



**IDENTIFYING  
THE TWO  
WITNESSES OF  
REV. 11 AND  
THEIR  
COMMISSION**

**The  
Elijah & Moses  
to Come**



# Identifying the Two Witnesses and Their Commission

One of the great biblical mysteries, especially for God's Church in this end time, is the identity of the two witnesses of Revelation, chapter 2. God speaks very highly of them. They have an extremely important and complex mission. Also it is clear their time is in the not-too-distant future.

Scriptures often discuss the lies and deceptions that will come and be able to confuse and put in doubt stable and sincere Christians, true followers of Jesus Christ. Not all, but apparently many, are at risk.

God wants us to be aware and to understand these troubling times, not only that no one should deceive us—but He desires His faithful end time church, the bride, to be preparing for their bridegroom and their King's return.

The key to understanding this matter of the two witnesses is to desire knowledge and truth. Also one must believe and obey what Jesus said and what the prophets and apostles confirmed.

Many reason that numerous, the vast majority, of biblical prophecies cannot be readily understood and are for a latter time of revealing and comprehension. This is to say, "We will have to wait and see," at which point it will be too late.

The material presented in this manuscript will be, in many ways, new and different. So unusual will be some of this information of explanation that some will say, "This cannot be – for this has not happened in such a way and manner ever before." What has not happened has no bearing on what God will do or will not do in His plan and timetable for mankind.

## John, the Elijah to Come

**Matthew 17:11-12** – "Jesus replied, 'To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. <sup>12</sup>But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.' " Jesus states in Mat 17:11, "Indeed Elijah is coming first and will restore all things." In verse 12, Jesus says that Elijah has already come. This comment is a direct reference to John the Baptist. Verse 11 is a prophetic statement concerning Jesus. Before Jesus returns, Elijah will be given several years to prepare the way for Him.

**Matthew 11:10-15** – "This is the one about whom it is written: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup>I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. <sup>13</sup>For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. <sup>14</sup>And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears, let him hear." Verse 10 appears to be a quote from Malachi 3:1. This struggle for the kingdom began with John identifying Jesus and baptizing Him. The words "violence and the

violent” have proven difficult to understand for many. A more modern rendering and still keeping within the intent of the Greek could be– “courageous and forceful men strive to obtain the kingdom” as a precious prize. This struggle has been continuous down to our time. At this time, the time of John and Jesus, the kingdom was open to all men, that is, in due time, all will have an opportunity. The reality is that through the ages a relative few have actually been selected and called for the first resurrection.

The fulfillment, in verse 13, of the prophets and law was John, who now because of his direct contact with Jesus, brought completion to certain prophecies concerning His first coming as the suffering Messiah. John called Jesus the Lamb.

Verse 14 is a rather interesting prophetic comment. Jesus is telling us that if we understand that John was a type of Elijah who prepared the way for Him, then we should also know that an Elijah will appear in the end time immediately proceeding His second coming. John the Baptist was with Jesus. Christ said, “Elijah who is to come,” that is, some one other than John.

The “He” in verse 15 can be taken to mean Christians through time, especially those in the immediate years before Jesus once again appears, but in power. John as a type of Elijah did no miracles. John introduced Jesus as the Lamb who was to be slain. The second Elijah will do many great miracles. He will present Jesus as the conquering and ruling king.

**Luke 1:15-17** – “...for He will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. <sup>16</sup>Many of the people of Israel will He bring back to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” Here an angel, Gabriel, appears to Zacharias and tells him he will be a father and have a son whom will be named John. V16 is a specific comment that John would persuade many that Jesus was the Christ – the saving Messiah sent by God. Verse 17, “to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children” appears to be a translator’s add on taken from Malachi 4:6. Verse 17 is a reference to the end time Elijah who will precede Christ to prepare many for His coming.

From what we have so far stated it can be reasonably understood that the Elijah to come is one of the two witnesses. This will be made clear as we develop the evidence to establish who the witnesses are.

## **Elijah – His Past Work**

It will be useful to know and understand some of the original Elijah’s work. Elijah shared several interesting similarities with Jesus and Moses. In I Kings 19:8-9 we are told that Elijah fasted 40 days and 40 nights. As we remember Moses and Jesus also fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. Elijah went to the mountain of God at Horeb and entered a cave there. This was the same cave used by Moses when confronted by God at the burning bush (Ex 3:1-4). In I Kings 19:11-13 Elijah also has a personal encounter with God, and they have a conversation.

Elijah's ministry took place primarily during the first half of the Ninth Century BC, during the reign of Ahab and Jezebel. I Kings 18:18, Ahab had come now to the point of totally forsaking the commandments of God and followed Baals (false gods). Verses 19 and 20 tell us there were a total of 850 false prophets who were all gathered at Mount Carmel as instructed by Elijah. In verse 21, Elijah tells Ahab and the people to follow God, but if Baal is God, follow him. The people answered him not. In verses 24-38 Elijah has a confrontation with the false, lying ministers and teachers. Their words are as vain and useless as their gods. Upon Elijah's word, fire from heaven consumes his sacrificial offering. Verse 40 states that Elijah captures the 450 prophets of Baal along with the "workers" of Asherah, a sex/fertility goddess. He destroys them all.

## **The Book of Malachi and the Elijah to Come**

This book deals with the sins of Israel—the peoples, the priests and Levites. The first two chapters detail the sins of all concerned, which is a type of condition to be found in the end time among God's people, the descendants of the Thirteen Tribes of the Exodus. The third chapter outlines more of their sins and God's righteous judgment, punishment and restoration. Chapter 4 is a prophecy for our time now and the immediate years ahead. Verse 1 describes the severity of God's punishment. Verses 2 and 3 are directed to the end time saints, the righteous and their rewards.

**Malachi 4:1-6** – “ ‘Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire,’ says the LORD Almighty. ‘Not a root or a branch will be left to them. <sup>2</sup>But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall. <sup>3</sup>Then you will trample down the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I do these things,’ says the LORD Almighty. <sup>4</sup>Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. <sup>5</sup>See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup>He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

Verses 4-5. For a brief time, 42 months, immediate to the resurrection of the saints, Elijah will do a work. V6. This verse explains that Elijah's ministry will include a message of repentance. This revelation will change the hearts of many, especially the end time Israelite nations who will humble themselves by acknowledging and obeying God. It is noteworthy that Moses appears in the same context with Elijah, identified by God, as "My Servant." The encouragement is remembering the law with the statutes and judgments. Moses is the teacher of the law, and Elijah is the preacher for repentance.

## **Mat 24:14 – The Gospel Preached**

**Matthew 24:14** – “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” The good news of God's coming kingdom will be preached to all nations. The wording is neutral. The message will bring either salvation or a curse, depending on how it is received.

It has been assumed by many that this event has taken place, the gospel was preached to the world and we are now waiting for the end. This prophecy pertains to the two witnesses of Revelation 11!

From the early fifties and still active even today are a number of Christian churches, particularly various Church of God organizations, that hold an opinion that in a certain manner, they have, and still are, preaching the true end time prophetic warning message. They claim to have covered the civilized world, and thus to a certain measure, fulfilled Mat. 24:14.

For the most part, the work these groups accomplished in all those years is long gone, and mostly forgotten. Even as they continue their “work”, the world gives little attention.

## **The End Time Church of God – Philadelphia and Laodicea**

If what these various church organizations did as far as a work lacked in certain important ways, then where does the Church of God stand at this time? How do we today identify the true Philadelphia Church of God? Also, what about the Laodicea Church? We need to understand certain things concerning these two end time churches.

Since the apostles, the Church of God, in order to have a continuous existence, was responsible for three activities. Matthew 28:18-20 – “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’ ”

Jesus explains He now has all authority and He commands first the apostles, who learned directly from Him, and others to follow, to preach and make disciples; to instill enough knowledge and truth so that a conscious decision can be made. This also involves a calling and God’s Spirit at work in one’s life. These new believers were to be baptized and receive an essence of God’s Holy Spirit. There is to be an ongoing program of teaching and education.

Repentance and conversion, a changing of the mind and heart, sets a person into God’s Church. He or she is now convicted and dedicated to four standards.

1. He or she accepts Jesus Christ as his/her personal savior. Christ’s blood is readily calmed for remission of sin and as reconciliation to God. The living Christ is eagerly sought and welcomed into the believer’s life so that meaningful preparation can be made for everlasting life in service to God.
2. He or she puts forth continuous effort to grow in knowledge and wisdom by habitual study and belief in the recorded words of God, His Son and the prophets and apostles; committed to open communications with God by means of a regular prayer life.

3. He or she understands and accepts the instruction of the law, the Ten Commandments, along with the statutes and judgments that define sin and give clarity to living a humble, righteous and pleasing Christian life.
4. A truly converted Christian loves God first and foremost. He/she practices loving Godly service to their neighbors, that is, all men, to the best of their ability, and as life circumstances permit; thus preparing for the ultimate servant's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Christian life is one of continuous learning, overcoming and Godly character development, more of the mind of Christ in us.

At this time, the Philadelphia Church of God is being formed, organized and eventually united in order to prepare an end time people for the Kingdom of God. These are peoples of like mind who share a common vision and purpose, working in harmony and supportive of one another. Two identifying traits of Philadelphia are love of God, His truth, and love for their neighbors. This church will accept the measure of truth denied by its brethren.

**Rev. 3:7-8** – “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of Him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What He opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. <sup>8</sup>I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.” How do we keep His word and not deny His name? We believe and obey.

As part of preaching the gospel, the end time Philadelphia Church will also be preaching a message of warning and repentance. I do not know how extensive this part of the work will be. The Philadelphia Church, its development and work will mainly take place in the 3½ years leading up to the commencement of the work/commission of the two witnesses.

The Laodiceans are also present at this time. Rev. 3:14-22 – “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. <sup>15</sup>I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! <sup>16</sup>So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup>You say I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing. But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. <sup>18</sup>I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. <sup>19</sup>Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent. <sup>20</sup>Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me. <sup>21</sup>To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ ” Without going into details at this time, they, because of pride and perceived wealth, will not humble themselves to accept the readily available truth and make changes.

The 7<sup>th</sup> study paper deals in detail concerning the end time Philadelphia and Laodicea Churches.

## **Preparing the Church as the Bride of Christ**

**2 Cor. 11:2** – “I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him.” Paul understood that part of his job was to prepare the church as the Bride of Christ. We of the church will soon (and even now it has begun, under the direction of Jesus Christ) prepare ourselves for His and our upcoming marriage.

**Ephes. 5:25-27** – “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.” Jesus loves the church, His promised bride. He gave Himself for us. He is now making His bride clean and righteous by the word, which is, by the knowledge and truth set forth by inspired scripture.

The story of the ten virgins of Mat 25:1-13 is well known to all. There were five wise brides and five foolish brides. The Bridegroom (Christ) comes for His bride. Those in the Church of God, who prepared and made themselves ready for the wedding and marriage supper, are the wise. The unwise, although aware of the situation and requirements, for any number of reasons, failed to appreciate the urgency of the matter and lost an opportunity.

**Rev. 19:7-9** – “ ‘Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. <sup>8</sup>Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.’ (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) <sup>9</sup>Then the angel said to me, write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he added, ‘These are the true words of God.’ ” The Lamb’s marriage is about to take place. The Bride, who was promised for this marriage, has made herself ready. She never ceased to trust and believe the Lamb, the Bridegroom. She made herself clean by believing, obedience and righteous acts of faith. Some today are called and are being prepared for this great marriage supper.

## **The Two Witnesses of Revelation 11**

**Rev. 11:1-12** – “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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.’ <sup>4</sup>These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>Now when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. <sup>8</sup>Their bodies will lie in the street of the great city,

which is figuratively called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was crucified. <sup>9</sup>For three and a half days men from every people, tribe, language and nation will gaze on their bodies and refuse them burial. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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.' ” Verse 2 states that during this last 3½ year period there will be some sort of sanctuary. This is not a temple in the sense of the first two or the third temple of Ezekial. This 3½ years, 42 months, is the second half of the final week of Dan 9:27. Daniel 9:27 – “He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.”

Verse 3 also states that during this same period of time, the two witnesses will preach and do the work assigned to them. In verse 2, the term “given to the gentiles” for a period of 42 months is computed upon the return of Christ and His saints to the Mount of Olives. In Verse 3, the period of 1260 days for the two witnesses ends approximately 50 days sooner than the 1260 days of Verse 2.

In Verse 4, they are described as two olive trees and two lampstands standing before God.

**Zech. 4:11-14** – “Then I asked the angel, ‘What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?’ <sup>12</sup>Again I asked him, ‘What are these two olive branches beside the two gold pipes that pour out golden oil?’ <sup>13</sup>He replied, ‘Do you not know what these are?’ ‘No, my Lord,’ I said. <sup>14</sup>So He said, ‘These are the two who are anointed to serve the Lord of all the earth.’ ” The previously mentioned Joshua and Zerubbabel are types of the two end time servants of God. Olive trees produce olive oil, which is a type for God’s Holy Spirit. These two “Sons of Oil,” anointed ones, bring light or are a light, that is full of God’s Spirit and proclaiming the truth of God. It is this truth that is the true light this world desperately needs. They preach the full, complete gospel message. This message explains who the real restorer of truth is and what and how He will restore.

A green, virile and vigorous olive tree represents one who is vigorous and zealous for true righteousness, dwelling close to God in a companionship of truth and unity. These two men “stand beside,” a special and close relationship, and will bear witness, proclaiming the truth of God. They will remind Israel, modern day America and others of the covenant they failed to keep and the consequences. They will teach the covenant God will establish with them; a covenant based on His laws and promises as foretold and explained by the prophets and apostles. The gentile nations also will be called into an accounting for their sins and thus also will stand in God’s judgment. The beast and false prophet will hear and be clearly warned of God’s intentions, how He will deal with them and all who have given allegiance to them.

In Rev 11:5-6 is a description of the power given to these two men. Verses 7 and 8, they are killed and their dead bodies lie in the street of Jerusalem. Verses 9 and 10, a

number of people believe these two witnesses are angels. This is not the fact. They are flesh and blood mortal human beings. Angels are spirit and beyond the ability of men to destroy. Verses 11 and 12, these two servants are dead for 3½ days. All clearly see their bodies and witness their resurrection, which causes great fear. With the death and resurrection of the two witnesses, the second woe is past. Verse 15, the seventh angel sounds the trumpet, which signals all “the kingdoms of the world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.” God claims all as His, now it is left to Christ to bring it to pass.

## **The Transfiguration of Mat 17:1-13**

### **Parallel Accounts – Mark 9:2-13 and Luke 9:27-36**

**Matthew 17:1-13** – “After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John, the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup>There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup>Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. <sup>4</sup>Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ <sup>5</sup>While Hhe was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!’ <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them. ‘Get up,’ He said. ‘Don’t be afraid.’ <sup>8</sup>When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, ‘Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’ <sup>10</sup>The disciples asked Him, ‘Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?’ <sup>11</sup>Jesus replied, ‘To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. <sup>12</sup>But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.’ <sup>13</sup>Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.”

**2 Peter 1:15-18** – “And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things. <sup>16</sup>We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. <sup>17</sup>For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.’ <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain.”

In the above quoted verses we see Jesus is transfigured and transformed to a manner of His appearance as a spiritual being. Moses and Elijah appear and have conversations with Jesus.

Transfigure/transform, the Greek suggests a change of the innermost nature that may be outwardly visible, a revelation of Christ’s glory as a witness to Peter, James and John. His glory will be completely manifested at His Second Coming.

Mark 9:1-2 and Luke 9:27-28 quote Jesus, “Some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.” In the transfiguration the

apostles see Jesus in His usual form of glory as a spiritual being. Jesus in His glory is the personification of the kingdom, and so these three men had a glimpse of the kingdom.

As Jesus is in His transfigured state, Moses and Elijah appear to the three disciples. The Greek word “ophthe” (translated “appeared”) has the sense of meaning, “were visibly present.” Luke 9:30-31 states “two men talked with Jesus who were Moses and Elijah, who (Moses and Elijah) appeared in glory.” In verse 32, Peter and his companions see Christ’s glory and the two who stood with Him. Luke says, “Moses and Elijah appeared in glory,” what may he mean? I believe this is evidence that these two were in the flesh. Their glory was the physical existence they had many years before. That is, Moses and Elijah appeared as mortal men, not as in a vision or a dream. A flower has a certain form and appearance. The physical presence and attractiveness of a flower is its glory. So it is with mankind now, our glory is our physical being. In the resurrection, our glory will be our new spiritual body. It might be suggested in the resurrection our appearance will be as we see ourselves now, the difference being that we will be spiritual. Jesus is unique, and His special glory belongs to Him only.

In Mat 17:9 Jesus commands the three to tell the vision to no one. “The Vision,” what you have seen; this does not necessarily mean “vision” as a result of a dream or trance. It can simply mean, as in this instance, as to what is seen. Luke’s terminology, his words, describes Moses and Elijah as men that appeared such as when one turns around there appears a man standing in the doorway.

We must be careful in how we understand these things. Jesus we know was there in the flesh and then transformed to His spiritual glory. At this point, Moses and Elijah appear and talk to Jesus.

We must never limit God’s power. We must never presume God does anything that is not logical and for reason.

To say that Jesus was speaking to two “spiritual aberrations” that had no awareness except for the particular moment is to suggest that God and His Son engage in activities that appear to satisfy the need of the moment, but have no basis in reality, nor a meaningful purpose.

The better and correct explanation is that for a brief period of time, Moses and Elijah were resurrected to physical life and, after their visit with Jesus, went back to their rest with what had transpired.

## **Why the Transfiguration?**

Jesus was soon to be put to death. This fact was mentioned to His disciples several days previously. He would make His exodus from this world as the Lamb and suffering Messiah of Isaiah’s prophecies. The transfiguration was a witness to the fact that though He was to die, He would live again. Peter, James and John were allowed a brief glimpse of a resurrected Jesus in His glory. This was a confirmation for the end time and so recorded for our benefit.

Moses and Elijah appear on the scene with Christ because they have been given the commission to prepare the way for His return to earth.

The restoration of all things by Moses and Elijah is the holy and complete word of God. They will explain in detail the plan and whole truth concerning God's purpose for man. This includes telling why and how man has come to find himself in an irreversible position. Without God, mankind would utterly destroy itself. Their message will include encouragement to accept truth and repentance from sin. Jesus Christ, upon His return, will make this truth a reality in the form of His power and authority.

**Matthew 17:11** – “Jesus replied, ‘To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things.’ ” This comment by Jesus is in reference to the future, specifically his Second Coming.

**Matthew 17:12** – “But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” Here Jesus is talking of John the Baptist. John as a type of Elijah announced that Jesus had come as the Lamb and suffering Messiah who was told of by the ancient prophets.

John the Baptist was the Elijah who pointed and identified Christ as the Holy Redeemer.

- John did no miracles.
- Was not a violent man.
- Spoke of Jesus as the Lamb who takes away all sin, the suffering Messiah.

Consider the “second” Elijah who in ancient Israel was prophet and enforcer. He plainly stated it was God only, Creator of everything, who should be worshipped.

- Performed great miracles.
- Was a violent man for God.
- Will speak boldly that Christ is the coming Ruler and Redeemer.

Elijah's ministry of old dealt with idolatry, false prophets and liars. He preserved Israel by establishing the true worship of God. Elijah's witness for God was by powerful works and unqualified words. He was God's enforcing servant who dealt with the sins of the nation, more exactly, the leaders of government and the false prophets and religious leaders, those who caused the people to sin.

**Malachi 4:4-6** – “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel. <sup>5</sup>See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. <sup>6</sup>He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.’ ” It is significant that Moses is closely associated to Elijah in these verses – significant also, that at the transfiguration, it is only Moses and Elijah talking with Christ.

- We have Moses, the lawgiver and deliverer.
- We have Elijah, that prophet and enforcer.
- In verse 4 God says, remember the law of Moses, my servant.

- In verse 6 God says Elijah will turn the hearts of the children and their fathers. That is he will preach and teach repentance.

Moses was given the law, which he taught the people, so that the nation could be established in righteousness and stand before God and as an example to others. God's concern was that Israel should obey, live without fear and prosper. These things the gentiles would see, thus seek and obey.

When the people greatly sinned because of the golden calf (Ex 32), God said to Moses, "Let me alone that I may destroy them and make of you a great nation." Moses stood for the people, as he will once again do lest God in His anger brings a curse on the earth and all should die.

Moses will once again bring the law before all peoples, Israel and the Gentiles. Elijah will again deal with evil and sin in no uncertain terms and promote the true God.

The last part of verse 6, "Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse." Moses and Elijah will fulfill their commission, and the earth will be saved from utter destruction. They will work as a team, complimenting each other in order to do a more complete and effective end time witnessing work.

These two men in their life experiences were similar in several ways. They were both given a commission and work that set the stage for the continuation of God's great plan for mankind. They will have the privilege and task of preparing the way for Jesus as returning King of all Nations.

## **Identifying the Two Witnesses**

Moses and Elijah in the last end time 3½ years will be resurrected to physical life! God and Christ do not talk to images and visions. They communicate at all times to be understood and for purpose. The transfiguration of Jesus with the presence of Moses and Elijah was given to show with clarity that in the end time, Moses and Elijah will be resurrected to physical life as witnesses for Christ. They will prepare the nations for His return and rulership.

Jesus did not talk in abstract terms. He said plainly, "Elijah (and by implication Moses) will truly come first and will restore all things." What things? The complete truth of God! In fulfilling this commission the final warning message concerning mankind's sin and fate will be given. Those God specifically plans to save for purpose will come to repentance. The new world order, as directed by Christ, will be announced. Because of their work God will withhold a curse upon all the earth. Moses and Elijah will be allowed to pronounce judgment and deliver punishment on a sinning and dying world.

The transfiguration of Jesus with the appearance of Moses and Elijah, witnessed by Peter, James and John, was given for the true and faithful end time Church of God so that it might know and understand how and by whom God was going to deal with the final 3½ years of this age.

There will be those who will come and claim to be one of the two witnesses of Rev 11. Quite possibly this will be some of the great deceptions fostered on God's church.

If we believe first of all the words of Jesus, the Messiah, then the prophets and apostles we can know future events and their timeline. We will be able to recognize the lies and deceptions of the false prophets and teachers. These people are not only confused in their own minds but so full of pride as to presume upon God and His true end time church.

The principle thing is that the believers, Christ's true disciples, will have to patiently stand fast in truth and trust (faith) because these things (the lies and deceptions) will come to pass first.

It is God the Father who designed the program, set the stage and directs the show. Alongside Him is Jesus Christ, His faithful second in command. He has been given, from the beginning, specific assignments concerning the ongoing production. Their work prepared Moses and Elijah. Under their care and leadership Moses and Elijah grew greatly in knowledge, understanding, truth and faith. Beyond this their interaction built a relationship that permitted them to know the character and personality of God and His Son even as we know a true and close friend. They were not acquaintances or servants only following orders, but Moses and Elijah were as friends and companions. They have a relationship that comes from many years of open communications and inter activity. Moses and Elijah when resurrected will be as old and dependable friends who know the mind of God and Jesus, what they planned and what is expected.

The Bridegroom (Christ) will not marry a bride (his church) whom He does not know and cannot have equal communications and interaction with. We now have an opportunity to know God and Jesus, even as Moses and Elijah know them.

Jesus in effect was saying, "As you now see something of my glory at my return (Second Coming), so you now also see my two servants who shall announce and prepare the way for my return." Peter, James and John were permitted to see for a brief moment and experience the reality of Jesus in His glory. They also saw in the flesh Moses and Elijah as they would be in accomplishing their 3½ years of witnessing work.

## Review and Conclusion

**John 1:15** – “John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ John proclaims his mission, to bear witness that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah). John also confirms the preexistence of Christ.

**John 1:16-17** – “From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” Because Jesus is the Son of God and it was planned He would die for mankind, we have all benefited from their love and mercy. The first grace comes from keeping the instruction of the law as given to Moses from God. The second grace has to do with the mission He proclaims for Jesus; The forgiveness of sin which gives reconciliation to God and leads to everlasting life. This truth and understanding had come in the form of Jesus Christ. His was the complete gospel of the truth concerning man’s responsibilities and the kingdom of God. Jesus confirmed the law and prophets by his words, life and works.

**John 1:18** – “ No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.” (KJV) John declares Jesus is the only begotten Son, that is, Jesus stands next to God as being proven and trustworthy. God declares and claims Christ, His Anointed, as belonging to Him.

**John 1:29** – “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’ ” John identifies Jesus, His work and His supreme mission.

John’s primary work was to identify Christ and the work He would do before His death and the reconciliation made available to God by His blood, death and resurrection.

Moses’ and Elijah’s primary work will be to prepare the world; identifying Christ as the coming glorified Redeemer and Ruler.

Elijah as one of the two witnesses will restore all things. Elijah when dealing with Ahab, Jezebel and the false religious leaders made it clear their rebellion and idolatry would not stand before God. He pointed out their sins in no uncertain terms. He established the truth that was rejected. God then used Elijah, as a type of Christ, to bring judgment and punishment on everyone concerned. During his end time 3½-year commission, Elijah along with Moses will restore all truth as held in the Holy Scriptures. Jesus Christ upon His return will be the reality and personification of this truth. The world’s population will be fully advised and warned (Mat 17:11).

God’s two anointed ones will detail with clarity the instruction of the law. They will teach the meaning of Christ’s life, death and resurrection. They will preach and teach true Godly repentance (Mal 4:4-6).

Moses and Elijah will prophesize, which is to say, they will explain in detail why God is allowing and bringing such terrible punishing judgment upon all peoples. It is most likely that the major prophets, along with the books of Hosea, Zephaniah, Zechariah, Malach, and all the rest of the minor prophets, will be their primary tools of

explanation and proof. They will encourage all peoples to turn to God with a humble and contrite heart. They will explain the course of events and identify the leaders of this final end time rebellion. They will be given power to do great miracles that will establish their message. When the Messiah returns in glory, Israel, America, England and other English speaking countries and certain countries of Northwestern Europe with perhaps some Gentile nations will immediately recognize Jesus and respond.

Moses and Elijah will explain the history of mankind's self determined relationship with God and why God allowed so much leeway. They will explain that human reasoning, aside from the instruction of the law and the truth of God, has through mankind's history lead to suffering, grief and death. Every imagination of man is based in pride, selfishness and greed.

They will loudly proclaim and explain God's anger. Man will understand the hard way that God's judgment and punishment is just retribution and cleansing for man's 6000 years of arrogant pride and hostility. This all leads to the return of Christ with His saints and the start of a New World Order of true peace and prosperity for all: first to His chosen people, for purpose, who will this time be the righteous, God-fearing example that was God's original intention, then to the Gentiles, the knowledge and blessings of God and His Son will cover the earth.

The instruction of the law, the teachings of Jesus, the prophets and apostles will be the well from which true knowledge will flow. The sacrifice of Jesus as the Lamb of God will be respected, appreciated and desired. The Lord Jesus Christ as deliverer will be honored, worshipped and obeyed as King and High Priest.