

REVELATION II – WITNESSING, PERSECUTIONS, AND DISCIPLINE

“IT IS A BIBLICAL BLUNDER TO REDUCE THE GREAT TRIBULATION TO A FUTURE PERIOD WHEN GOD IS DOING NOTHING BUT POURING OUT WRATH FOR THE PURPOSE OF RETRIBUTION. INSTEAD, WE SHOULD READ THE SO-CALLED GREAT TRIBULATION AS A TIME OF THE GREATEST EVANGELISTIC IMPACT IN HISTORY, A REACHING-OUT THAT OCCURS IN THE MIST OF CLASHING EMPIRES. BABYLON'S PERSECUTIONS ARE MET BY FAITHFUL WITNESSES AND MARTYRDOMS, [...] EVEN SOME COMMITTED TO THE DRAGON AND THE WILD THINGS CONVERT!”

SCOT MCKNIGHT, “REVELATION FOR THE REST OF US.” P. 130

Read REVELATION II:1-4

SOMETIMES, WHEN GOD ASKS A PROPHET TO “MEASURE” SOMETHING IN A VISION, IT IS MEANT TO SET IT APART FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD. WHEN SEPARATED, IT MAY REMAIN SAFE AND PROTECTED. THE “COURT OUTSIDE” WAS THE COURT OF THE GENTILES, SO THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THIS VISION IS POINTING TO A TIME FOR ISRAEL.

TWO WITNESSES, ALLUDED TO AS OLIVE TREES AND LAMPSTANDS THAT STAND BEFORE THE LORD. LAMPSTANDS MAY REFER TO THE CHURCH, AND OLIVE TREES MAY BE ISRAEL.

1. Numbers: What might be the correlation between 1,260 days, 42 months, and 3 ½ days?

Read REVELATION II:5-10

2. What are they witnesses to/of?
3. What powers are given to the two witnesses?
4. In what city is this vision taking place (see vs. 8)?
5. Reread vs. 10, and chew on it a minute.

Read REVELATION II:11-14

6. What happens to the witnesses?
7. What happens on earth?
8. Does the witness of the martyrs produce faith in some of Earth's inhabitants? (vs. 13)
9. Vs.14 states: “The second woe has passed.” Look back at chapter 9, and review the first two “Woes.”

REVELATION II – WITNESSING, PERSECUTIONS, AND DISCIPLINE

Read REVELATION II:15-19

10. Use your imagination in reading vs. 15. What do you hear?
11. The Twenty-four Elders are falling on their faces, again, but look at what they say in the very last phrase of vs. 18. How does that sit with our current climate crisis?
12. Again, IF this vision is alluding to Israel, why is the first half of vs. 19 important?