

Last week we had an introduction to the two witnesses. We looked at different interpretations. While they may be two persons testifying with supernatural powers, because they are compared to lampstands, we should also consider them as the church. The church led by the Holy Spirit meets the Biblical requirement for two witnesses agreeing to validate a testimony (Matthew 18:16ⁱ). This means that those who hear and reject the truth can be condemned (Deuteronomy 19:15ⁱⁱ).

Hamilton sums up what the apocalyptic images may mean. *Let's put the meaning of these four images from the Old Testament together. The olive trees symbolize the Spirit's empowering the church, because olive oil is associated with anointing, and anointing is associated with the coming of the Spirit. The fire that consumes enemies symbolizes divine protection for the church. The power to shut the sky points to demonstrations that Yahweh is the only living and true God, and the ability to bring the plagues highlights the church's ability to liberate people from bondage through the proclamation of the gospel. The church, then, is empowered by the Spirit, protected by the Father, and able to liberate people through the gospel of Jesus Christ.*ⁱⁱⁱ That is certainly a gospel centric interpretation, but there may be multiple ways to see them, including the possibility that they are literally two prophets with supernatural powers. Given the 42 months of ministry, it may be the church during the first half of the last seven years.

⁷ And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, ⁸ and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. Revelation 11:7,8 “When they have finished their testimony,” which is the end of their 42 month mission, can be interpreted as the mid-point of the last seven years followed by the reign of the Antichrist and bowls of wrath for the last half. Others interpret it symbolically as an indefinite short period a difficult time followed by victory. The above quote interpreted it as the church age, from Pentecost to the return of Christ.

It seems that this beast rising from the bottomless pit is the same one that leads the army in chapter 9 verse 11^{iv}. Some confuse this one with the Antichrist in chapter 13:1^v, but that beast is said to arise from the sea. Once the mission of the two witnesses is completed, the Destroyer is allowed to end their lives, but not until then. Making war with them and conquering and killing them is very close to the wording of Daniel 7:21. *²¹ As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them,* That is followed by the three and a half year reign of the Antichrist, the saints judging and condemning him, and the establishment of the kingdom of God on the earth (Daniel 7:23-27^{vi}). That the witnesses are not just two individuals seems to be indicated by the saints being substituted for witnesses in both Daniel 7:21 and Revelation 13:7^{vii} where the same language, “make war on them and conquer them” is applied to the saints (cf. 19:19^{viii}).

I believe this divine protection until our ministry is done is the same for every child of God who walks in their calling. That is the message behind the two witnesses that represent the church. Until the whole world has heard, God will protect each of us and empower us to accomplish what we are destined to do. If our concern is to do God's will, we do not need to fear disease, or war, or inflation, or poverty (Romans 8:35^{ix}). The spirit of antichrist is at work since the church began, encouraging people to reject the gospel and kill the messengers (1 John 2:18^x; 4:3^{xi}; John 16:2^{xii}). God will protect and provide until we are done. And when

we are on our deathbed or facing martyrdom, we will know we finished the work He gave us to do. This is of course contingent upon our walking in the Spirit and desiring to do God's will.

There is a contemporary song by Matthew West entitled, *What If?* Some of the lyrics are as follows: *My biggest fear is waking up to find what matters - Is miles away from what I spent my life chasing after - Is my story gonna have the same two words in every chapter? - What if, what if - But last I checked this heart - Inside my chest is still beating - Well, I guess it's not too late! - What if today's the only day I got? - I don't wanna waste it if it's my last shot - No regrets in the end - I wanna know I got no what ifs - I'm running till the road runs out - I'm lighting it up right here right now - No regrets in the end - I wanna know I got no what ifs!* We can only live like it is our last day every day if we put aside our own desires and let God's desires fill our hearts. That only happens when we depend on the Holy Spirit and not our own energy and ability. It is a place of full surrender to Jesus. Then when we finish our testimony and the Destroyer is allowed to end our physical life, we can know we are on our way to the One whom our soul loves.

The witnesses' dead bodies lay in the streets for three and half days. To not bury someone was the ultimate insult to their life. Criminals who were crucified were typically thrown on the garbage heap.

Jerusalem is referred to as Sodom and Egypt (Sodom/immorality and Egypt/God defying). Unless you have been to Tel Aviv, it is hard to imagine Jerusalem being called this. But having been there and to Jerusalem, I can see why it would be so. There are still many seeking God in Jerusalem, but the hustlers and vendors are so numerous you cannot avoid them. Tel Aviv is like a modern American city with the same vices and perversions. Imagine God's disgust that where His only Son gave His life to save the world from sin and its eternal consequences, on that very ground you will find the streets full of corruption and enslavement to sin.

However, if we look at this "great city" in the context of Revelation and apocalyptic literature, I believe John is referring to the cities of this world represented by Babylon the great, where every vice known to man is available for a price. Its advertising promotes idolatry of this world's things. Its entertainment leads to debauchery, its education denies God exists, and its prophets prophesy for hire. Legal and illegal drugs are sold to numb our souls. It is where mammon is worshiped above all else (Matthew 6:24^{xiii}). Jesus was killed in Jerusalem, but Jerusalem is just a part of Babylon the great.

Augustine wrote an entire book on this concept, *The City of God*. It is about Babylon the great and New Jerusalem, the holy city of God. We live in one or the other, and I am not speaking of a physical location, but of the home of our souls. We live for this world or for the kingdom of God. He wrote, "*Two loves have made the two cities. Love of self, even to the point of contempt for God, made the earthly city; and love of God, even to the point of contempt for self, made the heavenly city.*" He claimed that citizens of both are seeking peace, but the city of man only finds busyness while the city of God finds peace in revelation and the presence of Christ.

⁹ For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, ¹⁰ and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth. Revelation 11:9,10 Their witness was for three and a half years like the period of Jesus' witness, and

their body lay dead for three and a half days like that of their Savior. I used the singular for “body” as the Greek is singular in this case. I think these parallels add credence to the interpretation of the two witnesses representing the church. Psalm 79 is a parallel passage regarding the slaughter of the Israelites in Jerusalem. In that Psalm the nations defile the holy temple, give the bodies of those they slay to the birds and beasts, no one buries them, they are a derision to their persecutors, there is a prayer for retribution, and the phrase “How long?” which we saw in chapter 6.

In verse 9 “three and a half” is used again, this time as the number of days the world will look on the dead bodies of the two prophets. One scholar says this is simply a way to say an indefinite period of time. Since the three and a half years is stated as 42 months and as 1260 days, it seems to be a specific period of time. What did three and a half days mean to the first readers? Perhaps they read it as a short period of time when they would seem defeated by persecution but then the church would rise again. There have been periods like that throughout church history. Presently we feel like that in the West, but in parts of the Third World the church is growing despite persecution.

ESV translates the Greek as “some from the peoples...” rejoice over the witnesses’ deaths. It describes the ones who rejoice in verse ten as “those who dwell on the earth.” It seems the word “some” implies there are others who do not rejoice, which are perhaps Christians who survive this attack on two men or the church throughout the world, they will be but a small remnant. We will see that idea in the next chapter.

“Those who dwell on the earth” is a phrase repeated in the book to describe unbelievers who are under judgment for persecuting God’s people (6:10^{xiv}; 8:13^{xv}). It comes from Isaiah 24:6^{xvi} and 26:21^{xvii}). “Earth dwellers” is a similar phrase used throughout Revelation for idolators (13:8^{xviii}, 12^{xix}, 14^{xx}; 14:6-9^{xxi}; 17:2^{xxii}, 8^{xxiii}). Their hopes are placed in creation rather than the Creator.

If this is literally two fire breathing witnesses, you can imagine the 24-hour news coverage of two dead prophets. So disgusted is the world with their message and the plagues that the world parties to celebrate their death. The day of their death seems to take the place of Christmas as everyone sends presents to one another. It is a new excuse to worship consumerism. But if we see it as applying to the church age, in the mainstream media very little coverage is given to the massacre of Christians. That is the ultimate insult. I doubt many of you have heard of the recent slaughter of Christians in Nigeria. And yet, we do occasionally see news of Muslims rejoicing over the slaughter of Jews or Christians as they pass out gifts of candy to children. That is the same spirit we see described here. Then again, if it is the church in the last seven years around the world killed by the Antichrist and his forces, the nations will see their dead bodies.

We should all hope for the salvation of all people. However, what God is making clear here is that the world will become so hardened to the gospel that they will refer to it as torment. If you think Christians are despised today, imagine what that would be like.

God hates sin (Psalm 45:7^{xxiv})! I cannot emphasize that enough. It is not just a no-no or a mistake. He abhors it because it is so contrary to goodness and holiness. It is destructive to those He has placed His love upon. Anything that is harmful to your loved ones you would hate as well. Jesus pulled no punches when He rebuked the Pharisees for burdening the people by distorting the Law. It made God’s Word seem to be a burden rather than a blessing. It made Him angry. Yes, Jesus got angry (Mark 3:5^{xxv}). He was angry at those who put manmade rules above compassion and misrepresented God by doing so. He also told the

woman caught in adultery that He did not condemn her but to go and sin no more (John 8:11^{xxvi}).

¹¹ But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on 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, and their enemies watched them. Revelation 11:11,12 The first readers would have read this as God receiving them when their witness is done. We have the hope of heaven. The world's rejoicing turns to fear when they see these two ascend into heaven after the loud voice from heaven commands them to "Come up here!" That is the same expression used when God called John into the spiritual realm to see these visions (4:1^{xxvii}). The parallel with 4:1,2 may indicate the voice is that of Christ. Clouds represented the presence of God (Ezekiel 1:4^{xxviii}). This the manner in which Jesus ascended (Acts 1:9^{xxix}). Jews would have seen this as a sign of God vindicating their ministry.

Can you imagine the news stations around the world broadcasting the video and the bizarre explanations that would be given? It will make no difference what is said for the sight of their ascension will cause the world to fear that their prophecies of judgment were at hand. Once again, we see a parallel with the deliverance from Egypt. First there are the plagues, a proclamation from God's prophets (Moses and Aaron), the Egyptians were glad when they left as they were afraid of further punishments. Psalm 105:38 tells us, ³⁸ *Egypt was glad when they departed, for dread of them had fallen upon it.* That was followed by the annihilation of Egypt's army in the Red Sea.

If the two represent the church during the last seven years this would indicate a mid-tribulation rapture, assuming that their 1260 days of ministry begin at the beginning of the 7 years. If it began at the midpoint of the 70th week when the covenant is broken and the Antichrist declares that he is God, it would mean a rapture near the end of the tribulation. Part of the puzzle is that the beast/Antichrist reigns for 42 months during which time he is allowed to conquer the saints (Revelation 13:5^{xxx},7^{xxxi}). It does not seem plausible to me that the witnesses are protected during the same time the Antichrist exercises authority for 42 months. I understand that to be the last three and half years.

This passage has similarities to Jesus' prediction of the end times. ⁹ *"But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them."¹⁰ And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations.¹¹ And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.¹² And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death.¹³ And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.* Mark 13:9-13

Daniel describes nations as beasts. However, the beast that kills the two witnesses rises from the bottomless pit. That would point to it being a spiritual power of darkness. The beast that is described as the Antichrist rises from the sea (13:1^{xxxii}). In apocalyptic language the sea is the people of the earth (17:15^{xxxiii}). Though a beast may represent the nation in which the Antichrist first comes to power, as the head of that nation, he is described as an individual. We will see in 13:2^{xxxiv} that Satan gives him his power.

¹³ *And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to*

the God of heaven. Revelation 11:13 Finally after the six trumpets have reeked their havoc. The two woes are finished, and the witnesses ascended. It is immediately followed by a great earthquake with thousands dying. Those at the center of all these events in Jerusalem finally out of sheer terror and probably hoping to escape more judgments give glory to the God of heaven. In many Bible passages, giving glory to the God of heaven sounds as if the people are converted. Daniel 4:34^{xxxv} may be especially applicable as the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, seemed to convert with the same expression after experiencing the judgment of God for seven periods of time. Every knee will bow, but that may be because they have no other choice (Philippians 2:10,11^{xxxvi}).

People say addicts must get to the very bottom where it is change or die. So many people are addicted to sin, rebellion against their own loving Creator. We saw in Zechariah the diamond-hard hearts that just would not listen but insisted on going their own way. Whether or not giving glory to God in this passage is conversion is debated. We can say for sure they will finally acknowledge that all that is happening is from the hand of God. What would it take for people to acknowledge that today? In recent years we have seen devastating earthquakes, tsunamis, flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, and epidemics. This passage is true of the hardness of the human heart. It takes barely surviving to finally get people to look up.

A great earthquake is mentioned in 6:12^{xxxvii} and 16:18^{xxxviii} both of which seem to occur at the end of the tribulation. That may be an indication that this earthquake also takes place then. If that was the case, both the period of the two witnesses and that reign of the Antichrist would take place at the same time. As most numbers in the book are symbolic, 7000 deaths and tenth of the city may be figurative. The prophets used those numbers to declare those who are preserved. Here it seems to be reversed.

Beal points out the similarities to a passage in Micah. *The pattern of Rev. 11:9–13 is found in striking fashion in Micah 7:8–17: (1) an enemy (ἐχθρά) “rejoices” (ἐπιχαίρω) over Israel’s defeat; (2) Israel’s deliverance and restoration from captivity are portrayed as “rising” and likened to “the exodus out of Egypt”; (3) the enemies “see” the deliverance, “lay their hands on their mouth,” and (4) are shamed by it; (5) then their “cities are leveled and parted” in judgment; (6) the last response of the enemies is that they become “amazed” and “afraid” (φοβέω) of God.*^{xxxix}

¹⁴ *The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.* Revelation 11:14 Imagine hearing that after seeing what had taken place to this point in the book. The seventh trumpet is going to declare the beginning of God’s reign on the earth. And yet, the bowls of wrath are still to come, that is unless as some suggest it is a retelling of the trumpets. Whatever the case this passage is telling us everyone needs to hear the gospel. Everyone must decide whether they will worship creation or the Creator.

There is a similarity with these witnesses and the passion of our Savior. The world rejects their message. They are killed because the message torments the hearers. The world rejoices that they are gone. They rise which causes those who see it to fear God. I see this as one of God’s repeated patterns. It is true in the lives of many Christians throughout the history of the church. Jesus told us that if they persecuted Him, we will also be persecuted (John 15:20^{xl}). We should expect it and know it will only help us to let go of this life and cling to Jesus. Revelation challenges us to consider what is first in our lives. What motivates us each day? What are we really living for? We are either earth dwellers or like Abraham, we are seeking the heavenly city (Hebrews 11:10^{xli}). No regrets, in the end, I want to live so there is no “what ifs”! I pray that is true of you as well.

Questions:

- 1 Who are these two witnesses?
- 2 Where are they killed?
- 3 Discuss the Two Cities.
- 4 What does “some from the people” imply?
- 5 What does “those who dwell on the earth” refer to?
- 6 Why does God hate sin?
- 7 What is the Exodus parallel?
- 8 What do you think of Daniel 12:11-13?
- 9 In verse 13 are people saved or still earth dwellers?
- 10 What is our takeaway?

ⁱ **Matthew 18:16 (ESV)**

¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

ⁱⁱ **Deuteronomy 19:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ “A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established.

ⁱⁱⁱ James M. Hamilton Jr., *Preaching the Word: Revelation—The Spirit Speaks to the Churches*, ed. R. Kent Hughes (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 239.

^{iv} **Revelation 9:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ They have as king over them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

^v **Revelation 13:1 (ESV)**

¹ And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.

^{vi} **Daniel 7:23-27 (ESV)**

²³ “Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. ²⁴ As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. ²⁵ He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. ²⁶ But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. ²⁷ And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’

^{vii} **Revelation 13:7 (ESV)**

⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,

^{viii} **Revelation 19:19 (ESV)**

¹⁹ And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.

^{ix} **Romans 8:35 (ESV)**

³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

^x **1 John 2:18 (ESV)**

¹⁸ Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

^{xi} **1 John 4:3 (ESV)**

³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

xii **John 16:2 (ESV)**

² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.

xiii **Matthew 6:24 (ESV)**

²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

xiv **Revelation 6:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

xv **Revelation 8:13 (ESV)**

¹³ Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud voice as it flew directly overhead, “Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the three angels are about to blow!”

xvi **Isaiah 24:6 (ESV)**

⁶ Therefore a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched, and few men are left.

xvii **Isaiah 26:21 (ESV)**

²¹ For behold, the LORD is coming out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no more cover its slain.

xviii **Revelation 13:8 (ESV)**

⁸ and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

xix **Revelation 13:12 (ESV)**

¹² It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed.

xx **Revelation 13:14 (ESV)**

¹⁴ and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

xxi **Revelation 14:6-9 (ESV)**

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

⁸ Another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality.” ⁹ And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand,

xxii **Revelation 17:2 (ESV)**

² with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.”

xxiii **Revelation 17:8 (ESV)**

⁸ The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

xxiv **Psalms 45:7 (ESV)**

⁷ you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

xxv **Mark 3:5 (ESV)**

⁵ And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

xxvi **John 8:11 (ESV)**

¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”]]

xxvii **Revelation 4:1 (ESV)**

¹ After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

xxviii **Ezekiel 1:4 (ESV)**

⁴ As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness around it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming metal.

^{xxix} **Acts 1:9 (ESV)**

⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

^{xxx} **Revelation 13:5 (ESV)**

⁵ And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for forty-two months.

^{xxxi} **Revelation 13:7 (ESV)**

⁷ Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation,

^{xxxii} **Revelation 13:1 (ESV)**

¹ And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.

^{xxxiii} **Revelation 17:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages.

^{xxxiv} **Revelation 13:2 (ESV)**

² And the beast that I saw was like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.

^{xxxv} **Daniel 4:34 (ESV)**

³⁴ At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;

^{xxxvi} **Philippians 2:10-11 (ESV)**

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

^{xxxvii} **Revelation 6:12 (ESV)**

¹² When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood,

^{xxxviii} **Revelation 16:18 (ESV)**

¹⁸ And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake.

^{xxxix} G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle, Cumbria: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 1999), 606.

^{xl} **John 15:20 (ESV)**

²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

^{xli} **Hebrews 11:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.