



Daily Verse and Comment

Revelation 11:1-5

(1) Then I was given a reed like a measuring rod. And the angel stood, saying, "Rise and measure the temple of God, the altar, and those who worship there. (2) But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot *for* forty-two months. (3) And I will give *power* to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." (4) These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth. (5) And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner.

New King James Version

In Revelation 11, during the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord, John describes the [Two Witnesses](#) as having God-given power to witness and, if need be, call fire down from heaven to destroy their enemies. While they preach God's last warning to the human and demonic powers of earth just before the final Trumpet sounds, [God](#) gives them supernatural protection.

Before the start of their 3½-year commission, the Two Witnesses will already have been witnessing by their *example* and through their *preaching*. They will already be producing good works. God will inspire them to utter a specific message directed at the [descendants of Israel](#) and the rest of [the world](#), indicting the world of [sin](#).

[Revelation 11:3](#) says:

And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in [sackcloth](#).

The word "power" is not in the Greek text, which simply reads, "I will give to my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy. . . ." Paraphrased, God says, "I will grant to My Two Witnesses the right or power of prophesying during the time specified." Translators must add a word like "power," "privilege," "opportunity," or "boldness" to complete the sense in English.

The meaning is not that God would send two witnesses to prophesy, but that they are existing witnesses who receive additional gifts and powers. During that time God will give them the privilege and the strength to proclaim the truth that they will be commissioned to communicate as His "witnesses" to mankind.

The phrase "and they will prophecy" does not necessarily mean that they would predict future events, but that they would proclaim the truth as God had revealed it. The indication here is that the Two Witnesses would publicly preach or maintain the truth before the world.

God promises protection to those who obey Him, provided it is His will. Some of the faithful are given the spiritual strength to be martyred, and others are protected from such unpleasantness. God decides for His own purpose how He wants us to represent Him. [Revelation 11:5](#) describes part of God's witness protection program, "If anyone wants to harm [the Two Witnesses], fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies." [Christ](#) is reliable and true. Not a hair of our head is affected without His approval.

— Martin G. Collins

To learn more, see:
['You Are My Witnesses...'](#)

Related Topics:
[Day of the Lord](#)
[Great Tribulation, The](#)

[Two Witnesses](#)
[Witness](#)

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