

97-09

Big Mouths

A Profile of Two of God's Big Time Heroes

(A Parenthesis Between Trumpet Blast 6 & 7 — part 2)

11:1 I was given a reed like a measuring rod and was told, "Go and measure the temple of God and the altar, and count the worshipers there. 2 But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months. 3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth." 4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. 5 If anyone tries to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and devours their enemies. This is how anyone who wants to harm them must die. 6 These men have power to shut up the sky so that it will not rain during the time they are prophesying; and they have power to turn the waters into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague as often as they want.

7 Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. 8 Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city, which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. 9 For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. 10 The inhabitants of the earth will gloat over them and will celebrate by sending each other gifts, because these two prophets had tormented those who live on the earth.

11 But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and terror struck those who saw them. 12 Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." And they went up to heaven in a cloud, while their enemies looked on.

13 At that very hour there was a severe earthquake and a tenth of the city collapsed. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the survivors were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. (NIV)

1. Their World (vv.1-2)

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

2. Their Message (v.3)

A. Burn... (the "_____")

B. ...or Turn (the "_____")

3. Their Passion (vv.4-6)

A. Like Zerubbabel & Joshua

B. Like Moses & Elijah

4. Their "Defeat" (vv.7-10)

A. _____

B. _____

5. Their Vindication (vv.11-13)

A. A Public _____

B. A Divine _____

Discussion Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message and to prepare you for participation in one of our small group studies. If you need more information about when and where CARE groups are meeting this week see the display in the lobby.

1. What makes someone a hero in your mind?

2. The dictionary defines a "hero" as one who "...is of distinguished courage... admired for his or her brave deeds and noble qualities... one regarded as having heroic qualities... considered a model" (Random House College Dictionary) Do you feel very heroic?

Do you think there may be someone who looks to you to be a hero in some way?

3. Who do you admire in the Bible as one of your spiritual heroes? Why?

Who do you admire as a modern-day Christian hero?

4. The "Two Witnesses" spoken of Revelation 11 will certainly be men of courage. What do you envision will be one of the most challenging or difficult aspects of their lives during the Tribulation?

5. In what area of your life do you lack courage to make a stand for Christ?

Why is this difficult for you?

What steps can you take to begin to build courage in this area?

How can your CARE group help?