

## REVELATION: Lesson 107

### Chapter 11:8-13, They that Dwell Upon the Earth / Gave Glory to the God of Heaven

25 September 2020

There is a difference between Earth-dwellers and those whose citizenship is in Heaven. The citizen of Heaven gladly worships, praises, and gives glory to God every day. The Earth dweller refuses to do so today but will be compelled to give glory to God one day.

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**Vs 9** Notice that the verse doesn't say the two witnesses are dead. Their bodies are dead. If you have eternal life, your body may die, but you will never die.

**Vs 10** The Earth-dwellers "make merry" in joyous celebration of the departure of the two witnesses.

- It also appears that, during the Tribulation time, mankind will not allow God's judgments to interfere with society's normally scheduled activities.
- This attitude of continuing to reject the Savior in the wake of God's attempts to get them to repent reveals that these people have truly hardened their hearts against God.
  - They reject the Savior because they know they'd have to give up the sins they enjoy. That's too high a price for them to pay.

**11-13** After the resurrection and ascension of God's two witnesses, an earthquake destroys 1/10<sup>th</sup> of Jerusalem, killing 7,000 people (1 Kings 19:18 and Romans 11:4 are interesting cross-references). Those who survive (the remnant, vs 13), fear God and give Him glory, but it's too late. The mark of the Beast eliminates any chance they had of being saved.

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#### **THEY THAT DWELL UPON THE EARTH (vs 10)**

##### **Ephesians 1:3-20**

When you place your faith in Jesus Christ, you are in Him, even though you're living on the earth (vs 1, vs 10). He is in heavenly places (vs 1), seated at the right hand of the Father (vs 20), and we are in Him.

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##### **Colossians 3:1-2**

The believer is (practically) in a body of flesh on the earth, but (positionally) with Christ in God (vs 2). That is where our affections ought to be.

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##### **2 Corinthians 5:20**

We are ambassadors for Christ while we sojourn on this earth (1 Pet 1:17). We are citizens of Heaven; we represent and serve the Lord who is in Heaven (our home). We inform people of this world about the requirements and expectations of our King. One day He will call His ambassadors home to Heaven.

We are an occupying army (Luke 19:13). Soldiers don't buy lands and build houses and collect treasures in the territories they occupy. We are guarding this Earth, keeping the enemy at bay, in preparation for the Lord to come and take possession.

Whenever the Bible speaks of "**those who dwell upon the earth**," it always refers to people whose citizenship is in the Earth, not in Heaven. This earthly life is all they've got, their portion is in this life (Ps 17:14, Ec 5:18), so they devote all their energy to living this life to the fullest. The wicked often prosper, but it is only temporary (Ps 92:7).

God's people may suffer setbacks and losses temporarily while in this world, but we can still rejoice in the knowledge that our possessions are not here on Earth, but are eternal in Heaven (Mat 6:20).

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## Philippians 3:17-20

### What are the characteristics of earth-dwellers?

- They are enemies of the cross of Christ (1 Cor 1:18).
- Their end is destruction (Mt 25:41, Rev 21:8).
- Their God is their belly (Php 2:21, 1 Tim 6:5, 2 Tim 3:4).
- They glory in their shame (Hab 2:15-16, 1 Cor 5:2, 6, Ps 52:1, Rom 1:32).
- They mind earthly things (Rom 8:5-7, 1 Cor 3:3).

In contrast: “**OUR conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ**” (vs 20). Everything we do down here ought to be according to our example, the Lord Jesus Christ. We are his ambassadors; we represent Him in His absence. If we remember our true heavenly citizenship, our activities and motives and thoughts ought to demonstrate it.

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### What does Revelation reveal about earth dwellers?

1. Only Earth-dwellers will enter the Tribulation time. Believers are caught out beforehand (**Rev 3:10**).
  2. Earth-dwellers are responsible for martyring God’s saints (**Rev 6:10**).
  3. They rejoice at the misfortune and death of believers (**Rev 11:10**, Ps 35:19).
    - a. Believers are instructed to weep with them that weep (Rom 12:15).
    - b. We don’t rejoice when our enemy falls or stumbles (Prov 24:17, Job 31:28-30, Ezek 18:23).
    - c. The inhabitants of Heaven rejoice when Satan falls (**Rev 12:12**).
  4. They will worship the Beast, the Antichrist (**Rev 13:8**).
  5. They will be deceived by the Beast (**Rev 13:14**).
  6. They will be the subjects of the “everlasting gospel,” which proclaims that the hour of God’s judgment is upon them; it’s too late for them to change their mind, but they will still worship God (**Rev 14:6-7**).
  7. They will realize they were deceived when they see the Beast judged by God (**Rev 17:8**).
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### GAVE GLORY TO THE GOD OF HEAVEN (vs 13)

The remnant giving glory to the God of heaven are not the Jews who fled to the wilderness, but the unbelievers who survive the great earthquake. They now have a new fear of God that they didn’t have before, but it’s too late. There is still no godly sorrow, no evidence of repentance, no fruit of a changed life, only terror.

The Earth-dwellers will proclaim “Jesus is Lord” (Php 2:10-11) just before they are cast into the Lake of Fire, but only a person who has the Holy Spirit of God can gladly proclaim “Jesus is THE Lord” (1 Cor 12:3).

### **Momentary terror often causes men to confess their sins and pray a prayer:**

- Pharaoh (Exod 10:16), “I have sinned against the LORD your God.”
- Saul (1 Sam 15:24), “I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD.”
- Judas Iscariot (Mat 27:4) “I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood.”
- The devils (Mat 8:29, Luke 8:28, Acts 16:17). They know who Jesus is, but that doesn’t save them.

These are stony-ground-hearers (**Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21**).

Some people will follow Jesus if they think they can get something from Him. When they find out what it costs them (commitment), they “walk no more with Him” (**John 6:66**).

Some people learn the truth and believe it, but they’re not willing to give up the sins in their life and start following Jesus (**Acts 24:25, Luke 5:26**).

Have you truly put your trust and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? Has your faith changed your life? Do you have more than just a knowledge about Jesus? Are you a new creature (2 Cor 5:17) and a citizen of Heaven?