



-- **Big Idea #1:** Though the Gospel is dangerous on earth, we are spiritually safe in Christ.

-- **Big Idea #2:** With the world set against us, we must be for each other.

### 1.) The church is **PROTECTED** in Christ (v. 1-2).

- Both interludes (ch. 7, ch. 10-11) emphasize that, even in times of tremendous trouble, Christ's sealed servants remain spiritually safe in Him.
- The temple and the holy city here are symbols of the **CHURCH** of Jesus Christ (Ezekiel 40-48, 1 Cor. 3:16, Rev. 3:12, Rev. 21).
- The counting depicted here (v. 1) is a way of imaging forth the fact that God's people are known and protected by Him.
- Even though we are safe in God's eternal presence ("measured in the temple"), there is still great trouble for us in this world (the outer court and holy city are trampled by the nations).

### 2.) The church is **PERSECUTED** on earth (v. 2-3).

- Like everything else in Revelation, the numbers are symbols of important spiritual realities.
  - 42 months = 1260 days = 3½ years = "time, times, and half-a-time."
  - This period of time is a biblically symbolic way to represent the time of trial for God's people, during which we are kept spiritually safe (Rev. 11:2, 3; 12:6, 14; 13:5, Dan. 12:6-7).
  - Throughout Scripture, from Numbers to Revelation, the number 42 repeatedly points to times of tribulation through which God protects His people (v. 6, Numbers 33, Luke 4:25).
- It is an indisputable **MIRACLE** of God that the Gospel has not been lost and that the church has not capitulated to the world.
- Like the temple and the holy city (v. 1-2), **the two witnesses introduced in v. 3 are another metaphor for the CHURCH** (v. 7, Rev. 13:7).

- These witnesses prophesy for the very same amount of time that the holy city is being trampled, 1260 days.
- Revelation uses this period of 3½ years, 42 months, or 1260 days to represent to the **CHURCH AGE** in which we now live.

### 3.) The church must strive for **UNITY on earth (v. 3-6).**

- There are two witnesses because the church is the eternal spiritual reality in which the two men (the Jew and the Gentile) are made one unified man in Christ (Ephesians 2:14-16).
- In Moses and Elijah, we see another image of the church as **JEWS** and **GENTILES** working together as one (v. 6, Luke 4:24-26).
- Even though the two witnesses are presented as two separate individuals, they clearly work as one and speak with one united voice.
- Even though we are in so many ways so very different, we have been joined together in Christ as partners in His Gospel.
- We are, in a sense, “two witnesses” with one united message for the world, which is this: Be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.

## Application

### -- We absolutely have to be **FOR** one another.

- Since the world stands forcibly against us and our message, we need to stand together as one!
- Our enemy is the innumerable forces of evil at work against us, not **EACH OTHER** (Ephesians 6:12).
- When you tear down a brother or sister in Christ, you are, in that endeavor, working in the employ of the enemies of God.
- As we travel through the troublesome outer court of the nations, we must stand together as one unified witness to the Gospel (Philippians 1:27-28).
- Only when we stand together and contend as one man for the faith of the gospel, will we fully honor our calling as the body of Christ.