

Briefing Document: Two Witnesses Lesson 4

Sunday PM-September 13, 2026

Executive Summary

The following briefing document details the prophetic events surrounding the "Two Witnesses" as described in Revelation 11 and related scriptures. During the second half of the Tribulation—a three-and-a-half-year period known as the Great Tribulation—the Antichrist will dominate Jerusalem. During this time, God will provide a powerful witness through two specific individuals. These preachers will stand in Jerusalem for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth, to proclaim the Gospel and warn of impending divine judgment.

Their ministry serves as a final call to repentance for both the nation of Israel and the Gentile world. Despite the rise of the Antichrist and the release of demonic forces, God ensures the protection of a Jewish remnant and fulfills His ancient covenants. The document outlines the identity, purpose, and historical significance of these witnesses, emphasizing that even in a time of unprecedented wrath, divine grace remains available to those who believe.

The Context of the Great Tribulation

The ministry of the two witnesses takes place during a specific chronological window in the prophetic timeline:

- **The Times of the Gentiles:** This period concludes with the Gentiles dominating Jerusalem for the final 42 months (three and a half years) of the Tribulation.
- **The Reign of the Antichrist:** This era coincides with the Antichrist assuming full power and the desecration of the temple, known as the "abomination of desolation."
- **Protection of the Remnant:** During this time, the nation of Israel (symbolized as "the woman" in Revelation 12) flees into the wilderness. Many scholars believe the hidden city of Petra in Jordan will be the place where God nourishes and protects His people from the serpent.
- **A Time of Preparation:** Scripture indicates that 1,260 days are set aside for this protection. As stated in *Revelation 12:14: But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.*

The Identity and Power of the Two Witnesses

As the seventh trumpet prepares to sound, God introduces "two witnesses" to provide a final testimony to the world.

- **Literal Individuals:** Contrary to interpretations suggesting these witnesses are books, movies, or political movements, the text implies they are literal people. The use of the Greek word *martys*^[^1] suggests personal testimony.

- **Divine Commission:** The speaker in Revelation 11 (likely God the Father or Jesus Christ) states: "I will give power to my two witnesses."
- **Supernatural Protection:** The witnesses are protected by a "divine dome" of sorts. If anyone attempts to harm them before their mission is complete, they are destroyed by fire proceeding from the witnesses' mouths.
- **The Necessity of Two:** Biblical law requires at least two witnesses to establish a fact or a death penalty. This is supported by several scriptures:
 - *Deuteronomy 17:6: Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.*
 - *Matthew 18:16: But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that "by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established."*

The Mission: Prophecy and Preaching

The primary task of the two witnesses is to "prophecy" for 1,260 days. In this context, prophesying does not only mean predicting the future; it means standing before the people and preaching the Word of God.

- **Interpreting Judgments:** As the world experiences the cataclysmic seal and trumpet judgments, the witnesses will interpret these events, explaining that they are the direct results of God's wrath.
- **A Call to Repentance:** They will warn of the coming "bowl judgments" (also called vial judgments) and the reality of hell, while simultaneously offering the Gospel.
- **Universal Reach:** Their message will likely be broadcast globally, allowing the entire world to witness their testimony and their eventual fate.

Symbolism of the Sackcloth

The witnesses are described as being "clothed in sackcloth." This is a significant detail that reflects their message and attitude.

- **A Posture of Mourning:** Sackcloth is a rough, coarse material (similar to a heavy potato sack) used historically by prophets to express sadness, humility, and repentance.
- **Sorrow for the World:** The witnesses wear this to show their grief over the wickedness of the world, the ascendancy of the Antichrist, and the desecration of the temple.
- **Biblical Precedents for Sackcloth:**
 - **Jacob:** Wore sackcloth when he believed his son Joseph had been killed by wild animals.

- **David:** Mourned in sackcloth following the murder of Abner.
- **The King of Samaria:** Wore sackcloth under his royal robes during a horrific famine where mothers resorted to cannibalism (2 Kings 6).
- **Hezekiah:** Entered the temple in sackcloth when Jerusalem was threatened by the Assyrian army.

The Results of the Witness

The ministry of the two witnesses is the final "punctuation mark" in the salvation of the remnant of Israel.

- **Conversion of Israel:** Through their preaching, along with the previous work of the 144,000 sealed Jews and an angel flying in the sky, the remaining nation of Israel will turn in faith to their Messiah.
- **Gentile Salvation:** A great number of Gentiles will also be redeemed during this time—more than at any other period in history—even amidst the fury of God's judgments.
- **The Great Earthquake:** Following a significant event in their ministry, a tenth of Jerusalem will fall in an earthquake, killing 7,000 people. The survivors will be struck with fear and give glory to the God of heaven, indicating a turning to faith.

Conclusion: The Unbending Promises of God

The appearance of the two witnesses demonstrates that God is absolute and unbending in His promises. Despite the release of millions of demons and the collapse of the universe as we know it, God remains in control. He pauses between series of judgments to comfort His people and ensure His message is heard. As the witnesses conclude their 1,260 days, the seventh trumpet will sound, releasing the final bowl judgments and ushering in the return of Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom on earth.

Greek Glossary and Phonetic Guide

Greek Word	Phonetic Pronunciation	Brief Definition
μάρτυς (martyrs)	mar-toos	A witness; one who gives testimony. It is the root of the English word "martyr."

[^1]: **μάρτυς (martyrs):** This term refers to someone who bears witness to facts or truth, often through their death. In the context of Revelation 11, it emphasizes the personal nature of the two individuals commissioned by God.