

SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 45

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the NKJV and KJV.

THE TWO WITNESSES STUDY GUIDE

Revelation 11:3-6

We pick up our study where we left off in our last lesson, with the description of the two witnesses, the two olive trees, and the two lampstands.

Two Witnesses – Witnesses testify, and God’s witnesses testify of Him. Jesus says, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me” (John 5:39). The Bible is made up of two witnesses: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The two witnesses are the Word of the Lord which came to Elijah and to Moses (1 Kings 18:1; Exodus 4:10, 11). It is by God’s Word, His two witnesses, that plagues come down to this earth and rain stopped falling for three and a half years.

Clothed in Sackcloth – symbolizes weeping and mourning under the time of great distress and persecution (Esther 3:13). With this added insight, we understand that God’s two witnesses testify in a time of distress and persecution.

Two Olive Trees/Lampstands – Verse four opens with, “these are the two olive trees and the two lampstands....” So, the identity of the two olive trees and two lampstands is that they are the two witnesses, that is the Old and New Testament. Zechariah 4:1-6 confirms this:

“Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. 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. Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left.’ So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, ‘What are these, my lord?’ 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.’ 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.’”

Lampstands – A lampstand in John’s day was a vessel with oil in it. The one that Zechariah saw had bowls on top. Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. A lamp will go out if the oil is not replenished, and these stands were being replenished by a pipe into each one of them. The source of the oil was from

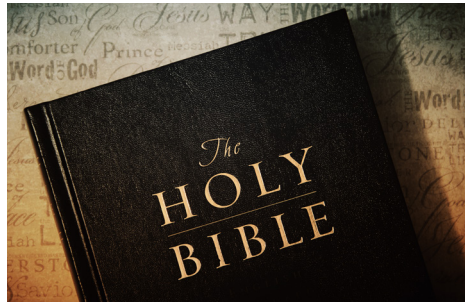
the two olive trees on each side of the lampstands.

Olive trees – When Zechariah confesses that he does not know what the dream means, the angels’ explanation is this: “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts” (Zechariah 4:6). The important focus here are the words “this is the word of the Lord.”

Summary – The two witnesses represent the Old and New Testament, which testify of God. They are also symbolized as two olive trees and lampstands that receive the oil of the Holy Spirit, which

is the inspiration of the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21).

Remember the repeated messages to the seven churches? He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit (through the Word) is saying to the churches. The messages to the seven churches illustrates the Holy Spirit speaking to the Churches through the Word (John 1:1-3). Revelation 11 pictures the Holy Spirit (Oil) testifying through the two witnesses, the Word (Lampstands or Olive trees).



The two witnesses represent the Old and New Testament which testify of God.

KEY SCRIPTURES

John 5:39 SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Zechariah 4:6 BY MY SPIRIT SAYS THE LORD

2 Tim. 3:16 SCRIPTURE GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD

Revelation 11:6 THESE HAVE POWER TO SHUT HEAVEN

Throughout the Dark Ages, the light of God's Word never went out altogether. The Word of God ministered to persecuted believers by the Holy Spirit. No power was allowed to stop the oil from flowing or the light of truth from shining.

The prophecy found in today's Scripture tells us what happens when anyone tries to interfere with the Word of God. There is power in the Word of God.

"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" (Revelation 11:6). In the days of Moses, the rivers ran red as blood and great plagues fell by

God's Word. In the days of Elijah, the Word of the Lord came to him to declare to the king that no rain would fall for three and a half years. This same power is portrayed in the book of Revelation. A God of love longs to protect us from the final outpouring in the seven last plagues (Revelation 16). We will continue to see this protective love, as we study further. ★

