



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



Vol. 15 Issue 274

Oct. 10, 2011

Prayer

Lord, I ask You to help me stay fiercely committed to fulfilling the assignment You have given to me. Forgive me for the times I've given in to weakness and allowed myself to complain when I should have grabbed hold of Your strength and pressed full steam ahead. I repent for allowing my flesh to talk me into moments of defeat. Today I choose to push forward to do exactly what You've told me to do. Holy Spirit, if the devil creates an impasse for me, please show me a better route to take so I can fulfill my divine assignment! I pray this in Jesus' name! Amen.

Worship Music

[Give Me A Clean Heart- Fred Hammond](#)

[Because He Lives I Can Face Tomorrow](#)

[Waging War - CeCe Winans](#)

[It Ain't Over- CeCe Winans](#)

[The Test Of Time- CeCe Winans](#)

Scripture

Revelation 11

Revelation 11:1-19 (AMP)

1 A REED [as a measuring rod] was then given to me, [shaped] like a staff, and I was told: Rise up and measure the sanctuary of God and the altar [of incense], and [number] those who worship there. 2 But leave out of your measuring the court outside the sanctuary of God; omit that, for it is given over to the Gentiles (the nations), and they will trample the holy city underfoot for 42 months (three and one-half years). 3 And I will grant the power of prophecy to My two witnesses for 1,260 (42 months; three and one-half years), dressed in sackcloth. 4 These [witnesses] are the two olive trees and the two lampstands which stand before the Lord of the earth. 5 And if anyone attempts to injure them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their enemies; if anyone should attempt to harm them, thus he is doomed to be slain. 6 These [two witnesses] have power to shut up the sky, so that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying (their prediction of events relating to Christ's kingdom and its speedy triumph); and they also have power to turn the waters into blood and to smite and scourge the earth with all manner of plagues as often as they choose. 7 But when they have finished their testimony and their evidence is all in, the beast (monster) that comes up out of the Abyss (bottomless pit) will wage war on them, and conquer them and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies [will lie exposed] in the open street (a public square) of the great city which is in a spiritual sense called [by the mystical and allegorical names of] Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. 9 For three and a half days men from the races and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and will not allow them to be put in a tomb. 10 And those who dwell on the earth will gloat and exult over them and rejoice exceedingly, taking their ease and sending presents [in congratulation] to one another, because these two prophets had been such a vexation and trouble and torment to all the dwellers on the earth. 11 But after three and a half days, by God's gift the breath of life again entered into them, and they rose up on their feet, and great dread and terror fell on those who watched them. 12 Then [the two witnesses] heard a strong voice from heaven calling to them, Come up here! And before the very eyes of their enemies they ascended into heaven in a cloud. 13 And at that [very] hour there was a tremendous earthquake and one tenth of the city was destroyed (fell); seven thousand people perished in the earthquake, and those who remained were filled with dread and terror and were awe-struck, and they glorified the God of heaven. 14 The second woe (calamity) has passed; now the third woe is speedily to come. 15 The seventh angel then blew [his] trumpet, and there were mighty voices in heaven, shouting, The dominion (kingdom, sovereignty, rule) of the world has now come into the possession and become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ (the Messiah), and He shall reign forever and ever (for the eternities of the eternities)! 16 Then the twenty-four elders [of the heavenly Sanhedrin], who sit on their thrones before God, prostrated

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themselves before Him and worshiped, 17 Exclaiming, To You we give thanks, Lord God Omnipotent, [the One] Who is and [ever] was, for assuming the high sovereignty and the great power that are Yours and for beginning to reign. 18 And the heathen (the nations) raged, but Your wrath (retribution, indignation) came, the time when the dead will be judged and Your servants the prophets and saints rewarded—and those who revere (fear) Your name, both low and high and small and great—and [the time] for destroying the corrupters of the earth. 19 Then the sanctuary of God in heaven was thrown open, and the ark of His covenant was seen standing inside in His sanctuary; and there were flashes of lightning, loud rumblings (blasts, mutterings), peals of thunder, an earthquake, and a terrific hailstorm.



Revelation 11. The Two Witnesses

The Temple Measured, Revelation 11:1–2

A continuation of the interlude between the sixth and seventh trumpets. John is instructed to measure the temple of God, the altar, and the worshipers in the temple. He is told not to measure the outer court, which was the court for the Gentiles. We are told that the Holy City will be left to be trampled by the Gentiles for 42 months (3½ of the seven years of tribulation). Some think this refers to the destruction of Jerusalem in a.d. 70. Others understand it to be, not the material temple, but "spiritual Israel," the church. Some futurist interpreters believe that a new temple will literally be built, leading up to and during the first 3½ years of the tribulation period.

The image seems to draw a distinction between the worshipers in the temple and the "Gentiles" outside. Futurist interpreters, many of whom believe that the church will be raptured at the beginning of the tribulation period, see the worshipers referred to here as the faithful, believing Jews or as all people who have accepted Christ during the Great Tribulation.

The Two Witnesses, Revelation 11:3–13

The two witnesses are said to prophesy in sackcloth during the same period that the Holy City will be trampled by the nations (a thousand, two hundred, and three score days = 1,260 days or 42 weeks or 3½ years). They are identified as the "two olive trees and two lamp stands." This is a reference to Zechariah 4:1–14, where it is explained that the lamp stand is the temple of God and the olive trees the Spirit, through whom Zerubbabel, of the messianic family, would complete the temple of God that had for years lain in ruins (see Zechariah 4).

Who are the two witnesses? Many are the answers, but none of them is without difficulties. Some would say Paul and Peter, whose bodies at that time lay in the city of Rome. Others see them as the true church, which will bear witness to Christ throughout the whole Christian age. The futurist interpreter generally believes that the witnesses are two literal people, returned to earth and testifying with supernatural power in the days of the Antichrist. There is a great deal of speculation regarding the identity of these witnesses. The most common theories are that the witnesses are Elijah and Enoch or Elijah and Moses. In Malachi 3:1 and 4:5 we see a specific prophecy that suggests that Elijah will be sent "before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." In one sense this was fulfilled in John the Baptist (Matthew 11:13–14), but it may be that there is another fulfillment in the future. It is also interesting to note that Elijah did not die a physical death but was taken up into heaven in a fiery chariot (2 Kings 9–11). Elijah was a prophet to Israel. Many believe Moses to be the other witness along with Elijah. He appeared with Elijah during the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–8), and his body was protected by God (Jude 9). Enoch is a candidate for being one of the two witnesses because, like Elijah, he did not die but was taken up by God.

While the identity of the witnesses is a matter that is unclear at present, in time it will become clear. The heart of the matter is that God will provide witnesses—prophets who speak on His behalf, even during the most terrible time the earth has seen.

God will provide divine protection for the witnesses during the 1,260 days (3½ years) during which they will prophesy. There will be many who will hate them and reject their warning messages. Those who try to harm them will be devoured by fire that comes from the witnesses' mouths. The witnesses will also have power to create a drought (like Elijah), turn water to blood, and start any kind of plague (like Moses).

After the 3½ years, "the beast" from the Abyss will attack and kill them in the same city where Christ was crucified. This is the first time that the beast is mentioned in Revelation, and clearly he is a demonic being.

The bodies of the witnesses will lie in the streets for 3½ days, and "men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial." Today's global communications could easily make it possible for every person around the world to see the witnesses' dead bodies. People will actually be celebrating their death. What a wretched situation!

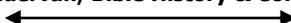
After 3½ days (notice the similarity to Christ's time in the tomb), God will breath life into them. Their resurrection will bring terror to the earth. Shortly after they come to life, they will be called up to heaven and ascend in a cloud while the world watches (note the similarity with Revelation 4:1). Their rapture will be followed by a violent earthquake that kills 7000 people.

This is the end of the sixth trumpet and the second woe (see Revelation 9:12). The third woe is about to begin (11:14).

The Seventh Trumpet, Revelation 11:15–19

The end has come. The long conflict is over. We are transported beyond the Day of Judgment. The whole has reached its glorious consummation. Some believe that the rest of the book is a continuation of the first part. However, there are so many similarities that connect the following chapters to the earlier chapters that it seems more likely that the writer returns to proceed anew on a different line. In other words, chapters 6–11 run parallel or concurrently with chapters 12–19:15. The worship service John witnesses in chapter 11 is the same worship of the returning King that we are told about in chapter 19.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & Commentaries; pages 938-940)



The Two Witnesses: VV1-13 This passage breaks the sequence of events and tells the story of the two witnesses. V1 The Antichrist will allow the Jews to rebuild their temple. V2 The Jews will lose control of Jerusalem for 42 months. V3 These two witnesses are primarily to the Jews. Sackcloth was worn by the prophets as a sign of mourning for the condition of the nation. 1,260 days equals three and one half prophetic years. V4 Zechariah 4 contains a vision, of the olive trees and the candlesticks. God explained that He would abundantly supply His power to those who would call on Him. The implication is that the two witnesses will be supplied with God's power in a mighty way. V5 Elijah was able to call down fire from heaven on those who sought to arrest him. V6 Elijah went to King Ahab and predicted a drought Moses dealt with Pharaoh of Egypt when God sent the plagues. Some Bible scholars think Moses

and Elijah will be the two witnesses for the above reasons. Also, in Malachi 4:5, God promised to send Elijah before the Great Day of the Lord; and in Matthew 17:11, Jesus said that Elijah would come and restore all things. V7 Only when they had finished their testimony could the beast touch them. V8 The city of Jerusalem will be so corrupt that God will call it spiritually Sodom and Egypt. V9 In John's time it would have been impossible for all the people of the earth to see the two dead bodies. Today, television will make it possible. V15 We take up the story in sequence again. The kingdoms of the world which Jesus Christ purchased back for God will be in His control again. V18 Daniel 12:1-3 also speaks of the judgment of all men.

(New Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; commentaries; pages 197-198)

Why Should We Stop Just Because the Devil Gets in the Way? 1 Thessalonians 2:18: If you are going to do anything significant for the Kingdom of God, you must know in advance that Satan will not be delighted about it. He will try to stop you, thwart you, and dissuade you from staying on track. The last thing he wants is for you to step into the middle of God's will for your life, because he knows the moment you do, mighty and powerful things will begin to happen that negatively affect his dark kingdom. Therefore, Satan will most definitely do all he can to keep you from getting where God wants you to be! In the January 17 Sparkling Gem, we looked at a key word in First Thessalonians 2:18. Today I want us to look at this scripture again, for in this verse, Paul gives his own testimony of how Satan tried to hinder him from doing what God put in his heart. He wrote, "Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us." The word "hindered" is the Greek word *egkopto*. As noted earlier, this word was used to depict a runner who was elbowed out of the race by a fellow runner. However, it was also used to picture the breaking up of a road to make it impassable for travelers. This kind of impasse made it impossible for a traveler to get where he needed to go. As a result, the traveler's trip was hindered, delayed, postponed, or temporarily put off. The traveler could still take another route to get to the same destination, but the alternate route was inconvenient, cost a lot of extra money, and took precious time that could have been used another way. By using this word, Paul informs us that demonic attacks inconvenienced him on occasion. Satan craftily sought to abort advances of the Gospel by arranging unexpected problems that delayed, postponed, and hindered the missions God had placed on Paul's heart. But did Paul sit down and cry because plans didn't work out as he intended? Did he throw in the towel and quit? No! The apostle Paul never stopped just because the devil tried to get in his way! No impasse or roadblock was going to stop him! He refused to take no for an answer! He was going to get the job done, regardless of the inconvenience, money, time, or effort involved. He was so stubborn about doing what he was called to do that he always found a way to do it. An example of this is the time Paul left the city of Ephesus because his life was in danger (see Acts 19 and 20). Paul had given three years of his life to the believers in Ephesus. When he left, he could have cried, "Oh, I don't understand why the Lord let this happen! He knows how much I love the leadership of Ephesus!" Paul could have bemoaned, "Now I'll never see the Ephesian believers again. The devil has attacked me, and the door to Ephesus is permanently closed for me!" But Paul understood that crying and lamenting don't change a thing. So instead, he went down the road to the seaside town of Miletus and secured a facility for a meeting. Then he called for the elders of Ephesus to meet him there! Paul figured if he couldn't go to Ephesus, why not invite the leadership to come see him? Why resign himself to defeat just because he had hit an impasse in the road? Paul knew that there is more than one way to accomplish a goal. So he put his brain to work and found a way to do what God wanted him to do. Why should we stop just because the devil gets in the way? If that were the case, we might as well stop everything we're doing for the Lord right now! There will never be a time that the devil just lets us do what is in our hearts. We must be determined to keep doing what we're called to do even if the devil tries to slam the door shut in our faces. So what if Satan shut the door to Ephesus? That was a good time for Paul to look for an open window! If he couldn't go to the elders, why not call them to him? Paul discovered an open window in Miletus. He called for the leaders, met with them, and finished his assignment, exactly as God had ordered him to do. Mission accomplished! You see, Paul had an attitude that would not give up. It didn't matter how much opposition was leveled against him, he had already decided he would outlive the opposition. Somehow he'd find a way to do what God had called him to do. You can do anything God calls you to do too! Determine in your heart that you will not allow Satan to do anything to stop you, thwart you, or dissuade you from staying on track with the assignment God has given you. God's will for your life is where mighty and powerful things are going to happen! That is why the devil is putting up such a fuss to try to keep you from getting there. He's afraid of what will happen if you actually do what God has put in your heart to do. So dig in your heels, and determine that you are not giving in or giving up. Refuse to back up or relent, and keep on pressing ahead. The devil may have put an impasse in the road before you, but that doesn't mean the show is over! If you'll listen to the Holy Spirit, He'll show you another route to get you where you need to be. The Holy Spirit needs a partner who is committed. So just commit yourself to pressing ahead, regardless of the opposition. As you do, the Spirit of God will empower you to conquer every attack that comes against you. Then He will masterfully show you another and more effective way to fulfill your divine assignment. In the end, the devil will be sorry he messed with you!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER: Has there been a time in your life when it seemed like an impasse stood between you and what God wanted you to do? How did you respond to that impasse? If you listened to the Holy Spirit and found another, better route to finish the task before you, did it thrill your heart to realize that He knows how to get around every attack of the enemy? What did you learn by following the Holy Spirit rather than allowing discouragement to hold you back from fulfilling your divine assignment? Who are the people in your life who seem blocked from doing what God wants them to do? Could you be an encouragement to these individuals by contacting them and sharing how God supernaturally led you around impasses in the past? Determine in your heart that you will not allow the devil to do anything to stop you, thwart you, or dissuade you from staying on track with the assignment God has given you. Isn't it time for you to start declaring that you can do anything God calls you to do? Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

(Word 9 Bible Software: Bible Software, multiple translations, dictionary, atlas, sermons of the past saints, concordance, 2005)
(The Everyday Life Bible; Amplified, 2005, Joyce Meyers, Scripture, Commentaries, pages 2135-2137)