

Dear Ray,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked who or what are the "Two Witnesses" spoken of in Revelation.

Revelation is a highly symbolic book. Most things spoken of are not what they appear to be. This is the case with the "Two Witnesses" of Revelation, Chapter 11.

"And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth." (Revelation 11:3-4) We believe the two witnesses as well as the two olive trees and lampstands (see Zechariah 4:2-6) are representative of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, the spirit of the LORD. Their prophesying in sackcloth is an emblem of their oppression during Papacy's reign. The 1260 days represent 1260 years, from 539 when the Pope was declared the supreme head of all Christian Churches, to 1799, when the Pope died a prisoner in France, leaving the Papacy temporarily headless. Thus the two witnesses (the Old and New Testaments) revived. Three and a half days (Revelation 11:11), represent three and a half years later when Bible Societies were formed as a result of Napoleon's concordat, effective in 1802, which reestablished Christianity as an active force. Soon Bibles were distributed by the millions, causing the Scriptures to ascend to great prominence in the ecclesiastical heavens (Revelation 11:12). The earthquake spoken of in verse 13 represents the French Revolution. The tenth part of the city that fell represents France, one of the ten toes of Christendom (see Daniel 3:41-43). The survivors who gave glory to God in heaven actually gave glory to the ecclesiastical heavens where the Pope was reestablished in the aftermath of the revolution.

We realize we have only touched the surface on the study of Revelation 11. Nonetheless, we hope we have shed some light on your question. Please write us again with further inquiries.

Sincerely,  
Christian Questions Radio