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THE FORTY-TWO MONTHS OF REVELATION 11 AND REVELATION 13, THEIR TIME AND TYPES

Through B avelation II, verses 1 to 14 we learn that any venty nower the held pounds pro-

"And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished." Dan. 12:7.

By this scripture we are told that there is to be a period of a "time" (one year), "times" (two years), "and an half" (six months), totaling 3 1/2 years or 42 months after which the power of the holy people will be scattered (destroyed). By that time all the wonders of Daniel's book will have come to pass.

What are some of the unfulfilled wonders of Daniel's prophecy?--The king of the north is yet to plant his tabernacles in the glorious holy mountain (Dan. 11:45); Michael is then to stand up to deliver His people from the great time of trouble; and the righteous and wicked

now asleep in their graves that are to come up in the special resurrection, will come forth. All of these wonders are to be fulfilled by the time the <u>power</u> of the holy people is destroyed, Daniel was told.

Through Revelation II, verses I to 13 we learn that the only power the holy people possess is the power that is in the Two Witnesses (the Word of God in His church), for without this God's true people would be like any other people--without power. For forty-two months when the Gentiles are still treading the Holy City, the Two Witnesses prophesy with great power in various ways as is symbolically described in the chapter. At the end of the period, the beast (Christendom) rises in war against them and kills them (puts them out of operation). This is what is referred to in Daniel 12:7 by the scattering of the power of the holy people.

This period of 42 months follows the commission given to those who were to go to many nations (Rev. 10:11) to bring into the church a people out of which 144,000 worshipers in the temple (church) could be measured or numbered preparatory to the harvest of the Gentiles who are in the "court" outside the "temple" (Rev. 11:2).

Since the message contained in The Shepherd's Rod publications which enlightened us

on this subject was completed about three years ago, we may know that the "rain" (fresh messages--Deut. 32:1-3) has stopped (Rev. 11:6), and that the forty-two months of Revelation II and Daniel 12 will soon be over, and that the time for the "killing" of the Two Witnesses is fast approaching.

Let us now consider the 42-month period of Revelation 13:5 which is to occur sometime after the deadly wound on the leopard-like beast is healed.

also a tenti nerr of the city (church) in stain.

The beast represents Christendom, the power which is to blaspheme God and His tabernacles and them which dwell in heaven, and is also to overcome the saints during the last 42 months of its existence.

Since it is a true fact borne out by prophecy that God's people are never to be overcome after they have been reaccepted by God and had restored to them the promised Kingdom, this prophecy must therefore foretell the last events surrounding the time the Kingdom is being given to the Holy people nevermore to be trod under the feet of the unrighteous (Rev. 11:2; Dan. 7:14, 18).

There are then two periods of 42 months. The first is the period of Revelation 11:1-13 which precedes the killing of the Two Witnesses, and the second is the one of Revelation 13

in which the leopard-like beast representing Christendom blasphemes God and overcomes the saints, causing for them the "time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7). Thus is identified the power which will kill the Two Witnesses. Shortly thereafter, however, they rise in exaltation in the sight of their enemies at which time also a tenth part of the city (church) is slain, resulting in its purification.

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During both these 42-month periods God's primary endeavor is in behalf of modern Judah and Israel who represent the two main divisions in Christendom; namely, first the Laodiceans (Judah) from which come the 144,000 of Revelation 7:1-4 and 14:1-5, and the other Protestants (Israel) who will join Judah (Ezek. 37:18, 19; Zech. 10:6; Jer. 31:6) when she is strengthened and placed in Zion.

In comparing the setting up of the Christian church with the setting up of God's Kingdom, we find the former work to be a perfect type of the latter as indicated in the following similarities:

(1) Christ's work for the Jews 3 1/2 years before His crucifixion is the type of the present ministry of the Two Witnesses now in their siege in modern Judah (the church which is keeping all the commandments and having the Spirit of Prophecy).

IN SUMMARY the tro

- (2) The crucifixion and resurrection of Christ is the perfect portrayal of the death and exaltation of the Two Witnesses after the completion of their 3 1/2 year ministry which will yield the 144,000 numbered servants of God (Rev. 7:1-4), the antitype of the 120 numbered group from Christ's ministry upon whom fell the first Pentecost (Acts 1:15).
- (3) The 3 1/2 years the Apostles ministered for the benefit of Israel after the crucifixion

to the stoning of Stephen (Acts 13:46) is the type of the 3 1/2 years that Judah (the 144,000) will labor primarily in the interest of Israel (the Protestant Christians), when they proclaim with a Loud Cry the Three Angels' Messages (Rev. 14:6-11; 18:1, 2).

- (4) The persecution which started at the crucifixion and continued on is paralleled by the persecution of the saints exercised first by the leopard-like beast during the 42 months he is allowed to continue (Rev. 13:5), and next by the image of the beast (Rev. 13:14; Rev. 17).
- (5) After their 3 1/2 year effort solely for Israel, the Apostles turned to the Gentiles; likewise after the 3 1/2 years ministry for the Protestants, God's servants in the antitype will issue to His people in Babylon (Rev. 17) the final call to come out of her (Rev. 18:4).

IN SUMMARY, the most somber fact to be noted from this study is that God's efforts are about to turn from Laodicea to His people in the rest of Christendom. The event that will mark the end of God's pleading with His church will be the warring of Christendom upon the Two Witnesses.

The most encouraging aspect of this study is that the setting up of the Kingdom of Christ--hope of the ages--is "not hidden from thee, neither is it far off." Deut. 30:11.

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THE HUMILIATION AND EXALTATION OF "THE TWO WITNESSES"

Revelation 11:1-13

In order to understand correctly the eleventh chapter of Revelation, it is necessary to study first the tenth chapter, as the two chapters are connected.

An angel with a rainbow above his head came from heaven to earth (Rev. 10:1). He had a book in his hand, and he stood with one foot upon the earth and the other upon the sea.

There of course can be no rainbow without sunlight and rain. And the Scriptures say, "My doctrine shall drop as the rain, My speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass, because I will publish the name of the Lord..." Deut. 32:2, 3. Spiritual rain is, as given in the marginal rendering of it in Joel 2:23, "a teacher of righteousness." It is revealed Truth sent to aid in the proper growth and development of God's people for the spiritual harvest, just as natural rain causes the crops to grow and mature for the natural harvest.

The angel, therefore, came from heaven in a time when revealed Truth was falling. The book which he held in his hand and then opened, must represent the book of Daniel, the only book that is to be opened in the time of the end (Dan. 12:4).

John asked the angel for the book, and the angel gave it to him and instructed him to eat it, and he also warned John that it would be sweet in his mouth and bitter in his stomach.

John's experience with the book is a fitting symbolism of the disappointment of the Millerites who, as a result of studying Daniel's prophecy of the 2300 days (Dan. 8:14), understood that Christ's second advent to earth would occur in 1844. Their expectations were sweet to them, and soon they had sent the glad tidings throughout the world. But their disappointment was bitter indeed when Christ did not come.

Then followed the commission, "Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings." Rev. 10:11. Seventh-day Adventists understood this to be their commission when they received the Truth on the Sanctuary question.

The eleventh chapter continues with the measuring (numbering) of the temple and them that worship therein. The only numbered

group mentioned in the Bible in a time when the Holy City is to be given to them, are the 144,000 of Revelation 7 and 14. Verses 1 and 2 of Revelation 11, therefore, refer to the numbering or "sealing" of the 144,000 who are to stand with the Lamb on Mt. Zion (Ezek. 9 and Rev. 7:2).

The court that is not to be measured is for the Gentiles (the great multitude from all nations -- Rev. 7:9).

Forty-two months are allotted to the Gentiles to tread the Holy City (verse 2), after which they will no longer tread it. Since the Gentiles have been in control of the Holy City for centuries, the forty-two months of this verse must be the last that the Gentiles will be there. Then will "the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." Luke 21:24.

"And I will give power unto My Two Witnesses, and They shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth." Verses 3, 4.

The Two Witnesses are identified as
(1) the two olive trees, the source from which
the golden oil of the Spirit of Truth flows
(Zech. 4)--the Old and New Testament Scriptures; and (2) the two candlesticks, churches

(Rev. 1:20) -- the Old and New Testament churches. These prophesy 1260 days (42 months) clothed in sackcloth (mourning and humility).

During Their time of prophesying the Two Witnesses have power to "kill" with "fire" any man who attempts to hurt Them. They also have power to shut up heaven that it "rain" not (cause to cease the falling of fresh doctrines) in the days of Their prophecy. Moreover, the Two Witnesses have "power over waters to turn them to blood" (give mortal life to people--waters), and to "smite the earth with all plagues, as often as They will." Verse 6.

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This verse makes it clear that during this time of 42 months there is to be no new message (rain), no new movement. Since the last message before the forty-two months commences is that of the Truth of the harvest not only of the firstfruits but also of the second fruits (the Gentiles) as set forth in verse 2, and since it is the very message brought in The Shepherd's Rod series of publications; moreover, as this message (the latter rain) was completed about three years ago, we may know that the forty-two months must soon be over. How pitiful it will be for anyone to have witnessed the falling of the latter rain all about him and still not be aware of it!

"And when They shall have finished Their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit [apostate Christendom] shall make war against Them, and shall overcome Them, and kill Them." Verse 7. This verse plainly sets forth the grim fact that at the end of the 42 months of Their prophesying, the Two Witnesses are to be killed!

"And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see Their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer Their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over Them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth." Verses 9, 10.

The reason the Two Witnesses were killed is the same reason all the slain prophets and Christ Himself were killed. It was "because [They] tormented them that dwelt on the earth." Thus Christ in the form of His Word is to be crucified as He was in the flesh. Consequently, of this experience it is said, "And Their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified." Verse 8.

"And after three days and an half the Spirit of Life from God entered into Them, and They stood upon Their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw Them. 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." Verse 11, 12. Though They were humiliated to the death, now They are exalted to heaven.

"And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven." Verse 13.

The tithe (tenth part) of the Lord's city (Christian church) fell and all the hypocrites in the fallen part were slain, and the remnant (the preserved ones) gave glory to God. This slaughter is the same as the one described in Ezekiel 9 and Isaiah 66:15.

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In Daniel's last chapter, after he had finished recording the prophecy of the King of the North planting his tabernacles, at which time Michael was to deliver His people from the time of trouble and raise some from their graves, he inquired when these great wonders would be fulfilled. The reply was "that it shall be for a time, times, and an half (3 1/2 years or 42 months); and when he shall have accomplished to scatter [destroy] the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished." Dan. 12:7.

Since it is the power that is in God's Word and His true church that constitutes the "power" of the holy people, therefore it is the power of the Two Witnesses of Revelation II that the angel referred to in his reply to Daniel. The conclusion is that when the Two Witnesses are "slain" after the 42 months, the wondrous events prophesied by Daniel should have taken place.

One type for the 42-month period without spiritual rain and the showdown to follow is found in the experience of Elijah who "prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months." Jas. 5:17. After this period of drouth he met with the prophets of Baal in Israel for the historic showdown at which time Truth triumphed over falsehood.

We see in the 3 1/2 year ministry of Christ (the Word in flesh) another type for the 3 1/2 year period of the prophesying of the Two Witnesses. Both Christ and the Two Witnesses were preceded by the Elijah of their respective times. Both periods were followed with a showdown: the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ was the great triumph of Truth over falsehood in His time; and the killing and exaltation of the Two Witnesses will result in the triumph of Truth over falsehood in our day.

IN SUMMARY, before God's church and Truth can be exalted to heaven in the sight of their enemies, and before the "remnant" "give glory to God," the Two Witnesses will be put to "death" by apostate Christendom. Upon Their revival and exaltation, however, God's people will be purified, and prophetic wonders will have taken place.

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