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# **Jesus Christ Second Coming – Lesson 19**

## **Tribulation 13**

### **Two Witnesses**

At the midpoint of Tribulation, the seven-year period called the time of Tribulation, we see two witnesses appearing. This is just before to the return of Christ to establish His Earthly Kingdom.

This time began to unfold as seven seals were broken, seven seals that sealed a scroll. That scroll was the title deed to the earth and as each seal was broken. Another phase of judgment occurs which is part of the plan to take back the earth and the universe from the deceiver Satan and give it to the rightful heir, namely Jesus Christ.

As each of those seals unfolded judgement was pronounced. But there is an interlude between the seal number six and seven. A pause before the final and most severe judgment, the judgment of the seventh seal.

Soon the seven-bowl judgments will start after this judgement. The seven-seal judgments stretch across seven years. The seven-bowl judgments happen rapidly right at the very end of the time, one right after the other. There will be an interlude just before the seventh bowl and after the sixth bowl, as before the seventh seal.

Between the seals and the bowls is a series of judgments that don't take as long as the seals and aren't as brief as the bowls, called the seven trumpet judgments. There is an interlude between sixth trumpets and seventh trumpets. So, in each case there is a pause, a respite, an interlude before the final and seventh judgment.

The purpose of the interlude is the same in all three cases. It is to comfort and encourage the saints alive at that time because they will be overwhelmed in the sixth seals, the six trumpets and the six bowl judgments. Since the severity of the judgements is so harsh they may be wondering whether God is in control or not and where is the Lord?

Therefore, in each case before the final and worst judgment, the Lord stops to pause long enough to remind them of comforting truth about His care for His own.

Just before we start our study on the two witnesses let me summarize so that you get this lesson right.

The seven seals have been opened.

The universe is being judged, taken back from the deceiver by Jesus Christ.

Those opened seals have brought divine wrath in the form of false peace, wars, famines, earthquakes, pestilence and death.

The seventh seal then released the seven trumpets which includes the destruction of,

- a third of the plants,
- all the grass,
- a third of the seas,
- a third of the creatures in them,
- a third of the ships,
- a third of the fresh water,
- one third of the sun and the moon,
- the release of demons bound for millennium in the pit to torment men,
- kills a third mankind with fire and
- brimstone and smoke.

All of the above would have happened in this seven-year period known as the time of Tribulation to come upon the earth.

The witnesses come to warn men, telling men of the imminent impending blowing of the seventh trumpet. In fact, they start at the midpoint in the Tribulation so they're warning men all the way along, during the seal and trumpet judgments that take place in the second half of the Great Tribulation.

So, all along they are preaching the gospel, warning, calling men to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. And they keep doing that right up until the end.

This is a wonderful comforting truth for us to know because it reminds us that people will have an opportunity to hear the gospel.

Not only from the mouth of 144,000 Jewish men but also through these two faithful witnesses. We know from the scriptures that these two men are going to have worldwide ministry because it says the whole world is going to see them.

When these two are through, then the seventh trumpet blows, the bowls are poured out in final fierce furious wrath, flaming judgment follows as Christ comes at the battle of Armageddon, conquering all, destroys the ungodly and then sets up His Kingdom.

**Revelation 11:1-6**, *Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. <sup>2</sup>But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months. <sup>3</sup>And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, **clothed in sackcloth.**" <sup>4</sup>These are the **two olive trees and the two lampstands** standing before the God of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. <sup>6</sup>These **have power to shut heaven**, so that **no rain falls** in the days of their prophecy; and they have **power over waters to turn them to blood**, and to strike the **earth with all plagues**, as often as they desire.*

Let us discern the word of God with Word not on our intelligence.

The term here mentioned in 3 ½ years, 42 months and 1,260 days which is very well detailed in the book of Revelation.

### ***Clothed in sackcloth***

Why were they wearing sackcloth?

Sackcloth represents the mourning.

**Isiah 22:12**, *And in that day the Lord God of hosts Called for weeping and for mourning, For baldness and for girding with sackcloth.*

**Jeremiah 6:26**, *O daughter of my people, Dress in sackcloth And roll about in ashes! Make mourning as for an only son, most bitter lamentation; For the plunderer will suddenly come upon us.*

**Matthew 11:21**, *Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.*

Look at the garments of High Priest Joshua in the book of **Zachariah chapter 3**.

### **Brief Summary:**

V 1, ***Beginning of the fourth vision:***

Joshua: High priest under Zerubbabel

Where was Joshua?

Standing before the angel of the Lord

What was Satan doing?  
Accusing him

V 2, What did God say to Satan? That he was to be rebuked, because God had chosen Jerusalem to be His city.

V 3, How was Joshua dressed? In dirty clothes

V 4, What did the angel say? For Joshua's filthy clothes to be taken off and for him to be given clean clothes

V 5, So Joshua was given some clean turban and clean clothes

V 7, What promise was made to Joshua? That if he obeyed God, he would have access to God

V 8, What prophecy was made here? That God would bring forth His servant, "the Branch". The Jewish nation would be cut down and Jesus would be the new shoot on the branch

V 9, What was set before the Jews? The stone of God  
Read 1 Peter 2.4-5, Matthew 21.42,

What will the stone do? Remove the sins of the people

V 10, What would people do in the day of the stone?  
Invite their neighbors to come to the Lord

### **Two olive trees and the Two lampstands**

**Zechariah 4:1-6**, *Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. <sup>2</sup>And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. <sup>3</sup>Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left." <sup>4</sup>So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?" <sup>5</sup>Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." <sup>6</sup>So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.*

There are five temples overall 3 in the past and 2 in the future in Jerusalem.

1. Built by Solomon
2. Built by Zerubbabel
3. Built by Herod
4. Will be built by Antichrist
5. Will be built by Christ in the millennium.

Here the oil is supplied supernaturally without any human effort.

Revelation 4:6, <sup>6</sup> *These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire.*

So here what these two witnesses have power over them. Let us look to reveal their identity.

## 1. No rain

### 1 Kings 17:1-7,

V1, *And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."*

Here we see Elijah, prophet declares that there will not any rain or dew except my word and he shuts the heaven.

Book of James gives the answer for how long he did shut the heavens.

**James 5:17-18,** <sup>17</sup> *Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.* <sup>18</sup> *And*

*he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*

Isn't that amazing!! The time divide of 3 ½ years before and 3 ½ years after!!!

## **2. Who turned the water into blood?**

Yes, it was Moses.

**Exodus 4:9**, *And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from the river and pour it on the dry land. The water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry land."*

**Exodus 7:20**, *And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the Lord commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.*

We can see from the above and understand that it will be Moses and Elijah.

Let us see the commonalities both must have to fulfil this prophecy.

## 1. Bringing fire out of their mouth (Revelation 4:5)

**Moses:**

**Number 16:28-29 & 35,** <sup>28</sup> *And Moses said: “By this you shall know that the Lord has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will. <sup>29</sup> If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the Lord has not sent me.*

<sup>35</sup> *And a fire came out from the Lord and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense.*

You know the story what had happened in this chapter, there was rebellion against Moses and Aaron. So Moses calls upon them to show that the Lord had called Him to minister. He calls out the fire from heaven and it consumes the people alive. First human barbeque demonstrated by Moses.

**Elijah:**

**2 Kings 1:10 & 12**

<sup>10</sup> *So Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, “If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.” And fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.*

<sup>12</sup> So Elijah answered and said to them, "If I am a man of God, let **fire come down from heaven** and consume you and your fifty men." And the **fire of God came down from heaven** and consumed him and his fifty.

We can see from the above passages that in both instances Elijah called the fire from heaven to come down and the fire came down.

Especially when they were speaking against them they both called for the fire from heaven and it came. **Revelation 4:5**, *And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies.*

## **2. Both brought plague and famine**

We see from the book of Exodus beginning from chapter 7 now Moses brought 10 plagues upon the people of Egypt.

Elijah because of His word against King Ahab, there was no rain and no dew so there was a huge famine in the land. (1 Kings 17-19)

## **3. Both visited Jesus at the Transfiguration**

Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8 and Luke 9:28-36.

**Matthew 17:1-4**, Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; <sup>2</sup>and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup>And behold, **Moses and Elijah** appeared to them, **talking with Him**. <sup>4</sup>Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

On mount of transfiguration Moses and Elijah appeared from Heaven.

Both Matthew and Mark Gospel says that they were talking but Luke write what they spoke.

**Luke 9:31**, who appeared in glory and spoke **of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem**.

They were talking about Jesus death which will Jesus was going to accomplish the redemption plan.

So, they are going to come again.

#### **4. Jews still believe they are going to come**

**Matthew 17: 10**, And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?”

The disciples asked Jesus why still the Jews are believing that Elijah has to come first.

**Malachi 4:5**, *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.*

Even today when Jews celebrate a Passover meal they pour wine in a glass and they leave it outside their door. Why?

This is as a gesture expecting Elijah to come anytime.

When we study the scripture carefully we will find that Jesus had said if you accept me as your Saviour and Messiah then John the Baptist is the Elijah who is to come.

**Matthew 11:7-15** shows that if they had accepted Him as the savior then John the Baptist was indeed Elijah.

**Luke 1:17**, <sup>17</sup> *He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*

## **5. Both their departure is unusual**

Moses was not dead because he was sick or for any other reason its God who allowed his death?

**Deuteronomy 34:5-7**, <sup>5</sup>So *Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord.* <sup>6</sup>And *He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth Peor; but no one knows his grave to this day.* <sup>7</sup>*Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigour diminished.*

According to the word of the Lord Moses died!

God buried Moses body which had not diminished in vigour nor his eye sight impaired. You can see from the previous verse Moses was strong enough to go up the mountain and he could see far off.

Jude in his letter he explains this mystery behind the body of Moses.

**Jude 1: 9**, <sup>9</sup>*Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*

Satan came claiming for the body of Moses but God took it through His archangel Michael. Why?

Also look at the departure of Elijah.

**2 Kings 2:11,** <sup>11</sup> *Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*

Elijah went up to heaven without dying in the whirlwind.

## **Conclusion**

From the above we can fairly understand that these two witness who are going to come may be Moses and Elijah.

They both are going to be preaching for 3 ½ years and then they will be killed.

The whole world will be watching, now we know through TV, Internet etc.

After 3 ½ days they will be resurrected again and then a loud voice will be heard from heaven. “Come up here” then they will go up to heaven.

That day there will be great earthquake, 7,000 people will be dead and the living will fear the Lord and give glory to Him.