

Big Idea:

Though the Gospel is dangerous on earth, we are spiritually safe in Christ.



1.) Our **MEETING** together matters (v. 3-4).

-- The two witnesses a metaphor for the church.

-- In every case, this period of time (3½ years = 42 months = 1260 days) refers to this church age in which we presently live.

-- The church is depicted as two witnesses, because we are called by God to be witnesses.

-- The two witnesses represent a priest and a king (Zech. 4), and therefore they point to the church, which is described as a kingdom of priests and kings (v. 4, Revelation 1:6, 5:10).

-- The church is the **CENTERPIECE** of human history.

-- The primary object of Christ's accomplishments is the church.

-- We now live in the **CHURCH AGE**

-- Until Christ comes again, the church is and will remain the principal thing that God is doing in the whole universe.

2.) Our **MESSAGE** is powerful (v. 5-6).

-- The fire coming out of the mouth of the two witnesses is a vibrant picture of the power of God's Word (v. 5).

-- These two witnesses depict the church's call in Christ to implore the world to repent of sin and believe in Christ before it is too late.

-- We cannot be faithful in our calling to carry forward Christ's message if we only preach the parts of the Gospel that people like.

-- These two witnesses, who represent the church, are imaged after **MOSES** and **ELIJAH** (v. 6).

-- For the Jews, saying "Moses and Elijah" was a shorthand way to refer to all of God's Word.

-- Whenever we proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, we speak in fulfillment of the prophetic ministries of Moses and Elijah.

3.) Our mission will **SUCCEED** (v. 7a).

- There will come a day sometime in the future when the Great Commission will be fully accomplished (Matthew 24:14).
- Verse 7 essentially jumps ahead to that day when there will be believers from every tribe, tongue, and nation on earth.
- The inevitable success of our mission ought to give us tremendous motivation go forth and preach the Good News wherever God sends us.

4.) Our **METTLE** will be tested (v. 7b-10).

- In v. 7b, we see what appears to be a tragic reversal of events, for the church is not seen as overcoming, but as being overcome by the beast.
- Verse 7 speaks of a time immediately before Christ returns when Satan will be granted new power to harm the church (2 Thes. 2:3, Rev. 20:7-8).
- Just as Jesus lay dead in a tomb for three days, the church, for all intents and purposes, will appear lifeless and lost.
- The great tribulation that will immediately precede the return of Christ (3½ days) will be brief and limited compared to this age in which God is giving power to the church to accomplish His purposes (3½ years).

5.) Our **VICTORY** is assured (v. 11-13).

- Verses 11 and 12 are a picture of the spiritual renewal and revival of the church at the utmost end (Ezekiel 37:5).
- Verses 11-13 paint a picture of a time at the very end when God will turn the tables on His enemies by dramatically reviving the church.
- Just as Christ rose again after an apparently devastating demise, so too the church will be radically revitalized in the very last days.
- The very people who had gloated over the apparent defeat of the church will acknowledge their own defeat and give glory to God.

Application

- 1.) Be **PREPARED** (1 Peter 4:12, 2 Timothy 3:12-13, John 15:18-19).
- 2.) Be **COURAGEOUS** (Deuteronomy 31:6, Philippians 1:27-28).