs do

not produce saving faith on their own; true conversion requires the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit.

The Targeted Earthquake (Revelation 11:13)

God marks the departure of His witnesses with an immediate, catastrophic event in Jerusalem.

- Revelation 11:13: "In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven."
 - **Judicial Precision:** Unlike generic seismic events, this earthquake specifically targets 7,000 prominent figures—specifically the inner circle, military officials, and key leaders within the Antichrist's operational headquarters in Jerusalem.
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The Conversion of Israel and End-Times Chronology

True Repentance of the Jewish Remnant

The outcome of the earthquake in Jerusalem differs sharply from the reactions seen among the unrepentant global population.

- **Giving Glory as Salvation:** The statement that the survivors "were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven" describes genuine conversion and saving faith, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 12:10.
- **Biblical Contrast:**
 - In Revelation 9:20–21 and Revelation 16:9, hardened sinners refuse to repent, choosing instead to blaspheme God during severe plagues.
 - In contrast, Revelation 14:7 links fearing God and giving Him glory directly to true worship and salvation.
 - In Luke 17:18–19, Jesus identifies returning to give glory to God with genuine, saving faith (sozo)[¹].
 - Conversely, failure to give God glory results in judgment, as seen in Acts 12:23 with the death of King Herod.

The Three Woes and the Seventh Trumpet

- Revelation 11:14: "The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly."
 - **First Woe:** The 5th Trumpet judgment.
 - **Second Woe:** The 6th Trumpet judgment (concluding with the Two Witnesses and the earthquake).

- **Third Woe:** The 7th Trumpet, which contains the rapid-fire bowl judgments that bring history to its climax and usher in the return of Jesus Christ.

Restoration promised through Peter (Acts 3:19–21)

The spiritual turning of Israel aligns with the apostolic preaching in the early church:

italicized Scripture: "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." (Acts 3:19–21)

Structure of the Book of Revelation

Revelation is not written in strict chronological order. Chapter 11 brings the reader to the very end of the Tribulation. Chapters 12 through 18 backtrack historically to recap specific details across the full seven-year period, including:

1. The complete career and rise of the Antichrist.
2. The operation of the one-world religious system.
3. The establishment and collapse of the one-world economy.

Key Biblical Terminology

The table below outlines key original-language terms referenced in the source context regarding salvation and divine glorification.

Greek Word	Transliteration	Phonetic Pronunciation	Definition	Scriptural Context / Reference
σῶζω	Sozo	SOH-zoh	To save, deliver, heal, preserve, or make whole spiritually and physically.	Used in Luke 17:19 ^[^1] where Jesus tells the cleansed leper who returned to give glory to God, "Your faith has made you well" (saved you).

[^1]: Luke 17:18–19 connects the act of returning to "give glory to God" directly with the Greek concept sozo, demonstrating that giving glory to God out of genuine faith represents a true saving response.