

Program: SS Panel 2024 2 Q

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Lesson Title: #6 The Two Witnesses

Section title: Tuesday - The Two Witnesses are Killed

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Note: This color and font = quarterly text

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The Two Witnesses

Read for This Week's Study: *Rev. 11:3–6; Zech. 4:14; Rev. 12:5, 6, 14, 15; Dan. 7:25; Isa. 54:17; Ps. 119:89; Rev. 11:15–18.*

Memory Text: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever" (*Isaiah 40:8, NKJV*).

Tuesday

May 7

The Two Witnesses are Killed

******READ******

Read Revelation 11:7–9. Remembering that the language is symbolic, what do these verses predict would happen to God's two witnesses, the Old and New Testaments?

Revelation 11:7–9 **7** When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.

When they finish their testimony

SDA BC Revelation 11:7. **When they shall have finished.** That is, at the end of the 1260 days (see Rev. 11:3; see on Dan. 7:25).



****READ****

By a.d. 538, the pagan Roman Empire had collapsed. Justinian, the Roman emperor, surrendered civil, political, and religious authority to Pope Vigillis. The long period of the medieval church's domination began. It continued until a.d. 1798. The French general, Berthier, on orders from Napoleon, marched unopposed into Rome on February 10, 1798. Pope Pius VI was taken captive and brought back to France, where he died. This date marks the prophetically predicted end of the Roman church's secular authority, the 1,260 days or years as depicted in Daniel and Revelation (see yesterday's study).

What a powerful manifestation of the truth of biblical prophecy! Daniel, writing more than 500 years before Christ, so accurately predicted events 2,300 years later. We can, indeed, trust the prophecies given in the Bible.

****READ**** the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit

Meanwhile, during all this, the truth of the gospel was kept alive by the witness of the Word. But even greater challenges threatened biblical truth. The beast that ascended from the bottomless pit (Satan) made war against the Scriptures. He initiated new assaults on the Bible's authority through the French Revolution that began in 1789.

****READ****

In the French Revolution, the government officially established the **Cult of Reason** as a state-sponsored atheistic religion, intended to replace Christianity. A Festival of Reason was held nationwide on November 10, 1793. Churches across France were turned into Temples of Reason, and a living woman was enthroned as the Goddess of Reason. Bibles were burned in the streets. God was declared nonexistent, and death was pronounced to be an endless sleep. Satan worked through godless men to kill God's two witnesses. Their dead bodies would "lie in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified" (Rev. 11:8, NKJV).

****READ****

From: Wikipedia — [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cult_of_Reason#The Cult of Reason](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cult_of_Reason#The_Cult_of_Reason) (French: *Culte de la Raison*)^[note 1] was France's first established state-sponsored atheistic religion, intended as a replacement for Roman Catholicism during the French Revolution. After holding sway for barely a year, in 1794 it was officially replaced by the rival deistic Cult of the Supreme Being, promoted by Robespierre.^{[1][2][3][4]} Both cults were officially banned in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte with his *Law on Cults of 18 Germinal, Year X*.^[5]

Revelation 11:8 And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, **where also our Lord was crucified.**

****READ****

“Where also our Lord was crucified.” This specification of the prophecy was also fulfilled by France. In no land had the spirit of enmity against Christ been more strikingly displayed. In no country had the truth encountered more bitter and cruel opposition. In the persecution which France had visited upon the confessors of the gospel, she had crucified Christ in the person of His disciples.. GC 271.1

****READ****

the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, Egypt was a culture of many gods that denied the true God (see Exod. 5:2). Sodom represents gross immorality. In the French Revolution, God's two witnesses—the Old and New Testaments—**lay dead due to the atheism and immorality that ran rampant as normal restraints were loosed in revolution and bloodshed.**

Revelation 11:9 Then *those* from the peoples, tribes, tongues, and nations will see their dead bodies three-and-a-half days, and not allow their dead bodies to be put into graves.

SDA BC

Revelation 11:9 Three days and an half. In harmony with the principle of prophetic interpretation, that a day stands for a year, “three days and an half” would be equivalent to three years and a half. Seventh-day Adventists, who generally understand the beast of v. 7 to represent the First French Republic (1792 to 1804), especially in terms of its antireligious bias, find this prophecy fulfilled during that brief period in French revolutionary history when atheism was at its height. **This period may be reckoned from November 10, 1793, when a decree, issued in Paris, abolished religion, to June 17, 1797, when, it is held, the French government removed restrictions against the practice of religion.**

A day = a year in prophecy = 1260 years as already mentioned...

REF: >> Ezekiel 4:4-6 4 “Lie also on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it. *According* to the number of the days that you lie on it, you shall bear their iniquity.

5 For I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Israel.

6 And when you have completed them, lie again on your right side; then you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days. I have laid on you a day for each year.

REF:>>Numbers 14:34 34 According to the number of the days in which you spied out the land, forty days, for each day you shall bear your guilt one year, *namely* forty years, and you shall know My rejection.

Revelation 11:9 says that the bodies of God's two witnesses would lie unburied for "three-and-a-half days" (NKJV), i.e., prophetic "days" representing three and a half literal years. Atheism was at its height in the French Revolution, at least for about three and a half years. This period extended from November 26, 1793, when a decree issued in Paris abolished religion, to June 17, 1797, when the French government removed its restrictive religious laws.



Additional Notes

Rev 11:3 And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

Page 267. **Efforts to Suppress and Destroy the Bible.**—The Council of Toulouse, which met about the time of the crusade against the Albigenses, ruled: “We prohibit laymen possessing copies of the Old and New Testament.... We forbid them most severely to have the above books in the popular vernacular.” “The Lords of the districts shall carefully seek out the heretics in dwellings, hovels, and forests, and even their underground retreats shall be entirely wiped out.”—Concil. Tolosanum, Pope Gregory IX, Anno. Chr. **1229**. Canons 14 and 2. This Council sat at the time of the crusade against the Albigenses. GC 687.6

This prophecy has received a most exact and striking fulfillment in the history of France. During the Revolution, in 1793, **“the world for the first time heard an assembly of men, born and educated in civilization, and assuming the right to govern one of the finest of the European nations, uplift their united voice to deny the most solemn truth which man's**

soul receives, and renounce unanimously the belief and worship of a Deity.”—Sir Walter Scott, *Life of Napoleon*, vol. 1, ch. 17. “**France is the only nation in the world concerning which the authentic record survives, that as a nation she lifted her hand in open rebellion against the Author of the universe.** Plenty of blasphemers, plenty of infidels, there have been, and still continue to be, in England, Germany, Spain, and elsewhere; but France stands apart in the world's history as the single state which, by the decree of her Legislative Assembly, pronounced that there was no God, and of which the entire population of the capital, and a vast majority elsewhere, women as well as men, danced and sang with joy in accepting the announcement.”—*Blackwood's Magazine*, November, 1870. GC 269.4