

1-04-25 He Reigns: God Will Rise Up Witnesses

Week 8

Text: Revelation 11

Big Idea: Even in the heart of earth's darkest rebellion, God raises up fearless witnesses, preserves His covenant promises, and proclaims the coming of His eternal kingdom. When the world celebrates sin, the Church must testify. When kingdoms rage, heaven's throne remains unmoved. And when the final trumpet sounds—Christ alone will reign forever.

Introduction:

Have you ever noticed that the world is really good at throwing parties for really bad ideas?

We celebrate things God warns us about.

We cancel people God uses.

We cheer rebellion and boo righteousness.

And if you say, "Hey, maybe this isn't a great idea," you're told, "Relax. Don't be so intense. Stop judging."

That's not new... it's prophetic. **Revelation 11** says a day is coming when the world will literally celebrate the death of God's witnesses, exchanging gifts like it's Christmas while their bodies rot in the street.

But then... God breathes life back into them.

The party stops.

The laughter dies.

The earth shakes.

And heaven declares: "The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever."

In other words: *You can party all you want—but God still owns the house.*

Even when the world looks out of control, God is in charge.

He still raises bold witnesses, protects His people, and will one day reclaim everything that was ever His.

So... while the world celebrates sin, the Church must boldly speak the truth.

So, the question is: when everyone else is celebrating rebellion, will you still be found witnessing?

I. God Still Marks What Is His

- **Read Revelation 11:1-2.**

“Rise and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and those who worship there...”

A. God Is Calm When the World Is Chaotic

- Measuring symbolizes ownership and protection (cf. **Zech. 2:1–5; Ezek. 40**).
- The temple represents Israel’s restored worship during the Tribulation (cf. **Daniel 9:27; 2 Thess. 2:4**).
- God’s “measuring tape” = protection, ownership, value.
- Even when the world looks chaotic, God knows exactly who belongs to Him.
- The world looks out of control... but heaven is not panicking.
- He’s not lost track of His people. He’s not done with Israel.
- Even in judgment, God draws lines around what is sacred.
- God is reclaiming Israel as central to His redemptive plan.

John Walvoord: *“The measuring of the temple is God’s declaration that in spite of Gentile domination, Israel’s future is secure under His covenant promises.”*

B. God’s Judgment Is Precise

- Gentiles will trample the holy city for 42 months (3.5 years) - this speaks to divine boundaries, not divine neglect.
- God allows desecration for a season. God’s judgment is precise: some are preserved, others are exposed.

Application:

God still measures worshipers - are you giving Him ritual or reverence?

When the world is out of order, God is not disoriented. He knows who is His.

II. The Two Witnesses – God Speaks Through Courage

- **Read Revelation 11:3-12.**

“I will empower my two witnesses, and they will prophesy...”

A. Boldness in a Hostile World

- The two witnesses are not simply preachers; they are divinely empowered prophets.
- Clothed in sackcloth = calling the world to repentance, mourning, and spiritual authority.

- They testify for 1,260 days the first half of the Tribulation. This is God’s mercy through proclamation.
- They preach the truth boldly for 3.5 years - even when the world hates it.
- NO filters. NO fear. NO PR team.
- Preaching in the face of global hatred = God’s mercy extended.

W.A. Criswell: *“Before God releases His final judgment, He always raises up voices of truth. No man will ever face wrath without first hearing witness.”*

B. Familiar Power

- They call down fire. They shut the heavens. (Elijah)
- They bring plagues. (Moses)
- Fire from their mouths, power to shut heaven, strike plagues (Elijah in **1 Kings 17–18**; Moses in **Exodus**).
- This is not polite evangelism; this is a holy confrontation with a rebellious world.
- God is saying, “You’ve seen this before. You just didn’t listen then either.”

C. Killed and Then Raised – God's Power Over Death

- The beast kills them. The world rejoices. Their bodies lie desecrated.
- The world throws a “sin-celebration party” over their corpses.
- But after 3½ days, they rise - public, visible, unstoppable.
- Imagine social media melting down in real time. This will go viral!
- They face opposition, public humiliation, and even death... but God raises them up.
- God turns their humiliation into heavenly vindication.
- Their resurrection proves: Truth doesn’t stay buried.

Imagine if today’s social media exploded in celebration because two street preachers were silenced. That’s how hostile the world becomes... but God still speaks.

Application:

You cannot defeat what is empowered by God. Truth doesn’t stay buried.

We are not called to survive - we are called to testify, even unto death.

Will you speak truth when it’s costly, when it’s unpopular, and when it might get you killed?

III. The Seventh Trumpet – God Will Take Over

- **Read Revelation 11:13-15.**

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord...”

A. Judgment Breaks Complacency

- An earthquake strikes. 7,000 are killed. The survivors give glory to God.
- Survivors acknowledge God's sovereignty - not in saving faith, but in sheer recognition.
- This isn't a democracy. Christ doesn't campaign... He conquers. Jesus is taking back what is His.
- The time for decision ends. Now is the time for judgment and takeover.

B. The Final Trumpets Statement – Finality, Not Warning

- The seventh trumpet doesn't introduce a new opportunity; it introduces the final phase of God's wrath.
- Heaven declares: **"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ."**
- It declares that Jesus now claims full dominion over the earth.
- This is not an offer; it's a kingdom invasion.

John MacArthur: *"This is the death of all earthly kingdoms. The usurper is dethroned. Christ takes His rightful seat."* All the world's power players start to lose their seat.

Application:

This world system will not evolve into heaven; it will be overthrown by heaven.

What throne are you defending that Jesus is about to dismantle?

The kingdom of Christ is not coming to compete; it's coming to conquer.

IV. Heaven's Response - Worship, Reward, and Wrath (vv. 16–18)

- **Read Revelation 11:16-18.**

"We give thanks... because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign."

A. Eternal Perspective Amid Earthly Chaos

- The 24 elders fall in worship. They're not surprised, they're grateful.
- The elder's worship because justice has arrived, rewards are coming and evil is ending.
- What seems chaotic on earth is coordinated in heaven.
- God's reign was never in question; it's now in manifestation.
- Heaven isn't nervous about the news. They're not stressed about the beast.
- They worship with gratitude because justice has come, and rewards are being handed out.

B. Two Eternal Outcomes

- Reward for the faithful; prophets, saints, and those who feared God.
- Wrath for the rebellious; those who destroyed the earth, resisted truth, rejected Christ.

Charles Spurgeon said, there are only two kinds of people:

- those who surrender to God
- and those God eventually hands over to themselves

Application:

Every action you take echoes into eternity.

If heaven is already worshiping the King, why are we still debating obedience on earth?

The judgment seat is real. Live like you'll stand before it; because you will.

V. Heaven Opens – Covenant and Consequences

- **Read Revelation 11:19.**

“Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of His covenant was seen...”

A. Heaven’s Sanctuary Is Unveiled

- The ark represents covenant, presence, and power, God’s faithfulness through the ages.
- Lightning, thunder, earthquake, and hail follow; God’s holiness confronts humanity’s sin.
- God’s presence is comfort to the redeemed and terror to the rebellious.

Warren Wiersbe: *“God’s covenant with His people is unbreakable. His presence is both comfort for the redeemed and terror for the rebellious.”*

Application:

The same God who invites you to covenant will confront you in judgment if you reject it. His presence is not just peace, its purity, power, and purpose.

Closing Challenge:

Revelation 11 is not fantasy. It’s the future.

- The Lamb is not weak...He’s roaring.

- The witnesses are not myths...they're models for us.
- The trumpet is not symbolic...it's sounding soon.
- The King isn't passive.... He reigns.

The world will kill the witnesses, But God will raise them.

The world will mock the kingdom, But God will manifest it.

The world will resist the truth, But God will reign regardless.

So, I ask you...

- Will you testify while there's still time?
- Will you tremble now, or when it's too late?
- Will you live for His glory... or die for your own?

Adrian Rogers: *"You are either a witness, or you are a traitor. There is no middle ground."*

Altar Call Invitation:

- To the not yet saved: Don't wait for the trumpet...run to the cross.
- To the half-hearted: Stop being impressed by a world that's about to be judged...be marked by heaven.
- To the discouraged: God sees you. You may feel weak—but His power raises up what the world tries to kill.
- To the born-again followers: You were born for this hour. Speak. Stand. Shine. Suffer, if you must...but don't stay silent.

Closing Prayer:

"King Jesus, we hear the trumpet echoing through Scripture. We see the kingdoms trembling beneath Your throne. We feel the urgency in the fire of Your Word. So today, we say: seal us. Send us. Shake us. May we live like Your witnesses—faithful, fearless, and fire-filled. Let every idol fall, every lie be exposed, and every heart bow before You. For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory—forever and ever. Amen."