

# SALVATION IN SYMBOLS & SIGNS

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Corresponds to Program 46

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

## THE TWO WITNESSES, PART 2 STUDY GUIDE

### Revelation 11:5-9

**W**e learned that the two witnesses are the Old and New Testaments—the Holy Spirit inspired Word of God:

“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” (Revelation 11:5).

Let’s compare this with Revelation 22:

“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book” (Revelation 22:18).

### BEAST FROM THE BOTTOMLESS PIT

A beast in Bible prophecy represents an earthly kingdom or nation (Daniel 7:17, 23). The bottomless pit represents this world in a state of spiritual darkness (dark ages). This earthly power would make war on the Bible—the two witnesses—and overcome them and kill them (Revelation 11:7).

### SPIRITUAL EGYPT AND SODOM

Two more clues are given in Revelation 11:8, Sodom represents immorality (2 Peter 2:6) and Egypt represents an atheistic power that denies God (Exodus 5:2). So did the dark ages produce the rise of an atheistic power? The answer from history is a definite yes. The people of France revolted against the dark image of God presented by the medieval church and swung all the way to the opposite extreme banning the Bible and religion. For the first time in history an entire nation officially declared that there was no God. The Bible was burned in the

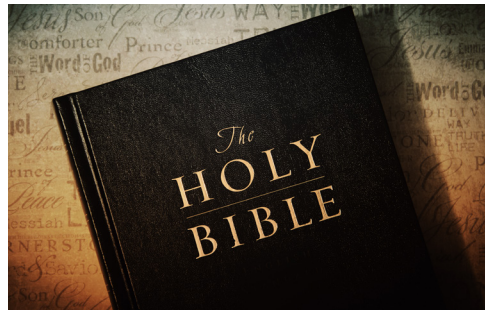
streets. In this way the two witnesses lay dead in the streets, banned, burned and removed from French society.

### THREE AND A HALF DAYS

We have learned about the day-for-a-year principle (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34). Applying it here we find that the Bible would be banned for three and a half years, exactly what happened in France. Finally, as the situation became dire, some began to understand the curse that descends on a nation that rejects the Word of God. During these three and a half years,

the witness, the Bible, lay as dead men in the streets. But soon, a change came, and the Bible reemerged into society.

The people had rejoiced at the demise of the Bible. They misunderstood God’s character and saw Him as harsh and condemning. Yet as France began to reap the misery that comes from rejecting God, the ban on the Bible was lifted and the Word of God was allowed again.



“These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy...”

### REVELATION 11:6

### THEY ASCENDED TO HEAVEN

The breath of life returned to the Scriptures and a reversal of tidings began. As the nations surrounding France looked on in horror at what had happened to that once-great nation, fear fell on them, lest they succumb to that same path. The

Word of God resurged in Europe and Bible societies began to spring up. The Bible was exalted or lifted up to heaven, and many began to cry, “Give glory to God!”

The history of France during that terrible time is well described in Revelation 11:13. The misery that fell on that nation was as dreadful as an earthquake, with the “epicenter” being Paris. The “seven thousand” represents God’s faithful people who lost their lives throughout France (1 Kings 19:18).

### KEY SCRIPTURES

**Daniel 7:17** THOSE GREAT BEASTS ARE FOUR KINGS **Rev. 11:11** AFTER 3 1/2 DAYS BREATH OF LIFE ENTERED THEM

**Ezekiel 4:6** A DAY FOR EACH YEAR

**Exodus 5:2** PHARAOH SAID, "WHO IS THE LORD?"

As many in Europe and America looked on, they saw the hand of God's prophetic Word. The evidence was undeniable, producing a wave of faith that lifted the Bible high as noted in the words of Revelation 11:12, "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." They saw the end of the Ottoman Empire, and comprehended the

"deadly wound" dealt to the Papacy by Napoleon's army. As a result of this, faith in the Scriptures was strengthened and many began to "give glory to the God of heaven."

How is it with you? Do you see the hand of God moving in the events of our world today? Do you also want to "give glory to the God of heaven?" ★

