**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | When Prophets are Persecuted |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Revelation 11 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2348 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Are you being persecuted for Jesus Christ?
      1. If not, then why not?
   2. The reason why some are persecuted and others are not can be found in 2 Timothy 3:12.
      1. If we are living godly in Christ Jesus, then we will suffer persecution.
   3. Revelation 11:1-2
      1. The holy city mentioned in this Scripture is Jerusalem, and the time period is the Great Tribulation.
   4. There are some amazing end-times’ prophecies.
      1. Some of these prophecies have already been fulfilled.
         1. God said that He would regather the people of Israel and bring them back to their land.
            1. Ezekiel 36:24
      2. Other prophecies have yet to be fulfilled.
         1. The temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem.
            1. Revelation 11:1
            2. On the temple mount today stands a mosque, the Dome of the Rock.
            3. Jesus prophesied the destruction of the temple in His day.
            4. Matthew 24:2

The only part of the temple we can find today is part of the platform on which it was built.

The western part of the platform that remains is known as the Western Wall or the Wailing Wall.

Shortly after Jesus predicted the destruction of the temple, the Roman general, Titus, laid siege against Jerusalem.

The temple was destroyed in a fire.

Portions of the temple were overlaid in gold, and the gold melted in the fire and ran down into the crevices.

People pried the stones apart and left not one stone upon another.

* 1. There are religious Jews today who are making plans to rebuild the temple.
     1. God told John in Revelation 11:1 to measure the temple; it will be rebuilt.
  2. The temple is the precursor of antichrist and his power.
     1. Jesus said that the antichrist will enter the temple and will make it desolate.
        1. Matthew 24:15-16
           1. Daniel 9
        2. Matthew 24:21
     2. The apostle Paul also spoke of this.
        1. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5
     3. There is coming a day when the temple will be rebuilt.
     4. There is coming a world leader who will ensconce himself in that temple in the holy place and proclaim himself as God.
        1. This will be the man of sin; the abomination of desolation.
        2. This will occur in the middle of the seven year period of the Great Tribulation.
           1. Seven is the number of perfection.
           2. Three-and-one-half speaks of division and danger.
  3. God has given us a warning as to what will happen.
     1. God will send His messengers: two mighty prophets.
        1. These two witnesses will rise up during this horrific period of time to prophesy and to teach.
           1. God always sends His prophets.

Amos 3:7

God sent Enoch and Noah before the flood.

He sent Elijah and Jeremiah before the exile.

We are being warned today.

* 1. Revelation 11 shows us five factors concerning these two prophets.
     1. We are not these two prophets, but there are lessons we can learn and apply to our lives concerning what happens when prophets are persecuted.

1. THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY PREPARED (Revelation 11:3-4)
   1. These men are described as olive trees and candlesticks.
      1. The Greek word is literally “lamp stands.”
         1. A candle burns a wick; a lamp stand burns oil.
         2. Lamp stands speak of light.
      2. An olive tree speaks of fruitfulness.
      3. This description speaks of every witness.
         1. We are to be fruitful and to give light.
   2. The lamp stand in the temple burned olive oil.
      1. Oil in the Bible is a symbol of the Holy Spirit of God.
      2. We are to be like lamp stands.
         1. Our light shines because the oil of God’s Spirit is within us.
         2. Matthew 5:14
         3. If we are to let our light shine, we must learn to burn the oil and not the wick.
            1. Acts 1:8
            2. It is foolish and wicked to try to do God’s work without God’s power.
   3. These men are clothed in sackcloth.
      1. Sackcloth is a drab garment that a person would wear when in mourning and sorrow.
      2. These men will preach judgment.
         1. If we preach judgment, we should do it in sackcloth and with a broken heart for the multitudes marching to Hell.
2. THEY ARE SOVEREIGNLY PROTECTED (Revelation 11:5-6)
   1. “Fire” in this passage may speak of the power of their word.
      1. The Bible speaks of Jesus as having a sharp, two-edged sword that goes out of His mouth when He comes again.
         1. This is symbolic of the Word of God.
            1. Hebrews 4:12
   2. The word “power” in this passage speaks of authority.
      1. Luke 10:19
      2. These men have power.
         1. They have power over death, plagues, drought and disease.
   3. These men remind us of Elijah and Moses, and many believe they will come in the spirit of Elijah and Moses.
      1. When we think of Elijah, we think of the prophets.
      2. When we think of Moses, we think of the law.
      3. These two witnesses represent the law and the prophets.
         1. The purpose of the law and the prophets was to witness to the Lord Jesus Christ.
         2. Luke 24:27
         3. Never make the mistake of thinking that the Old Testament is about Judaism, and the New Testament is about Jesus.
            1. All of the Bible is about Jesus.
            2. These two witnesses will come representing all that is in the Bible and testifying of the Lord Jesus Christ.
   4. The person of God, in the will of God, speaking the Word of God is immortal until his work is finished.
      1. God’s work done in God’s way will never want for God’s provision or protection.
3. THEY ARE SATANICALLY PERSECUTED (Revelation 11:7-10)
   1. The beast mentioned in this passage is the antichrist, the same one who will sit in the temple showing himself that he is God.
      1. The beast is described here as ascending out of the abyss.
   2. Jerusalem, the holy city, has now become the hellish city, compared to Sodom and Egypt.
      1. Sodom - with its vice.
      2. Egypt - with its vanity.
   3. The fury of Hell will burst upon these two witnesses.
      1. All of Hell will attack these men because they will be tormented by the preaching of God’s Word.
         1. As the days grow darker, the persecution will grow more intense, and hatred against the godly will intensify.
      2. This fury will come from the antichrist himself.
   4. Revelation 11:7
      1. These two witnesses will not die until after they have finished the task God gave them to do.
      2. The apostle Paul lived until he had finished his course.
         1. 2 Timothy 4:7
      3. The Lord Jesus was crucified and died, but not before He proclaimed, “It is finished.”
         1. John 19:30
   5. When a child of God is martyred, that does not mean that the devil has won; it means that the devil has lost.
      1. Revelation 12:11
   6. The killing of these two witnesses will catapult the beast into great fame and popularity.
      1. He will be seen as the mighty one because he has gotten rid of these two “tormentors.”
      2. The bodies of these two witnesses will be left in the streets of Jerusalem.
   7. Coming events cast their shadows ahead of time, and we can expect increasing persecution.
4. THEY ARE SUPERNATURALLY PRESERVED (Revelation 11:11-12)
   1. God will raise these two witnesses to life, and they will ascend into Heaven.
   2. We need not fear ultimate destruction.
      1. We are preserved until we finish our task.
         1. God has Satan on a leash.
         2. The enemy may be able to put us to death, but we are still supernaturally preserved.
      2. Luke 21:12-18
         1. When we are persecuted, it is one of the greatest platforms we will ever have.
      3. Matthew 10:28
   3. Until we are no longer afraid to die, we are not ready to live.
   4. There is a God in the glory, and there is nothing the devil can ultimately do to us.
5. THEY HAVE SUCCESSFULLY PROPHESIED (Revelation 11:13-14)
   1. The witnesses have not failed; they have succeeded.
   2. Those who survive the earthquake will give glory to God.
      1. This does not mean that they are saved, but that they have to admit this is a God thing.
         1. Pharaoh had to acknowledge God during the plagues.
         2. King Saul had to acknowledge God.
         3. The demons in Hell will one day glorify God, though they will not be saved.
         4. Romans 14:11
   3. These prophets have witnessed, and God has received the glory.
      1. We have not failed when we witness to someone who does not receive Jesus.
      2. We are successful when we witness.
         1. God holds each of us responsible for what we hear.
         2. God will also hold us responsible for what we would have heard had we listened.
         3. Isaiah 55:11
      3. As soul winners, teachers and preachers, we are responsible for being faithful with the Word of God.
         1. The results are in God’s hands.
         2. Ezekiel 2:7
         3. Ezekiel 2:5
   4. Our responsibility is to declare the Word of God in this generation whether they hear or not.
6. CONCLUSION
   1. Persecution will come.
      1. This is not bad but good; it provides a great platform for a testimony.
   2. All who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
   3. As believers, we are on the winning side.
   4. When these end-time events occur, where will you be? What is your relationship to God?
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16