
EP87 Revelation 11 verses 6-8

Let's pick up there with a discussion on this crazy authority the two witnesses have been given.

Revelation 11:6

These **now** have the authority to shut up the sky, so that rain will **now** not fall during the days of their prophesying; and they **now** have authority over the waters to **now** turn them into blood, and to strike the earth with every wound [or calamity], as often as they may desire.

In our last podcast, we ended discussing how the **Called and Chosen and Faithful** even **now** have been granted the authority to strike or knock down the earth with all these wounds or calamities. And they are authorized to do it as often as they may desire. It is no wonder that the peoples of the world hate them and want them dead, or at least they will when they start doing what they have been authorized to do.

Miracles – What Does This Mean?

But if this is the authority that His bondservants **NOW** have (turning blessings into judgments, removing blessings, and bringing forth great calamity), do they know it? Do they, I hate to say “pray for” or more appropriately, stand on their authority and desire and declare these types of events? Is this to be a significant aspect of their prayer life?

There is a passage in the **Codex** where Jesus seems to support this crazy grant of authority, but which most likely left His followers very confused. The syntax of this passage is critical.

Matthew 16:19

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you may bind upon the earth, will choose to be caused to having been bound in the heavens, and whatever you may loose upon the earth, will choose to be caused to having been loosed in the heavens.”

I know, the grammar is a bit odd for our English minds and tongues, but both instances of “*will choose to be*” are rendered in the *future middle indicative*, and both instances of “*caused to having been bound*” are rendered in the *perfect passive participle*.

In short, the **Called and Chosen and Faithful** have now been given authority to the effect that what they now choose to bind or loosen on earth, will choose to be caused to having been bound in the heavens. Yeah, thanks, that was helpful. It's all super clear now—not!

Lots of Choices

Let me try again. The implication is that what they now choose will, in the future, choose to be

something which God had determined previously to either being bound or loosened, and being a *participle*, we know His purpose to be bound or loosened is an ongoing thing.

The Beauty of Agency

Let's keep in mind, that as the Alpha, God is always the initiator. It's as if God decided about the binding or loosening of some wound or the removal of a blessing, and then put that decision on the shelf (so-to-speak), waiting for this decision to be accessed. **Remember, the Father works through agency.** Thus, when the **Called and Chosen and Faithful** exercise the authority that they have been given and declare access to that decision which God already made, it will choose to be something that is either being bound or loosened respectively.

The use of the *future middle indicative* in the phrase "*will choose to be*" is telling. The *middle* voice indicates that there is a volitional choice to do something. And please do not think this is just some colorful anthropomorphism. Rather, this choice by the Spirit to use the *middle* voice leaves us with the implication that each decision for calamity or each decision for the removal of a blessing which God has made and has put on a shelf, is literally waiting to be put into motion through God's agency of the angelic.

This should not surprise us as the "action" we have seen in **Revelation** has come at the hands of the angelic, beginning with the letters to the seven churches that was written to each angel that was given charge over each church, to the great or mighty angel that swears upon heaven and earth, the 7 angels that blow the 7 Trumpets, and soon we will be introduced to the 7 angels who have the 7 Bowls containing the wrath of God. And of course, all the activity that is set into motion by the Dragon, the Beast, the False Prophet, the locust like demons, the creatures that kill a third of the earth, and so on, derives from the angelic (though "bad", they too are angels—fallen angels).

As we have learned from the get-go, God works through agency and He carries out His plans through His messengers from the hosts of heaven (both the good and the bad angels), for they are the instruments through which His plans are enacted in our physical realm.

Psalms 103:19-22

Yahweh has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all. Bless **Yahweh**, you His angels, mighty in strength, who perform His word, obeying the voice of His word! Bless **Yahweh**, all you His hosts, you who serve Him, doing His will. Bless **Yahweh**, all you works of His, in all places of His dominion; Bless **Yahweh**, O my soul!

The angelic are there waiting to choose to put these "*wounds*" into motion. But the angelic won't choose to act (and perhaps are prevented from acting) until the authority is exercised by the **Called and Chosen and Faithful**, for they hold the keys to the kingdom of Heaven, just as Jesus said. And until they turn the key, such things are **NOT** let lose to be either bound or loosened.¹

Perhaps this was alluded to when Jesus identified Himself to the church of Philadelphia as the one who

¹ **Matthew 16:19**

is now holding the key of David, the key to the kingdom. *“He who is now holy, who is true, who is now having the key of David, who is now opening, and no one will shut, who is now shutting and no one will open.”*² Thus, as Jesus lives His life in-and-through the two witnesses, this is practically experienced in their lives.

Hence, the **Called and Chosen and Faithful now** have the power to enact on earth the Father’s will that has already been decided upon. Their declarations release the Father’s will into our earthly realms. Hence, that is why we are instructed to pray: *“Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come **Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**”*³ This phrase is not just some cute tag line we are to add on the end of our prayers, rather, it is intended to be a release (to either bind or loosen) of that which has been reserved in the heavens and set aside to be released.

When we align our prayers or declarations with the plan God already made, we become the vessels through which those plans are opened to invade our natural realms to either loosen or to bind something. *“And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”*⁴

The **Called and Chosen and Faithful now** have, and once they are enabled to prophecy for **1,260 days**, will also “now” have this authority to strike or pound the earth with wounds and calamities that are unfathomable, and to both prevent blessing and to remove current blessings in people’s lives.

This is intense!

Given the principal of agency, the **Called and Chosen and Faithful** are literally the instruments through which **Yahweh’s** supernatural activity is unleashed or sent down upon this earth. Perhaps we already saw a picture of this when the angel took incense and added it to the prayers of the saints. As the prayers and the incense ascended to God from the altar, the angel took the incense burner filled it with fire from the altar and threw it down to the earth; and thunder crashed, lightning flashed, and there was a terrible earthquake. Disaster and drama were unleashed upon the earth because of the prayers of the saints who “turned the key” so-to-speak and set the angel or angels into motion.

As Often as They May Desire

Ok, so let’s not forget this little tag on the end of this passage, *“as often as they may desire.”* The **Called and Chosen and Faithful now** have the authority and therefore can inflict these tragedies which God has prepared beforehand, as often as they may desire.

The implication is that there might be a lot of decisions (for various wounds to be unleashed on the earth or the restriction and removal of blessing) that God has “put on the shelf” just waiting for their release. But if “they” do not desire to do so, if they are not walking in the Spirit and are not in-tune with the Spirit’s desires, they may never be put into motion, the key may never be turned, because they may never desire to declare it to be. Accordingly, the angelic implementers will never choose for it to come to

² *Revelation 3:7*

³ *Matthew 6:9-10*

⁴ *1 John 5:14-15*

be.

Probably closer to the truth is that God will always find someone who is walking in His Spirit and praying in His Spirit to loosen what He has prepared, but many believers who should have a role in this amazing responsibility will not get to experience being that vessel of calling to earth the will of the Father in heaven.

This should cause us to wonder and to reflect on how critical it is that we walk not according to the *flesh* but according to the Spirit, so we might come to know the will of God, that which is good, pleasing, and perfect. And let us keep in mind, by way of a small delusion buster, Jesus said “*For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother.*”⁵ Thus, each person who is **now worshipping** in the Sanctuary should have a part to play, even now, in bringing forth these calamities and restrictions on blessing.

Declaration of War: The End of the 1,260 Days

Revelation 11:7

When they have finished their testimony, the beast that is now ascending up out of the abyss will make war with them and overcome them and kill them.

What a huge let down. After revelations of this unbelievable supernatural authority given to the **Called and Chosen and Faithful**, they are overcome and killed; that is so uncool. We like the part about the supernatural power, but this part about war and killing makes us queasy, and more than a bit nervous.

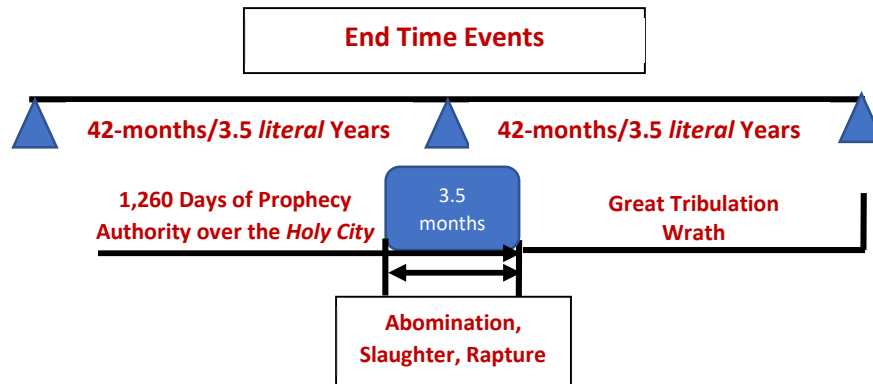
This part of the passage is another **layer in time** and locks us down to the **End Times**, as suddenly the **Code** switches to the *future* tense. But keep in mind, the end of the witnesses **1,260 days** of prophesying will egress slightly into the second 3.5 years of the tribulation, during the time of the Beast’s **42 months**.

When the two witnesses finish their testimony, when the time that has been established by **Yahweh** for His light to be removed from this world, the Beast that is now ascending up out of the abyss **will** make war with them and **will** overcome them and **will** kill them (from the Greek “*nike*”—to conquer or subdue).

The *future* tense is used 3x here: will make war, will subdue, and will kill, and with each being rendered in the *indicative* mood, we know these are statements of fact. Thus, the Spirit is giving us a perfect signal of the time-jump from the **NOW** to **THEN**, as the narrative pushes forward to the end of the **1,260 days** of prophecy.

⁵ **Mark 3:35**

Illustration



The Timing

Just to be clear, we are dealing with the events that occur in that mystical **3.5 months** which overlaps both the first and the second 3.5-year periods. We get this period from *Daniel* where we are told that from the time of the *Abomination of Desolation*, there will be 1,290 days.

Therefore, if we begin at the end and count backwards for 1,290 days, this pushes us 30-days into the first 3.5-year period. Thus, the *Abomination of Desolation* will occur **30-days** prior to the end of the first 3.5-year period. Daniel then says, “*blessed is he who keeps waiting and attains to the 1,335 days*”.⁶ This “*blessing*” is addressing the resurrection of the dead and the rapture of the church—those who wait till the end.

Then, if we start at the beginning of the first 3.5-year period and count forward 1,335 days, that puts us **75 days** into the second 3.5-year period. Using each measurement as a bookend, so-to-speak, we get **30 days** on one end + **75 days** on the other end, for a total of **105 days**, or that mystical **3.5 months** (based on the Jewish Calendar with 30-day months). Coincidence? I think not!

These events occur in this overlap between the two 3.5-year periods and somehow just adds up to another **mystical** number: **3.5 months**.

But No One Knows

For many of you, what is probably entering your mind is the statement which Jesus made that said, no one knows the day, nor the hour when all this will take place. But with this mystical calculation we can know. Oh, can we?

First, this statement Jesus made falls towards the end of a long discourse about the **End Times** and not about a specific event in the **End Times**. It is a statement in general about when the **End Times** and the first 3.5 years of the tribulation begin.

It is a twisting of scripture to try to tie this to the day of Jesus return or to the time of the rapture.

⁶ *Daniel 12:11-12*

The day and hour are pictures representing this period of time (the “day” of the Lord, the “hour” of His coming). Hence, He says to learn from the parable of the fig tree: *“when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door.”*⁷

He continues to say that we are to be on the alert and ready, for we do not know when, and it will be at a time when we do not think it will be, when people are simply doing life, marrying, being given in marriage (as in the days of Noah), and then whammy. But when we see the signs, we should know He is near, right at the door.⁸ Again, this was a statement targeted not at the rapture, nor at His Second Coming, but it is a statement in general about when the **End Times** and the first 3.5 years of the tribulation begin. It will begin at a time when few, but those who are alert, expect it.

The Spirit reinforces this idea in the book of **Thessalonians** when He said, *“Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you now have no need of anything to now be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will now choose to come just like a thief in the night. While they now say, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will now choose to come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman now being with child, and they will not escape”*.⁹

Most likely, as a result of the **treaty with the many**, they will think there will finally be *“Peace and Safety* from the persecution of believers, but the Beast whose name is *“Destruction”* will now choose to come upon them (just as he now is), and they will not escape.

The point is that this issue of not knowing the day, nor the hour is about the coming of this “season” in general and not about a specific event. No one knows the day nor the hour that the **End Times** will begin. It will be a surprise to everyone but the Father.

And this is why it was not until the opening of the 6th seal that we even start to see the structures of man, all that mankind looks to for security and protection, shaken, moved out of its place, and no longer able to provide security. It is only at this time that men and women will then come to know that the time of the Lamb’s judgment has arrived. The bad angels (or the demonic beings) will be ripped out of the sky and tossed down to the realm of humanity, and their impact on people will no longer be from above, but it will be in the here-and-now, tangible, and terrifying.

It will be clear that all this tumult and shaking is a result of the anger of the Godhead, and all of humanity will try to hide. They will call on what they once knew to be or believed to be stable to secure them, but it will all be to no avail. The anger of the Lamb will remove all those impudent and illusory sources of protection.

The point is that it will be well into the heavenly “action” before anyone is aware that the time is up, the time is now.

Second, for those still fixated on “knowing the day,” one must know the actual start date or end date to be able to zero in on this calculation and choose a day. But as we have discovered, there is no one event that tells us the exact beginning date of the first 3.5-year period and clearly nothing that tells us the end

⁷ **Matthew 24:32-34** See also **Matthew 25:13**

⁸ See **Matthew 24:32-51**

⁹ **1 Thessalonians 5:1-3**

date. We know that once the famed “**treaty**” or “**covenant with the many**” is signed we are in it, but there is nothing in the **Codex** that drills it down to one “starting day” that everyone will definitively know. In the **Codex**, there is no communicated, “ready, set, go!” Thus, we cannot know the actual day much less the hour.

*“Therefore, you are commanded to **now** be on the alert — for you do not know when the master of the house **now** chooses to come, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning — in case suddenly coming he may find you now sleeping. What I **now** say to you I **now** say to all, 'You are commanded to **now** be on the alert!’”¹⁰*

So, I think we are safe simply delighting in the glorious ways the Spirit communicates with all these mysterious numbers and calculations. A lot happens in this mysterious **3.5 months**, including the rise to power by the Beast, the end of **1,260 days** of prophecy, the war against the two witnesses, their death and resurrection, and of course the rapture. All of this occurs in the days of the blowing of the 7th Trumpet.

3.5 Months

As we discovered, months is **Code** for a season, a cycle of darkness, where those who function during the season of months function in darkness without natural light. Thus, with the ending of the **1,260 days** of prophecy, this will be a time where darkness is prevalent. This is the beginning of the time that Jesus warned us about when He said: “... *night is coming when no one can work.*”¹¹

As to the **3.5**, we know that when night is upon us, it is a **perfect** (3) time of **grace** (5). And there is no greater expression of grace (what God does for and on behalf of His **Called and Chosen and Faithful**) than the glorious day for which all believers are waiting—the day of the 7th (the last) trumpet. “*Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the **last trumpet**; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.*”¹²

Now Ascending

“... the beast that is now ascending up out of the abyss ...” Yes, the Beast is now interned in the Abyss and is not released until the 5th Trumpet, still, even now he is **coming** or ascending out of the Abyss. Shouldn't he be either in-or-out of the Abyss? How can he be in the process of ascending? After all, we already saw the scene of his upcoming release where the door to the Abyss was opened, and out he came with all his demonic minions. There was no “process” of ascending. He was in and then he was out. Thus, it is strange that “ascending” is rendered in the *present active participle*. **The Beast is now ascending.**

The point is that the Beast, who is also referred to as the **spirit** of the Antichrist, is somehow even now active in this world despite his internment. **John** is clear on this point.¹³ The Beast is extremely powerful such that he can somehow reach outside of the Abyss, possibly through the agency of other loyal demons, and prepare the earth for his arrival. In a sense, he is even now ascending to power and his kingdom is

¹⁰ **Mark 13:35-37**

¹¹ **John 9:4**

¹² **1 Corinthians 15:51-53**

¹³ **1 John 4:3**

even now being readied—it is coming!

Besides we learned that the Beast takes up his authority from within the Sanctuary and even **now** chooses to be **opposing** the truth that our lives are to be lived **by grace through faith**, and that **faith is a now thing**. Through comingling grace with any amount of legalism (as much as any person may need), through obsessing on “sin” (as he has done throughout the centuries), this false Messiah **now** chooses to be **exalting** himself above all that is **now** caused to being called God.

The Beast is now declaring to his followers in the masses of the religion of Christianity that he is the way, the truth, and the one who dictates the kind of life that they should live—a life of bondage to religion, rules, law, and to sin, judgment, condemnation, striving, shame, guilt, duty, service, and so on. Yes, this spirit is **now displaying** himself as one who **now** is God.

We are not sure how it all works from his place in the Abyss, but make no mistake, the Beast is even now ascending or coming forth.

War

Revelation 11:7

When they have finished their testimony, the beast that is now ascending up out of the abyss **will make war with them and overcome them and kill them**.

Upon the conclusion of their **1,260 days** of prophecy, and not a moment before, the Beast will make war with them. This will be a time of world-wide slaughter. And they will be conquered, or as **Daniel** puts it, there will be a “*complete shattering of the holy ones*.”

Daniel is clear that this “*complete shattering*” occurs before the time of God’s wrath, i.e., before the “*time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time*.” Then from the time of the shattering, there will be *a time, times, and half a time*, or the final 3.5-year period—this *time of distress*.¹⁴ In other words, this war is going to take place during this **mysterious 3.5-month** period of time which leads to the Beast’s **42 months** of permitted action.

The Spirit wants us to know that the one who will wage **WAR** (*future tense*) and will **OVERCOME** them (*future tense*) and will **KILL** them (*future tense*) will be the Beast, the king of the locust-like demons whose name is Destruction or Destroyer, who once was worshipped as Chemosh but now is known as the “*Angel of the Abyss*”.¹⁵

By the way, the fact that the Beast wages **WAR** completely shattering the holy ones is one of the additional reasons we know these are NOT just two individuals. No one wages a **WAR** against two people, that is just a street fight. The Beast will go to **WAR**, or wage **WARFARE** against two groups of people, those who follow the Lamb wherever He goes from amongst both the Jews and the Gentiles. This will be a global

¹⁴ **Daniel 12:1-7**

¹⁵ See **Revelation 9:11**

war.

The Aftermath of War

Revelation 11:8

And their dead body in the street of the great city which spiritually is **now** caused to be called Sodom and Egypt, where also their Lord was caused to be crucified.

This might be a surprise, but this passage provides for us clear and convincing evidence that this will be a global war against a community of people (**Yahweh's** witnesses comprised of both Jew and Gentile), and not just a street fight against two individual witnesses. More on that in a moment, but first let us reach back into the **Codex**.

In the small three-chapter book of **Zephaniah**, the first chapter is all about the **Day of Yahweh**, the time of **Yahweh's** wrath where **Yahweh** says that He will make a complete end, indeed a terrifying one, of all the inhabitants of the earth. But before the complete destruction, God says that He has prepared a sacrifice and has made holy, set apart, or **consecrated**, His guests.¹⁶

Perhaps this connects us to the whole measurement of the *“Sanctuary of God and the altar, and those who are now worshipping in it.”* By their having the seal of God on their foreheads and by the measurement dividing them from those in the temple at large, those in the Sanctuary have been **consecrated**, made clean, or holy; thus, they are also known as the *“holy city.”*

And this *“sacrifice,”* the *“complete shattering,”* this *“war,”* is the calling of the **consecrated** ones. And that is why the 144,000, as identified in **Revelation 14:1-5**, are associated with the image of Jesus as a Lamb, the image of sacrifice. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes (including death), as they have been purchased from among men as the first fruits (a *sacrifice*) to God and to the Lamb. And this is also why we are told in **14:13**, *“blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on so they might rest or **Sabbath** from their labors.”*

Seeing the death of the **Called and Chosen and Faithful** as a voluntary sacrifice, an offering unto God and the Lamb, is quite different than seeing it all through the lens of the Beast or as **Daniel** puts it, *“the shattering the power of the holy people.”*¹⁷ Is the glass half-full or half-empty? Both, it just depends upon your outlook.

And since these bondservants follow the Lamb wherever He goes, I believe they will see it all as a beautiful sacrifice—an offering of first fruits—and not as a terrible destiny. It will be an event of joy, believe it or not, as they are privileged to enter their **Sabbath**.

After all, it is not all bad news. **Daniel** says that the Beast will wage war against the *holy ones* and will

¹⁶ **Zephaniah 1:7-8**

¹⁷ **Daniel 12:7**. See also **Daniel 8:24**

be defeating them when God steps in and judges in favor of the *holy ones*.¹⁸ We will see all this come to complete fruition in **Revelation 14**, but we also get a view of it in **11:11** with a sudden resurrection of the witnesses that the Beast has killed.

This idea of a *slaughter* equaling a *sacrifice* is not a new concept. In the **Codex**, **Yahweh** addressed His plans to slaughter Pharaoh Neco, king of Egypt and his mighty army with His servant the king of Babylon.

Jeremiah 46:10

For this is the day of **Adonai Yahweh Sabaoth** (the Lord, the Lord of Heaven's Armies), a day of vengeance on his enemies. The sword will devour until it is satisfied, yes, until it is drunk with your blood! **Adonai Yahweh Sabaoth** (The Lord, the Lord of Heaven's Armies), will receive a *sacrifice* today in the north country beside the Euphrates River.

Once again, it all depends on the outlook. From our human perspective this was a *slaughter*, but from the perspective of **Yahweh**, from the heavenly view of things, this was a *sacrifice* to **Yahweh**. In like manner, His people will be a *sacrifice* and in so doing will walk in the very steps that He walked. This might be shocking, but it all seems to be a literal fulfilment of **Philippians 3:10**.

Philippians 3:8-11

More than that, I **now** choose to count all things to be loss but **now** for the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have been caused to suffer the loss of all things, and **now** choose to count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be caused to be found in Him, not **now** having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, **being caused to be conforming to His death**; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

In addition, the apostle Paul saw his ensuing death as a sacrifice, the pouring out of a drink offering unto **Yahweh**.¹⁹ Collectively, it makes perfect sense that the Spirit says that we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.²⁰

Is that a coincidence? I think not! When it comes to issues of sacrifice, we tend to prefer the figurative meaning more than the literal meaning, but we also cannot escape the literal. This is the reason why He promises that if we **now** suffer with Him, we may also be caused to be glorified with Him.²¹ If we are united with Him in the likeness of His death, we will also choose to be united with Him in the likeness of His

¹⁸ **Daniel 7:21**

¹⁹ See **Philippians 2:17; 2 Timothy 4:6**

²⁰ See **Romans 8:36; Psalm 44:22**

²¹ **Romans 8:17**

resurrection.²² Hence we should not fear:

Romans 8:37-39

But in all these things we **now** overwhelmingly conquer through Him who has been loving us. For I am caused to be convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things having been present, nor things that are now coming, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Their Body & the Street

*“And their dead **body** in the **street** of the great city ...”* Remember, the Spirit is always intentional and beyond precise. He says things exactly as He wants them to be expressed, and He wants us to understand them exactly as He expressed them.

Therefore, it is important to note that despite how it is rendered in most translations, both “body” and “street” are singular and not plural. Their dead bodies (which would make sense) will not be in the streets of the great city. Specifically, their “*dead body*” in the “*street*” of the great city.

This is strange since immediately before this in **11:7** we are told that the Beast will make war with *them*, will overcome *them*, and will kill *them*, all of which is rendered in the plural.

We will circle back to this as its importance will make more sense as we understand what the Spirit means by the “*great city*.”

But we will stop here and pick up with this “great city” in our next podcast.

²² ***Romans 6:5***