



Today's Message

Date: March 9, 2014
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Vindicated!*

Text: Revelation 11:1-14

Introduction: As we continue our study of the book of Revelation, we moved deeply into a section that describes terrible future events. They occur in a time called the Tribulation Period. Today's text is part of an interlude in the progressing action. It is as if the author steps back to let us see the "big picture" of what is taking place. These verses put the spotlight on the nation of Israel, God's chosen people.

I. What is this about?

- A. God has special affection for Israel. 1-2
 - 1. He will restore the faith of Israel . . . 1
 - 2. But she will first pass through "Great Tribulation." 2
- B. God will commission two witnesses to speak to Israel. 3-12
 - 1. They will speak for a specified time. 3
 - 2. They will speak with the power of the prophets. 4-6

3. They will be martyred in Jerusalem—to the joy of the whole world. 7-10
 4. They will be resurrected and vindicated by God. 11-12
- C. God will turn a remnant of Israel to faith. 13-14

II. What does it teach us?

Today's take-home truth: Evil does not have the final say--only God does.

III. What should we do with this lesson?

A. The appropriate response for Christians:

1. “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”
Romans 15:10
2. “Count it all joy when you meet trials of various kinds.” James 1:2
3. “For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.”
Philippians 1:21

B. The appropriate response for non-Christians:

1. Recognize that you are “dead in the trespasses and sins . . . following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—and [are] by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.” Ephesians 2:1-3
2. Turn to God who is “rich in mercy.”
Ephesians 2:4

Text: Revelation 11:1–14 (ESV)

¹ Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, “Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, ² but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. ³ And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”

⁴ These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. ⁵ And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. ⁶ They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire. ⁷ And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, ⁸ and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. ⁹ For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, ¹⁰ and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. ¹² Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, “Come up here!” And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them. ¹³ And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

¹⁴ The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.