

The Church as the Faithful Witness

Revelation 11:1–19 • Pastor Raul Granillo • September 13, 2026

Today's Text

“And I will grant my **two witnesses** authority to prophesy for one thousand two hundred sixty days, wearing sackcloth. These are the **two olive trees and the two lampstands** that stand before the Lord of the earth. ...After the three and a half days, the **breath of life from God entered the two witnesses**, and they stood on their feet, and those who saw them were terrified. ...The rest were terrified and **gave glory to the God of heaven.**”

— Revelation 11:3–4, 11, 13

Big Idea

The Church is the Lord's two witnesses. Your ordinary faithful life — lived as God's royal priesthood in a hostile world — is the oil that fuels the lamp. The witness of the Church succeeds where the plagues failed.

Key Truth

From Sinai to today, God's plan has been the same: a people who live as a priestly kingdom and holy nation so that the world might see Him and repent. The seven trumpets could not soften hearts — but the faithful, suffering, resurrected Church can.

What John Sees in Revelation 11

SCENE	WHAT JOHN SEES	WHAT IT MEANS FOR US
MEASURE THE TEMPLE (v.1–2)	John is given a measuring rod and told to measure the temple, altar, and worshipers — but leave the outer court out. A hyperlink to Ezekiel 40–48.	God protects His holy people and true worship. The outer court — where witness happens — is unprotected. Witness is costly. It happens in hostile territory.
THE TWO WITNESSES (v.3–6)	Two witnesses in sackcloth prophesy for 1,260 days. They are the two olive trees and two lampstands. They speak with the authority of Moses and Elijah.	The Church is the two witnesses. The lampstands = churches (Rev 1:20). You are the oil that lights the lamp. Your faithful life shakes the powers of this world.
THE BEAST KILLS THEM (v.7–10)	The beast wages war on them and kills them. Their bodies lie in the great city. The world celebrates, exchanges gifts, and gloats.	The powers of this world — empires, corporations, movements — will try to destroy the Church and celebrate when they think they have. Their delusion of victory is short-lived.
RESURRECTION & REPENTANCE (v.11–13)	After three and a half days, the breath of God enters them, they stand up, and are called up to heaven. A tenth of the city falls. The rest gave glory to God.	The Church shares in Jesus' resurrection. Where wrath failed to bring repentance, faithful witness succeeded. Many will be converted through the Church's faithfulness.
THE SEVENTH TRUMPET (v.14–19)	“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Messiah.” Heaven's temple opens; the ark of the covenant is seen.	Christ's reign has come. What starts in Genesis 1 finds its end: God's presence fills creation. YHWH Shammah — The LORD Is There (Ezek 48:35).

Define This

Segullah — Hebrew for “treasured possession” or “instrument of choice.” At Sinai (Ex 19:5–6), God tells Israel they are His segullah — called to be a priestly kingdom and holy nation whose very life is a witness to the nations. **This is the same calling the Church carries today**, made visible in Revelation 11 as the two witnesses.

Quote to Remember

“The martyr-witness of the church, in other words, will succeed where the plagues have failed.” — N.T. Wright

Take It Home — Reflection

- The Church is God's chosen instrument to reveal Him to the world. Where in my ordinary life this week is my walk with God actually being seen — or am I quietly measuring myself into the inner court where it's safe?
- Faithful witness makes the world uncomfortable. When has my life recently exposed something the world would rather keep hidden — and did I hold my ground with grace, or did I soften the message to be liked?
- YHWH Shammah — “the LORD is there.” What would change this week if I lived like the presence of God actually filled my home, my workplace, my conversations, right now?

My Notes