

The Trumpets are God’s military response on behalf of his people as he leads them out of “Egypt” (this world) in the final battle against “Jericho” (the antichrist’s kingdom, Babylon), which ends with Christ coming into his Kingdom at the sound of the final trumpet.

Their function in John’s letter is twofold: to encourage and get the attention of those straying from truth.

In this final period of history, two witnesses play an important leadership role during this final period in God’s plan.

Four Individuals stand behind the Two Witnesses:

Joshua, The High Priest – Zerubbabel, The King/Governor – The Prophets: Moses and Elijah

These two witnesses reflect the threefold office of the Christ—prophet, priest, and king—just as the church is called to do so today.

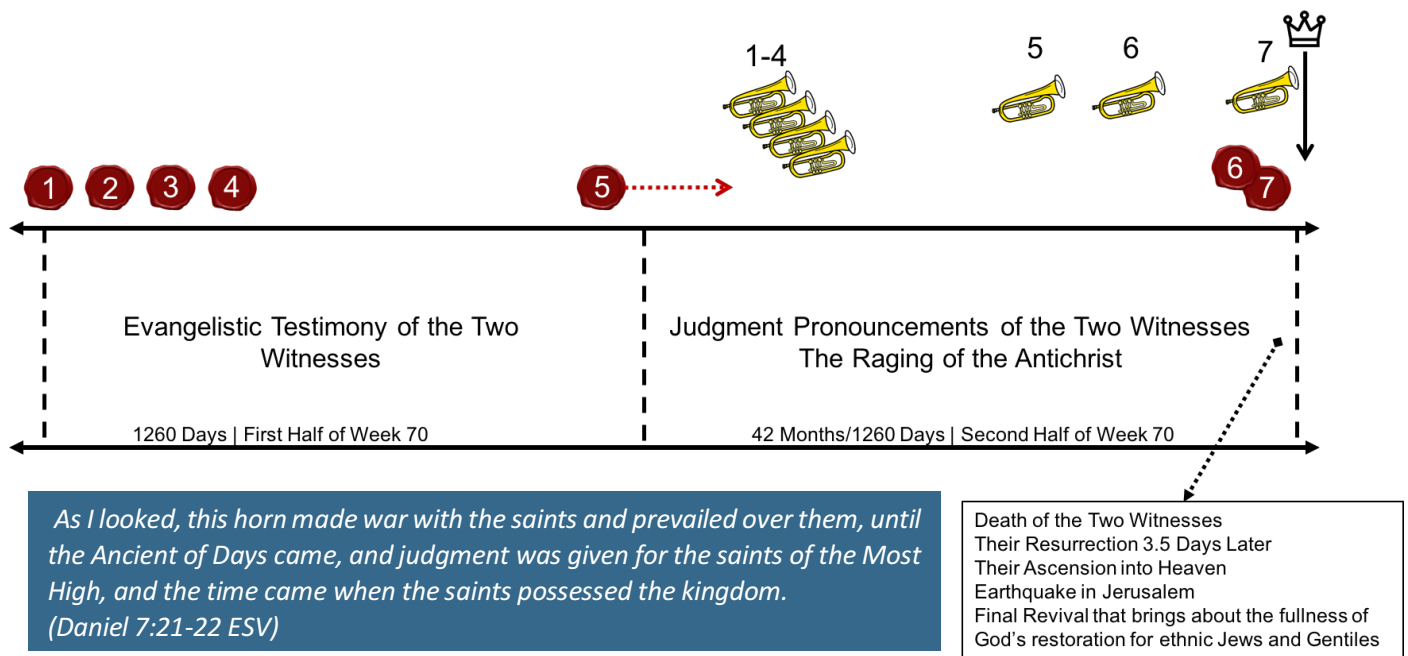
The Identity of the Two Witnesses: God does not tell us.

Four Views:

1. **Enoch and Elijah**—Both avoided a “normal” death.
2. **Elijah and Moses**—like their appearance on the Mount of Transfiguration.
3. **Two future individuals who reproduce the ministries of Moses and Elijah**—in the same way John the Baptist was Elijah.
4. **They are not two individuals, but symbols referring to God’s church/people**—fits with the fulfilment of Daniel 7:19-22 in Chapter 11.

I believe the best understanding of the two witnesses to be two literal people (either view 2 or 3) who also represent God’s people primarily in this final period, and secondarily throughout history (partial acceptance of view 4). Since God does not reveal to us the two witnesses’ identity we should refrain from being dogmatic about any position.

All of us should be encouraged to follow the model of the two witnesses and live as faithful witnesses in uncertain times and be encouraged in the midst of unjust suffering.



The temporary political gains of the enemy prove to be pointless “ragings” that in the end accomplish nothing.

“The Kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ!”

When Christ returns...

- 1. The Dead will be judged according to the Book of Life.**
- 2. The people of God will be rewarded.**

“God has given us secondary sources of joy that are derivative of our primary source of joy (Him). In turn, derivative joys are sign posts pointing right back to the God they came from... He is the creator and designer and provider of all these, He is our ultimate source of joy. He does not feel slighted when we thoroughly enjoy what is from our hand—on the contrary, he feels delighted.”

– Randy Alcorn

Whether small or great, God will reward his people for their...

- Service done unto his glory.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. (1 Corinthians 3:10-14 ESV)

- Proclamation of his Word/the Gospel.

For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and joy. (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20 ESV)

- Holy living that matches their new identity.

By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. (Hebrews 11:24-26 ESV)

- Walking wisely in the fear of the Lord.

My son, do not lose sight of these-- keep sound wisdom and discretion, and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck. Then you will walk on your way securely, and your foot will not stumble. If you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. ... The wise will inherit honor, but fools get disgrace. (Proverbs 3:21-24, 35 ESV)

- 3. The destroyers of the earth—Satan and his horde—will be destroyed (in two phases).**

Psalm 2

*Why do the nations rage
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set themselves,
and the rulers take counsel together,
against the LORD and against his Anointed,
saying,*

*"Let us burst their bonds apart
and cast away their cords from us."*

*He who sits in the heavens laughs;
the Lord holds them in derision.
Then he will speak to them in his wrath,
and terrify them in his fury, saying,
"As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill."*

*I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to me, "You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.
Ask of me, and I will make the nations your
heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.
You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's
vessel."*

*Now therefore, O kings, be wise;
be warned, O rulers of the earth.
Serve the LORD with fear,
and rejoice with trembling.
Kiss the Son,
lest he be angry, and you perish in the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*