

10/15/23 "Victory Comes," Revelation 11, MEV

**INTRODUCTION:** What do you think of when I say, "bow" before someone?

Interpretation of 11 among most difficult in Revelation

John wrote Revelation ~25 yrs after Roman armies of Titus destroyed Herod's temple in 70 AD

**MAIN IDEA: Let us bow before Jesus while we live.** Why? Here are three reasons.

### **I. First, God protects people in heaven (1-2)**

**Measure:** preparation for preservation or destruction (Stamp)

A. those in heaven are secure... a safe place (1)

- No possible harm, sorrow, temptation

B. those on earth live in violence & hostility

1. in anger (18) against God

2. pressing people (ch. 11: Israel) to examine faith

- God wants to preserve Israel (& all people)

**ILLUSTRATION:** Uncle Johnny in tent; "tag"

### **II. Second, God empowers His witnesses on earth. (3-13)**

Explanation of two witnesses

▼ some think they represent church; some think they are 2 people

- Moses & Elijah or Elijah & Enoch?

- new men (like John the Baptist coming in power of Elijah)?

▼ candlesticks & olive trees

**Zechariah 4:4, MEV:** And he [an angel] said to me: "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel, saying: Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of Hosts."

3. 3½ years: Great Tribulation or first 3½? Me: Great Tribulation

A. to point people to Jesus

1. by prophecy... say what the Lord has told them (3)

2. by testimony... tell about Jesus & salvation (7)

B. to cause people to fear God by showing His power: fire to devour, drought, water to blood, plagues

C. but not to protect witnesses permanently in the body

killed in Jerusalem, bodies exposed for ridicule, rejoicing, exchanging gifts & making merry

D. God will raise them up before their enemies

**1Peter 3:16, MEV:** Have a good conscience so that evildoers who speak evil of you and falsely accuse your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

1. followed by judgment (earthquake, 1/10 of city destroyed, 7,000 died)

2. causing unbelievers to give glory to God (does not mean they confess Christ as Lord)

**TRANSITION:** vs. 14, 2<sup>nd</sup> woe past; 3<sup>rd</sup> coming (Rev. 8:13: Woe, woe, woe ...next 3 trumpets; 1 trumpet more)

**ILLUSTRATION:** Paul, Peter, Elijah

### **III. Finally, what is spoken in heaven is earth's reality (15-19)**

A. Christ's reign: over world's nations

B. Christ's judgment: wrath for anger; reward to faithful, "destruction" to those who "destroy" the earth

Destroy the earth: seducing people to idolatry

Destroy them: to corrupt throughout (will reject Christ knowingly, becoming utterly sinful, without defense when judged)

- punishment is eternal separation from God, eternal torment

- annihilationism (ceasing to exist) is a heresy (false teaching)

**ILLUSTRATION:** Bass Reeves & conjurer

**CONCLUSION:** Corrie Ten Boom in Germany post BofHS

**ALTAR:** Will you come to the altar and "bow" before Jesus, leaving your pride, self-sufficiency, fears, angers, bitterness?