

**Refuge Bible Fellowship**  
1600 Chicago Avenue, Suite R7  
Riverside, CA 92507

refugefellowship.org

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Series: For the Time is Near  
Raul Montano, Sr. Pastor  
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**The Two Witnesses and the Time of Their Testimony**  
**Revelation 11:1-14**

We are in Revelation, Chapter 11 so we're moving right along through Revelation. I want to preface our time together with this: I believe that God allows us to go through certain things in life and it's not just for stories for us to tell, but it actually has meaning to it that goes far beyond the practical. There's a spiritual element that we can apply to just about anything we experience in life, and if we pay attention all things do work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). Sometimes we enjoy those stories that we can tell, and other times they're not so enjoyable.

It's funny because our selection of songs kept talking about a mountain. There's a handful of you that know that yesterday mom was gone so the boys are going to go out and do what boys do. We decided to go for a quick little drive out in the hills of Reche Canyon and go four-bying, four-wheel drive. I haven't actually used the four-wheel drive since I've had that truck, so I thought, *Let's go test it out and see what it can do.*

We went down this fire-road and if you go all the way down Reche Canyon, it goes from pavement to dirt road. But the dirt road is too smooth and there's no hills. Then off to the side there are these other roads. You get curious, right? *Let's go off on this side road.* (By the way, we had their BMX bikes in the back of the truck with the intention of finding a good place to let them ride.) We go off on this side road, over these hills, and we go up to the top of this one hill and I'm looking down. It's kind of rutted off on the left, but there's plenty of area to the right to where we can get down. I was thinkin', *No problem. We can get back up this. Four-wheel drive, right?* So we get down the hill and as we're going along I'm being very cautious. I even get out and take a look at that hill and the next hill and I'm like, *Nah, I'm not gonna try this one.*

We ended up backing up. It's only a trail for one vehicle. I go to turn around in four-wheel drive low (for those of you who don't understand that terminology, there's a switch in the truck that supposed to engage all four tires and it's supposed to pull you through over rocks and up walls). I back up in this simple turn around. The dirt is really soft and the back end starts going and I'm thinking that maybe this wasn't such a good idea. I really hit it and tried going back up the same hill that we came down. It wasn't happening. So now I'm creeping back down the hill backwards and I have to make a decision—going all the way down that hill which is worse than the one that we're trying to go up...go down that hill, back down the fire-road.

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Then I see the actual road that I should've stayed on off in the distance. Now it's 4:00 in the afternoon, I only have a quarter tank of gas...all of this is going through my mind. When we get all the way down to the bottom, we go through this one dip and one wheel gets off the dirt and now it's in the air. We're really doing guy stuff, right? (By the way, don't tell Betina, ok? Are we recording? Oh, man.) So, it's spinning and none of the other wheels are engaging and I'm like, *What kind of four-wheel drive is this!? Man, how are we gonna get out of here?* The road is literally like from here to the driveway out in front of the parking lot, so it's not that far away, but I still have to go through that dip, through another one, and up this kind of sideways off-camber hill. I'm thinking, *If I didn't make it up that other hill, I'm not making it up this one.*

Now I'm calling all kinds of people, "Hey, listen, do you have heavy equipment? I need it here now. A tractor, or anything to pull me out of here!" (By the way, there's a moral to this story. I'm not just telling it to you for no reason.)

Then I tell my boys, "Hey, go up to the top of the hill and first car you can wave down, wave them down and just say, 'Hey, we need some help.'"

Well, there was a Ford Fiesta that came through. Here I am stuck in my Ford F-250 4WD, and this Ford Fiesta looks like it's doing one of those Enduro Baja races. They stop and say, "I think I know someone down the street. We'll see if we can get some help."

Then some guys in a Jeep shows up and I'm thinking, *A Jeep is not gonna help me get out of here.*

But the guy in the passenger side of the truck tells him to pull over and says, "We gotta see if we can help them out some way." They come down and they look and their like, "Oh, man!" You know it's bad when other guys are saying, "Oh, wow!" So that really boosted my confidence. He's down there and says, "Yeah, your wheel is off the ground, pretty much—a lot. Let's start putting some boulders and stuff under there."

So we did...and some trash. Thank God for people throwing trash off the side there because we were able to take that trash and pallets, and pile it under the wheel. Well, it finally engaged and I got through that first dip, but keep in mind that I still had the other dip. We get out of there and start going up that hill, but it wasn't making it. The guy says, "Hey, I wouldn't do that if I were you because the receiver where the hitch is, is just totally dragging. You're not making it out. You're gonna have to go back the same way you came."

I'm thinking, *There's no way. I'm gonna die and my boys are gonna see this.*

As he's watching, he says, "Hey, do you have it in four-wheel drive?"

I'm like, "Yeah! I switched it on. It says '4-Low' right here."

He says, "Did you lock your front wheels?"

"It says it's locked right here. The little light says '4-Wheel Low'. It's engaged! We're on!"

He says, "Well, you might want to go up to the front wheel and turn these little things right here and lock them. You'll be able to back up those hills like it's a street."

I'm thinking, *This guy is crazy, right?* Let's just do what he says and lock them. As I back up the road that I came down, I back up to this one area with *no* problem. I turn around and they're watching from that road off to the side, as we make it up the first crazy hill, and up the next one that we couldn't initially make. We made it all the way up. I honk and wave and thought, *I'm outta here! Let's go!*

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I remember years ago, my dad had a 4WD Chevy...maybe that was the problem--mine was a Ford, and his was a Chevy. He had four-wheel drive and down here was a shifter. It was in four-wheel all the time. It didn't make for good gas mileage. It was down on the floor, so you would engage the four-wheel drive and it was locked and ready to go. It would go up anything.

That's what was in my mind. I thought, *I can make it up that! I remember my dad would go up worse hills than that, no problem!* But the thing is, that was my dad's truck. It wasn't my truck. My truck was a little different. It took something in addition, or something separate, in order for the front wheels to engage so that I could have mountains moving underneath me.

What we don't realize is that we have the power—the Holy Spirit, living inside each and every one of us that are surrendered to Jesus Christ. We do, we have that power! We see other people that can move the mountains. *I cannot believe that mountains are moving!* You can see people's lives and the way that they're going about living, and abiding in Christ, and doing the things that they're doing. That is glorifying to God! It's absolutely amazing! It appears that they just bumped it and started going up the hills.

Well, that's their vehicles; that's their lives. For you and I, we could have the power, but we don't realize that when someone comes along, if we're not filled with too much pride when they say, "Have you locked those front wheels? It's just the turning of this little dial right here, and over here, and you'll be able to go up those hills like nothin'. Have you done that?"

I could've very well said, "Don't touch them. I know what I'm doing. I have the power. I mean, I have a V-10 Triton, c'mon now. I should be able to go up these hills with no problem, but I just can't."

I believe that he was sent by the Lord, and I believe that He will send people to you who will tell you the very same thing. "Have you thought of this?" Something very simple. You lock them up, and I'm telling you the mountains *do* move underneath you as if you're not climbing, but someone else is moving them right underneath you. It's absolutely amazing!

There's another fear that came as I had my boys with me. Sometimes we fear going up the same hills that we thought were climbable before because we have our family with us. Stepping out in faith. Let me tell you that as soon as you *do* engage and start going, you're happy that you had your family with you and you took them all the way up to the top of the hill and showed them around.

I wanted to share that with you because sometimes we can go through Scripture, we can have the power, we can learn, we can understand, and yet fail to "lock". We can fail to receive that personally as the Lord speaks to us. I wanted to take time to tell you about that because I don't believe it was just for me, but for you as well. A very practical lesson that we can understand spiritually. We can go through Scripture and learn it, and start thinking about other people and how they should be here listening to what is being taught and covered, and yet it's for us, personally. We need to be humble as we come to this time of worshipping the Lord through His Word, through learning, and surrender knowing that this morning He wants you to engage a little bit deeper with Him, and understand how to use that power that God has given you through the Spirit.

I just wanted to share that with you before we go into Revelation Chapter 11. Let's go before the Lord.

[Prayer] *Father, we come to You this morning and thank You that nothing is wasted with You, nothing at all. I pray that we are so fixed on You that we would not be concerned with anything or anyone else, but our relationship with You. That we would be quieted, be still before You, allow You and Your truth to speak into us, that we would be transformed by Your work.*

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*I pray Father, that as we go into this chapter, as we see these two witnesses, we understand that they were given authority by You, they were given power by You, to fulfill the time of their testimony, and that nothing and no one could stop that until they were finished. I pray that You would remind us that that is exactly how You are with us as we live our lives. That we are witnesses unto You, we are testifying of Your glory through Jesus Christ's redemption and the reconciliation that You put in motion and finished through Him. May we go from being witnessed to, to being witnesses ourselves and until we're done nothing and no one can stop us. So Father, may we look to You, and may we hear from You this morning as You speak to us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

Please turn in your Bibles to Revelation Chapter 11. The title of this morning's message is: *The Two Witnesses and the Time of Their Testimony.*

***Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff [this is given to John], and I was told, "Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, <sup>2</sup> but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. <sup>3</sup> And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."***

There are events in our lives that we just cannot explain, nor do we even know most of them that God has kept us alive through, or avoided all together. What I'm saying is, I believe that there is a purpose for our lives that is specific, and until we fulfill that God-given purpose we remain here on earth. There is a time to be born and a time to die.

Perhaps in your own life you've thought about certain situations, *I should never have made it through that. How did I survive that? Other people have perished in less of a situation, but the Lord has spared me through these things.* It's unexplainable.

I remember for myself being in an accident. I was in the backseat without a seatbelt in a Volkswagen Bug and going through the desert. Maybe I should just stay away from dirt roads, right? I think I was 19 or 20 at the time. We got into an accident right in the middle of the desert, the whole thing rolled and we were a good 50-60 feet into the desert. I don't know how I survived. I remember the back seat on Volkswagens can loosen up and you can remove them. It was diagonal in the back and the whole roof had caved in and had sandwiched me in between the seat and the roof of the vehicle. Both my cousin and his brother-in-law were fine, they came right out the window. The back window was already out and I just crawled out of there. I had glass in my arms and a cut there, but that was it. We were about 3 miles from the main road.

You think about things like that, *I shouldn't have made it through that at all! I don't know how that happened!* We can look back and understand our present place and understand that God has a greater purpose, there's something more.

There were times in my life, before I came to Christ when I would think, *There's more to life. What's the purpose of life, really?* I would do certain things, I would see the world and go places, and I was thinking, *There's more to it. I'm still empty.*

Well, there *is* more to it. There's a time that God has given us and sometimes it's for mercy, and other times it's to display His grace to us.

Ephesians 1:11-12 says, ***"In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup> so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory."***

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Living as Christians "to the praise of His glory" in fulfilling what has been divinely given to us to complete. That's why at the point that we come to Christ that's exactly what our purpose is. Prior to that, I believe that He is calling on us, drawing us unto Himself as the Bible tells us. It is our opportunity to either reject Him or receive Him. Those are the only two things that are going on in people lives. After that, it's to live for His glory.

Now keep this in mind as we move through these 14 verses and learn about the two witnesses, and even the building of the temple. We've come to the point in these last days during the Tribulation period, with the introduction of the measuring of the temple of God, and the introduction of the two witnesses who testify for three and a half years, and the Gentiles (or the nations) that will trample (or desecrate) the city for three and a half years.

This morning we will be learning about these two witnesses, where they were, what they did, what was done to them, and where they were called back to. Up to this point, there's been some pretty amazing natural disasters, as the world would see them as, but we know that they've been judgments that have been brought upon the earth by the Lord. The world has yet to see what is to come, let alone see something like these two men testify for three and a half years without anyone being able to successfully stop them due to real super powers that were God-given. There will be no group of protestors, no army, no one who will be able to stop these two men from testifying for the period that God has ordained them to testify -- publicly prophesying and mourning in repentance for three and a half years.

### The Ministry of the Witnesses (vv.1-3)

These were sent by God. We read here, in the first three verses, of the ministry of the witnesses. First, John is told to go measure the temple of God and all those who worship there, but not the outer court because it has been given over to the Gentiles. We need to understand that this is beyond the church period because the church period unites both Jews and Gentiles. At this point, there's a separation. The Gentiles, who are outside, are not to be measured.

This is NOT a symbolic statement talking about the church during the tribulation period. We are not given to wrath. The Bible is very clear, and where we stand as a church is that we believe that there is going to be pre-tribulation rapture; a taking up by the Lord of His church, the Bride of Christ, that's you and I.

The temple will be built under the protection, not of an actual peace maker, but of the Antichrist himself. His true character will not be revealed until he fulfills the abomination of desolation. He will set himself up as God. Now this is a fulfillment of what Daniel, Jesus, and Paul has said about the Abomination of Desolation. If you're taking notes you can jot down these verses, we will not go into them and read them. Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11; Matthew 24:15-16, 24:21; 2 Thessalonians 2: 3-4, all make reference by Daniel, Jesus, and Paul to the abomination of desolation.

Now, the measuring of the temple speaks of ownership. It is claiming something to Himself. It's God claiming ownership of the temple, and much more. You see this is illustrated in the Old Testament on a number of occasions but although the world will trample Jerusalem underfoot for a time, and the Antichrist will actually claim godship in it, it will not remain that way. The whole Bible is a story of redemption. It will be redeemed and come back under the Owner, with a capital O, as He has never, ever, relinquished actual possession of it.

Then we see this granting of authority by God, Who gives it to the two witnesses. They are given power to testify for a time of three and a half years, and they will do so in sackcloth. For many people, unless you read the Bible, you don't understand why someone is clothed in sackcloth. It's very uncomfortable, it's prickly, plus

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it's just not fashionable. But we know from Scripture what it refers to. It's a time to where there's mourning, it's a show of repentance. That's exactly how they will be prophesying for that time. It's interesting that they were sent by God to do this very thing, to prophecy wrapped in sackcloth for three and a half years.

Oftentimes, we refer to a person who has been sent by God--if you're not smiling and not bringing some proclamation of goodness and joy, then "you must not be of God, and you are divisive." Listen, Jesus came the first time as the Suffering Servant to die on the cross. Because of our relationship with God we see this division. We see that sometimes family members are against each other. We see people who were before our friends are now no longer our friends, they want to dismiss you because you've come to Christ.

As you come in the name of the Lord, you come with the message of hope and not everyone will receive that message of hope. There will be those who reject it, who rebel, and who actually deem you as a person who is narrow-minded and divided against all humanity. But those who just speak joy, and speak happiness, will fill their churches because they're speaking of what the world wants to hear and they will embrace them. There are those who are serving itching ears. I'll bring you the whole counsel of God, and sometimes it's good news and other times it's not such good news.

For these two witnesses, they were in sackcloth and they were proclaiming the mercy of God. I'm saying the Mercy of God because they didn't have to be there! You see, God could have ended it, taken up all who are His, left the rest of them separated from Him for all eternity in a real place called Hell. But He wishes that none should perish, but that all should reach repentance [2 Peter 3:9]. I see this as a time of mercy that He was extending to the earth.

It is even during this time that God sends His messengers to warn of what's to come. He's still warning. Do you know that's mercy? When someone says, "I'm warning you that the road you're going down is a dead-end. You're just going too fast that you're just going to go right off." That's mercy. Let those who have an ear, hear what God is speaking to them.

### Empowered by God (vv. 4-6)

***<sup>4</sup> These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. <sup>6</sup> They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire.***

It's kind of appropriate since we went through verses 4-6 and Zechariah 4:6 says, "**...Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.**"

The two olive trees represent a continuous flow of olive oil that would keep the lampstands lit. There'd be no need for a priest to continually daily fill the lampstands with olive oil, no external requirement, whatsoever. These two were divinely empowered with an overflowing that came only from the Lord. They would be divinely kept alive and empowered by the Spirit of God.

That is likewise the testimony that we have been given to proclaim to the world – it is NOT in our power that we are sent, but in the power and authority of Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit. That's why we can go with confidence and boldness. It's not in and of ourselves to convince someone to be saved. If you can convince

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them into being saved, then someone else can convince them to be unsaved. That's not salvation. We're vessels and instruments; we're mouthpieces for God. All we do is proclaim. We tell someone about the good news of Jesus Christ and we allow the Spirit to do the work that He is going to do. That's why we can go confidently and tell someone.

It's very simple to do, but it's not by your convincing power. What keeps us back from actually doing the work of an evangelist, from witnessing, is that we feel that we're inadequate. Here's news...you are! We are! It's only by the power of God. It is only through Him. He's the One that's working through us to do this work, but He does it personally just as He did with you. It's the Holy Spirit who fills us to bring forth the story of what we have witnessed in our own lives. It's a testimony that we bring forth by the Spirit of God. We witness it, it's who we are, not what we do, but then we testify. That's what we do.

That's what they were doing. They were witnesses but the thing that witnesses do is that they testify. Good worthy witnesses will be put on the stand, they're worthy to testify. They will tell the truth. They will testify of what they know. That's all you have to do and that's all that they were doing.

Then authority was granted, divine power that was given to them. It's amazing to think that these two witnesses will have this kind of power. It absolutely just boggles my mind! Anyone who comes against them will be sorry they did during this time.

We've seen this power illustrated in other times. If you're with us on Wednesday nights we're going through Exodus and the plagues. We see how when Moses lifts up his staff that certain things take place like the water being turned into blood. We know that Elijah prayed, as it says in James, and it stopped raining for how long? Three and a half years.

We're not going to get into a discussion as to whether it was Elijah, Moses, or perhaps it was Enoch. Why? Because it's not explicitly stated here. We don't know exactly who these two witnesses are. We can go from some scriptures in the Old and New Testament and make assumptions, but it's not explicitly stated here so I don't want to go down that path and take time away. We do know that these were two witnesses that were given this divine power, they were able to stop the rain, turn the water into blood, cause fire to come down and consume. Don't come against these two witnesses because that's exactly what will happen among other things.

What we do know is that no one will be able to stop them, and they will be able to wreak havoc on anyone who attempts to do so, until they are finished. There's a time of completion for them. That's when they're martyred.

### The Witnesses are Martyred (vv. 7-10)

Let's continue in verse seven:

***And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, <sup>8</sup> and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. <sup>9</sup> For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be***

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*placed in a tomb,<sup>10</sup> and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth.*

Stop there for a moment. These witnesses have completed what they've been called to do. At this point, they've been martyred. They lie in the street for three and a half days. We don't read here that it's symbolic to mean a shorter period of time. Some commentaries will say "three and a half years." I doubt that they'll be recognizable after three and a half years. It says "three and a half days", and I take that literally.

More than likely this reference of **"the beast of the rises from the bottomless pit"** is Satan himself that comes and is able to kill these two witnesses, but it's only after they had finished testifying for three and a half years. You see, Satan did not have the authority or power to do so until they had completed what God had given them to do and for the period that they were to do it.

For three and a half days the world will rejoice seeing them dead because it was these two witnesses that brought torment on all who will occupy the earth at that time. You can say that it will be a twisted Christmas for them. Perhaps on Christmas cards, even putting Revelation 11:10, **"...and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents..."** What do we do during Christmas? We exchange presents. At that time, they will be so overjoyed and rejoicing over what has taken place. "They're taken out! Thank you so much that they are finally taken out!"

Think about the world witnessing this. Look back 30-40 years ago this may have been possible because of TV. But since then we now have the internet, and the beyond the internet we have these smart phones. We can actually livestream things that are happening throughout the world. Everyone has the ability to watch exactly what's going on in Jerusalem. In fact, there is this camera that's pointed at the Wailing Wall. You can go on this website and see it in real time as it's actually happening, people coming up to the Wailing Wall and congregating in that area and praying and offering up their prayers. So basically, right now the stage is set.

Not only that but the rebuilding of the Temple has been in the works for some time now. The sacrifices that will be offered, especially in today's day and age, will have to be the work of someone who has the authority to allow this to happen. Animal rights groups will be all up in arms because these sacrifices are going on.

By the way, the preparation of the priests, the very utensils that will be used--we, as Christians, look at research that is done to the actual place of the temple and we see that everything is all set. Some think it is minus of the dome. That being said, the Muslims are left with what they have, and the temple is actually a little north which will be enough space for the rebuilding of the temple. We look at all this and we think as Christians, "All right! That's awesome!" In a way it is, but in another way, we need to understand that the only way that will happen is by the Antichrist coming onto the scene and implementing peace for that time.

That's the time that we see described here as Jerusalem being called **"Sodom and Egypt"**. Spiritually speaking that's not a good thing to be called. Sodom and Egypt were in immorality, oppression and slavery. It will be during this time that Israel will have a relationship with the Antichrist and will indeed be immoral, oppressed, and enslaved by he who desecrates.



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So yes, we are anticipating that time, but we will not see that time because we will be raptured, taken up, before that time comes.

### A Miraculous Resurrection (vv.11-14)

Let's continue and wrap up here.

***<sup>11</sup> But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. <sup>12</sup> Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them. <sup>13</sup> And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.***

***<sup>14</sup> The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.***

A resurrection after three and a half days. I can understand three and a half minutes, maybe even like some of the stories we've heard of three and a half hours, but three and a half days and these two witnesses resurrect. They come back to life! Now prior to that everyone was watching and rejoicing and happy that these two witnesses were gone. They were tormenting the earth and it's over!

But then as the world watches these two...."Wait a minute. Are they moving? Maybe it's just the wind."

"No, no, no. I think I actually see one of them moving!"

"That's impossible! They can't be. Oh, he is moving! They're trying to get to their feet! What's going on?!"

The world is watching this whole thing happen right before their eyes and these two witnesses stand to their feet! They get up! God is going to breathe life into them. That's a miracle in and of itself. We can give the reasons that the way the system works in our body, but we cannot explain how we are given breath and life. Who give us life? We know, but the world doesn't understand it. God gives life and He's going to give them life and breathe life into them, and they will rise to their feet after being dead for three and a half days.

As we go through these Scriptures remember that I said that this was a warning. They're wearing sackcloth and prophesying to the world, sent by God to warn these people who were twisted, who were under the power of the Antichrist. Why would God send them for three and half years to warn them?

Let me ask you this...how long did it take for *you* to surrender to Christ? Did He send you people? Did He bring people around you? Little word here and there? Was it for three and a half years? Was it for four? Was it for five? Was it for seven? Was it for fifteen...twenty years...thirty years? A God of mercy.

It was after three and a half years that this took place, God breathed life into these two witnesses, they resurrected, and then there was fear that fell on the people. The rest were terrified and did what? Look with me here at verse 13: ***"...and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven."***

Gave glory to the God of heaven! It took three and a half years, a strong earthquake that took the population of Jerusalem from 70,000 down to 63,000. How many earthquakes have we gone through? How many lives have

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been lost? How many warnings have gone out to the whole earth? These are "natural disasters" that God has allowed because He's still the Lord of the earth and of all of His creation. How many years? These are amazing things that we're reading, but they will come to pass just as the Lord says. They will come to pass.

Jerusalem was a wicked city that was referred to as "Sodom and Egypt" due to its immorality, oppression, and enslavement to the world. We see the testimony of these two witnesses for a period of three and a half years with no response until they are resurrected and taken up to be with the Lord. It was then that something happened that illustrates the reason God appointed these two witnesses and terrible things to happen:

***"...and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven."***

God knows exactly what it will take for some to finally see God and His Son for who He is. These two witnesses sent by God fulfilled their time of testimony.

I believe that God's Time of Testimony for you is why you have lived up to this point. I believe that without a shadow of a doubt. And then comes your time of testimony to the world around you when you come into a relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ. It goes from being a witness "to", to being a witness "for". You understand that personal relationship with the Lord through a surrendered life to Him.

"Father, forgive me for the sins that I've committed because I know that that is what is separating me from You, but I accept the death, burial, and resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ and I receive Him as my personal Lord and Savior. Please forgive me."

Then we come into a place to where we are actual witnesses and testifying of that glory, of that salvation. Where are you? Are you hearing the testimony as the world? Or, are you now in a time of providing testimony TO the world? One place or the other. One means that you are separated from having an eternal relationship in redemption with God, and the other means that you know an eternal relationship in redemption with God. I pray it's the latter for you. And if not, know that God's hand of mercy is always being extended to you, even this morning.

If you don't know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. You just heard that message that the two witnesses were here sent to this earth for three and a half years to witness, to testify, to prophesy in sackcloth, in repentance, in mourning to the world of what was to come, and yet why did He do that? It was for the purpose that the people would realize who God is! And yet, that He is to be recognized as a personal God, One on one. I pray that if you don't know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior that this morning is the day of salvation, the day that you have been redeemed by God through His Son Jesus Christ.

We'll spend time in prayer as we close. I know I took a lot of time at the beginning with the story, but I hope that this a time that you understand how to engage with the Lord. I'm going to ask the worship team to come back up and I'm just going to pray for us.

*[Prayer] Father, I pray that we are all truly in awe of the way You work. Lord, as we read through and studied these verses, it could have been that we were thinking of this distance time in which You will do this amazing thing through these two witnesses. A time when the Antichrist will seem to have the upper-*

## **The Two Witnesses and the Time of Their Testimony**

*hand and bring peace to the world, and yet all of his work is only to steal, kill, and destroy, but yet, You prevail.*

*We can look at these whole 14 verses and think, "Wow, that is amazing! That's going to happen in someplace that is apart from me and this time that I'm living." Yet, we need to understand that that is happening around us today! Lord, there are things that are happening on a minute by minute basis to where we also should have this terrifying understanding of Your awesome power, and at the same time, the glorious grace that You offer to us through Jesus Christ. I pray, Lord, that we would be sober-minded and that we would understand the hand of love that You extend to us through Your Son, Jesus Christ. May You cause us to fall on our faces and surrender to You, and walk wholly committed and devoted to You, allowing nothing to distract us, nothing else to take Your place. May it just be purely Jesus in our lives. We thank you, Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.*