

The Book of Revelation
Week Three

Revelation 11:1-4 (NLT)

“11 Then I was given a measuring stick, and I was told, “Go and measure the Temple of God and the altar, and count the number of worshipers. 2 But do not measure the outer courtyard, for it has been turned over to the nations. They will trample the holy city for 42 months. 3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will be clothed in burlap and will prophesy during those 1,260 days. 4 These two prophets are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of all the earth.”

Old Testament reference for “measuring” & “two witnesses”: Zechariah 2 & 4

Revelation 11:3 (NLT)

*“And I will give **power** to my two **witnesses**, and they will be clothed in **burlap** and will **prophesy** during those 1,260 days.”*

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

*“8 But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my **witnesses, telling people about me everywhere**—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Old & New Testament reference for “two”: The number two is used because of the biblical principle that “The testimony of two is true” (see Deut 17:6; 19:15; John 8:17; Matt 18:16).

Revelation 11:5-6 (NLT)

“5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire flashes from their mouths and consumes their enemies. This is how anyone who tries to harm them must die. 6 They have power to shut the sky so that no rain will fall for as long as they prophesy. And they have the power to turn the rivers and oceans into blood, and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they wish.”

Old Testament references:

11:5—“If anyone desires to harm them, fire proceeds out of their mouth and devours their enemies.” This recalls the experience of the prophet Elijah, recorded in the first chapter of 2 Kings, where twice he was confronted with fifty soldiers, and twice called down fire which consumed them.

11:6a—“These have the power to shut up the sky, in order that rain may not fall.” This recalls the experience of the prophet Elijah, recorded in 1 Kings 17, when after praying, it did not rain for three and one-half years.

11:6b—“And they have power over the waters to turn them into blood, and to smite the earth with every plague.” This recalls the experience of Moses, recorded in Exodus 4-11, who by holding up Aaron’s rod, caused the Nile River to flow with blood; and who, by a word, caused plagues to come against the gods of Egypt.

Revelation 11:7-13 (NLT)

*“7 When they **complete** their testimony, the beast that comes up out of the bottomless pit will declare war against them, and he will conquer them and kill them. 8 And their bodies will lie in the main street of Jerusalem, the city that is figuratively called “Sodom” and “Egypt,” the city where their Lord was crucified. 9 And for three and a half days, all peoples, tribes, languages, and nations will stare at their bodies. No one will be allowed to bury them. 10 All the people who belong to this world will gloat over them and give presents to each other to celebrate the death of the two prophets who had tormented them. 11 But after three and a half days, God breathed life into them, and they stood up! Terror struck all who were staring at them. 12 Then a loud voice from heaven called to the two prophets, “Come up here!” And they rose to heaven in a cloud as their enemies watched. 13 At the same time there was a terrible earthquake that destroyed a tenth of the city. Seven thousand people died in that earthquake, and everyone else was terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.”*

Even in the restricted judgement we see God’s mercy.

Revelation 8:9 (NLT)

*“...**one-third** of all things living in the sea died, and **one-third** of all the ships on the sea were destroyed.”*

Revelation 8:12 (NLT)

*“12 Then the fourth angel blew his trumpet, and **one-third** of the sun was struck, and **one-third** of the moon, and **one-third** of the stars, and they became dark. And **one-third** of the day was dark, and also **one-third** of the night.”*

Revelation 9:5 (NLT)

*“5 They were told **not to kill them** but to torture them for **five months** with pain like the pain of a scorpion sting.”*

Revelation 9:6 (NLT)

“6 In those days people will seek death but will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them!”

We are the witnesses on mission to cry out to a fallen world to turn to Christ. Go & be the witnesses.