

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Three and One Half

Two Faithful Witnesses Represent the Old Testament

Rev. 11:3 "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. 13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven."

The description of the two faithful witnesses point us to Moses and Elijah: "And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will." During Elijah's day, he called fire down from heaven and destroyed the two captains and their fifties. Also, Elijah prayed that it rain not on

Israel and it rained not for the space of three years and six months. During Moses day, God turned the waters of the river of Egypt into blood. Also, God poured out ten plagues on the land of Egypt during Moses day. Moses was the representative of the law. Elijah was the representative of the prophets. Together they represented the Old Testament also known as the law and the prophets.

Christ said in Luke 16:16: "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." The law and the prophets were God's testimony during the age of the law covenant that God made with the children of Israel on Mount Sinai. This testimony stood throughout the Old Testament age represented above by "a thousand two hundred and threescore days." A thousand two hundred and threescore days is three and a half years, which is the book of Revelations' figurative language for the Old Testament age.

The despisers of the law and the prophets sought to destroy the testimony of the Old Testament by destroying the Lord Jesus Christ. They thought that if they could get him to sin or to violate one of the prophecies or if they could kill him, then the Old Testament would become null and void. They were unable to get Jesus to sin and he fulfilled all that was written concerning him, but then he went to the cross and died and was in the grave for three days and three nights. These despisers thought they had accomplished their goal and rejoiced over what they thought were the dead bodies of the law and the prophets.

When Christ arose three and a half days after he was led out to be crucified, then the law and the prophets were no longer dead, but fulfilled to a jot and a tittle. The righteous judgment of God was proven and fulfilled. These despisers no longer had an excuse for their sins. They stood guilty before a just and holy God.

In both instances above, the three and a half represented the law covenant age and the covenant work of Jesus Christ.