

THE 2 WITNESSES

Revelation 11:1-14

Zechariah 4:2-14

2 Witnesses Are Compared to Two Olive Trees and Two Lamp Stands

WHY TWO WITNESSES?

God's Grace Provides Opportunity for Israel to Repent

- **God required two witnesses for competent legal testimony to secure a conviction (Du.17:6; 19:15; Nu.35:30).**
- **Their witness is mostly prophetic, yet their judicial testimony cries against the nation of Israel.**

2 WITNESSES SYMBOLS

“Sackcloth”

+ Distress and humiliation over Israel's unbelief

“Olive trees”

+ Olive trees are filled with oil picturing the power of the Spirit

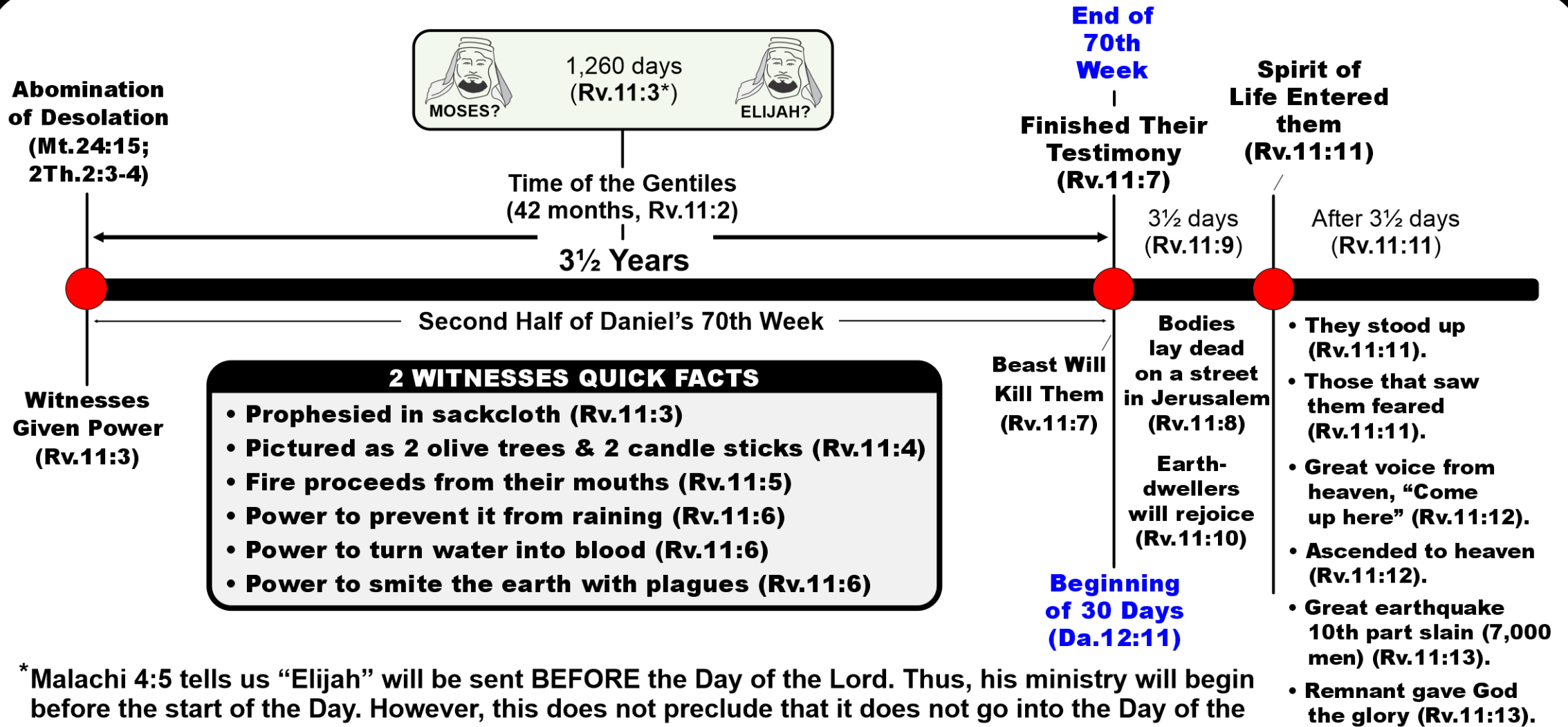
“Lampstands”

Bear witness to the truth of God in that day of darkness

= ISRAEL MUST REPENT NATIONALLY

- Israel will repent nationally which must take place for the Messiah to come
(Ps.79:1-13; 80:1-19; Is. 64:1-12; Ho.6:1-11; Jl.2:18-32; Zc.12:10; 13:7-9; Rm.11:25-27)
- It will take the horrors of the tribulation to turn the heart of Israel to God.

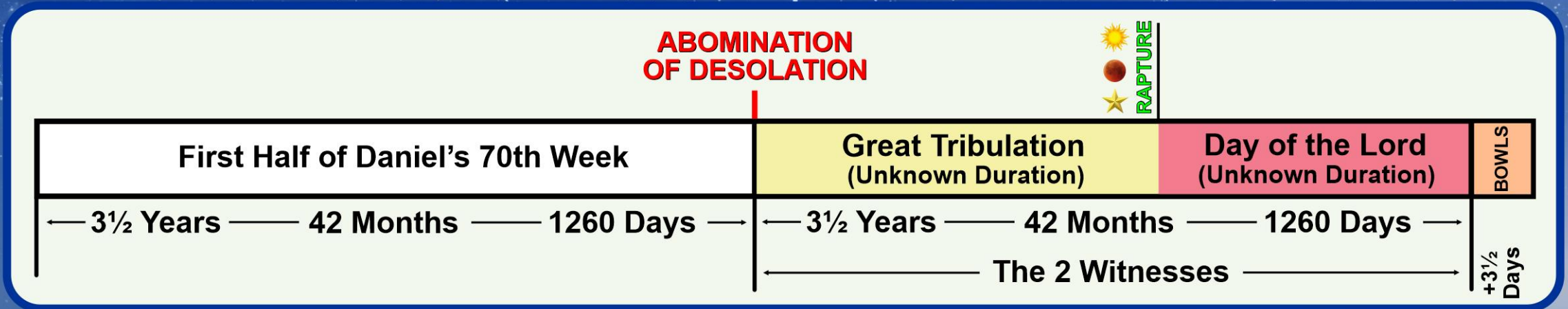
THE 2 WITNESSES — Rv.11:1-14



* Malachi 4:5 tells us "Elijah" will be sent BEFORE the Day of the Lord. Thus, his ministry will begin before the start of the Day. However, this does not preclude that it does not go into the Day of the Lord. It certainly appears he will minister till the end of Daniel's 70th week.

TIMING — 2 WITNESSES

- The 42 months, 1260 days and 3 1/2 years all refer to the same period of time.
- It would be quite confusing if people “arbitrarily” choose different halves of the week for those designations. That is, if 1260 days in Re.11:3 meant something different from 1260 days in Re.12:6.
- This will be from the midpoint of the week until the end of the week, which will be indicated by the sounding of the 7th trumpet.
- The fact that God gives us the duration (1260 days) of their ministry, makes this more important than who they are.



PROPHECY — 2 WITNESSES

- **Elijah will come as a witness to the nation of Israel prior to the arrival of the DOTL (Mi.4:5-6)**

⁵Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse (Mi.4:5-6).

- **“Elijah is coming first and restores all things” (Mk.9:12)**
- **Moses and Elijah are seen at the Transfiguration of Christ (Mt.17:1-5).**
- **This prophetic Scripture is not found fulfilled except in the ministry of the Two Witnesses**

DOES THE RAISING REPRESENT RESURRECTION?

¹¹Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. ¹²And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

REVELATION 11:11-12

DOES THE RAISING REPRESENT RESURRECTION?

Common Post-Tribulational Viewpoint

RESURRECTION LANGUAGE IS MISSING

The passage does not describe them as having been resurrected. If they represent the church being resurrected, this would be a good time to describe it. Now the two witnesses may be resurrected at that point but the text does not signal this. This would be an anticlimactic event at best.

RAISING OCCURS BEFORE TRUMPET

Post-Tribbers teach the resurrection occurs at the seventh trumpet, which they identify as “the last trumpet.” But watch the order of events. The two witnesses come back to life (11:11) then the seventh trumpet is blown (11:15). You would expect the trumpet to be blown followed by the resurrection.

RESURRECTION BETWEEN WRATH EVENTS OF GOD

Resurrection comes before wrath. The death and rising of the two witnesses occur between the sixth and seventh trumpet. “The second woe is past. Behold, the third woe is coming quickly” (11:14). Yet the Bible teaches that the resurrection takes place before God's wrath not after it (1Th.4-5; Mt.24:29-31; Rv.6-7).

2 WITNESSES ARE LITERAL PEOPLE

Some see the two witnesses as some entity like the church

- 1. Literal, physical bodies clothed in sackcloth (v.3)**
- 2. The symbols of two olive trees and lampstands do not their literalness (v.4)**
- 3. Dead LITERAL, PHYSICAL bodies in the street (v.7)**
- 4. In a LITERAL PHYSICAL street (v.8)**
- 5. One LITERAL city of Jerusalem (v.8)**
- 6. Not permit their dead LITERAL, PHYSICAL BODIES to be laid in a tomb (v.9)**
- 7. Stood on their literal, physical FEET (v.11)**
- 8. The instructions to “come up here” is addressed to individuals, not some entity (v.11)**
- 9. Their enemies watched them go up (v.12)**

Straining and using pseudo comparisons to make a case that these two individuals are actually an entity ignores the intent of the vision (Rv.11).

**And they that dwell upon the earth shall
rejoice over them, and make merry, and
shall send gifts one to another...
(Rv.11:10)**



...because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.