

## A Who are the two witnesses?

- ❖ The mention of the two olive trees and the two lampstands (Rev. 11:4) takes us to the vision of Zechariah 4. In it, the olive trees produce the oil that feeds a seven-branched lampstand (Zech. 4:1-3, 12).
- ❖ The olive trees are “the two anointed ones” that, together with the lampstand, represent “the word of the Lord” (Zech. 4:6, 14). That is, the Old and New Testaments.
- ❖ Using Moses and Elijah as symbols, Revelation 11 says of these two witnesses:
  - They are dressed in sackcloth (3): The Bible was preserved in troubling times
  - They stand before God (4): God did not allow his Word to disappear
  - If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes out of them (5): The biblical message “devours” their enemies ( Jer . 5:14)
  - They close the sky so that it does not rain (6a): He who rejects the Bible is deprived of the rain of the Holy Spirit (the oil).
  - They turn water into blood and cause plagues (6b): Only those who studied the Bible were delivered from the plagues and spiritual darkness of the Middle Ages

## B How long did they give their testimony?

- ❖ Revelation chapter 11 begins with a vision of the Heavenly Sanctuary, and of those who worship before the altar of incense (Rev. 11:1).
- ❖ The Court of the Heavenly Sanctuary is the Earth, where the “Gentiles” – unbelievers – trample the “holy city” – the people of God – for 42 months (v. 2).
- ❖ At that time, the Word of God would be clothed in “sackcloth” – great hardships – (v. 3) [42 months x 30 days = 1,260 days (in prophecy, 1,260 years)].
- ❖ From the year 538, the Roman church began to gradually impose its tradition above the Word of God, reaching the point of prohibiting the reading of the Bible and condemning to death those who had it, read it, or lived according to its beliefs. doctrines.
- ❖ Near the end of this period, the reformers gave momentary relief to this persecution (Matt. 24:22).

## C How did they die?

- ❖ What power arose at the end of the 1,260 years, that is, around the year 1798?
- ❖ The French Revolution, begun in 1789, gave rise to the so-called “government of terror” (1793-1794), making it very clear who was behind this government: Satan and his demons. This government is called three ways (Rev. 11:8):
  - Sodom: The Revolution began a period of great immorality
  - Egypt: Atheist government ( Ex. 5:2), although they did not mind worshipping the “goddess of reason”
  - Where Jesus was crucified: Jesus' sacrifice was rejected

## D When were they resurrected and ascended to heaven?

- ❖ On November 26, 1793, Paris issued a decree abolishing religion. This decree was annulled on June 17, 1797. During this period of three and a half years, France rejoiced and was glad to have been “freed” from the tyranny of religion, and to have silenced the voice of the Bible (Rev. 11:9-10).
- ❖ Instead of being silenced or destroyed, the Bible rose up stronger than before. Protestant missions carried the gospel message to the ends of the Earth (Rev. 11:11).
- ❖ William Wilberforce created the first Bible Society in 1804 for the mass distribution of the Bible. The existing copies of the Bible multiplied by thousands, until it became the first best-selling book in the world. Currently, the distribution of the Word of God is unstoppable. It has been placed by God in a situation where no one can destroy it (Rev. 11:12).

## E What happened next?

- ❖ From the “resurrection” of the two witnesses, the last chapter of the cosmic conflict begins: the time of the end.
- ❖ The Second Coming will be preceded by wrath among the nations, and will end with the destruction of “those who destroy the Earth” (Rev. 11:18).
- ❖ All of these events are framed in a context of worship in Heaven (Rev. 11:16-17), which culminates with the vision of the ark of the covenant in the Heavenly Sanctuary (Rev. 11:19).
- ❖ Having arrived “the time of judgment” (Rev. 11:18), the standard of the Judgment is shown to the world: the ten commandments contained in the ark of the covenant.