



The Warning Judgements

Seven Trumpets – Revelation 8:1-11:19

Chapter 8:1-6 – the seventh seal

- Contains the seven trumpets – the warning judgements
- Contains four natural plagues and three demonic
- These are partial judgements and a call to repentance
- The golden censor – contains the prayers of the saints – a partial answer to those under the alter – 6:10.



Four quick natural judgements

- Hail, fire, blood – 1/3 of earth, trees, and all grass burned
- Blazing mountain – 1/3 sea turned to blood, 1/3 sea creatures destroyed, 1/3 of all ships destroyed
- Wormwood, the star – bitter waters, many deaths
- Sun, moon, and stars struck – 1/3 of day and night in complete darkness
- Consider Ezekiel 38:17-23; Joel 2:30-32
- Why 1/3?



Three woes

- Correspond to the three demonic judgements
- An eagle or a vulture
- Who are these “inhabitants of the earth?” (v. 13 vs. Eph. 2:6)
- In what way are the people of God protected?
(Remember ch. 7, consider 9:4).



Two of three demonic judgements

- Evil is from two places in Revelation – the pit and the sea; cf. Luke 8:31
- Star // angel? Don't read too much into fallen, probably sent – given the key
- The locusts – cf. Ex. 10:1-20; Joel
- The king of the locusts: Abaddon (personified, cf. Job 28:22); Apollyon – Perhaps a dig on Roman emperors, the supposed personification of “Apollo.”



Second woe

- From the very altar of God – 9:13 (6:9). What is the point? (Hint, what is sovereignty?)
- In what sense is the army different from prophetic judgements? Consider again Ezekiel 38.
- The irony of 9:20-21
- Consider Jeremiah 44



Interpretation check

- We see some parallel structure:
 - Seven seals; Six opened, break with two visions, seventh opened
 - Seven trumpets; Six sounded, break with two visions, seventh sounded
 - Seven bowls – coming; no break. Why?



Interpretation check II

- But DON'T get caught up in trying to make everything neat.
 - “A perfectly logical apocalypse would be a contradiction in terms” – E.F. Scott.
 - “Detailed outlines of Revelation sacrifice the existential heartbeat of the apocalypse in an unfortunate attempt to intellectualize that which belongs primarily to the realm of experience” - Robert H. Mounce



Interlude – The mighty angel, ch. 10

- Where else do we have pillars of fire, clouds, thunder, and rainbows?
 - Pillars – Ex. 13:21
 - Clouds – Nahum 1:3; Dan. 7:13; Mt. 24:30
 - Thunder – Psalm 29:3; II Samuel 22:14
 - Rainbows – Ez. 1:28; Rev. 4:3
- On the sea, on the land – total dominion



The mighty angel cont.

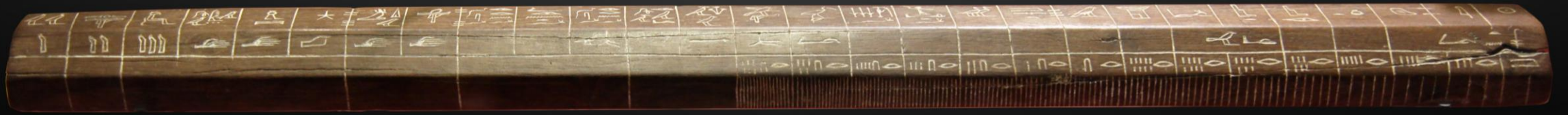
- Seven thunders – we have everything we need to know. Nothing else to be said....
 - Rev. 9:21; Luke 16:27-31
 - “Everyone deserves to hear the gospel – once.”
- Swears – by whom? Any real question?
- No more delay! (Contrast 6:10-11)
 - No time to write what the thunders said?
 - Don’t get caught up in time! We’ve got John and two witnesses to get to.



The mighty angel cont.

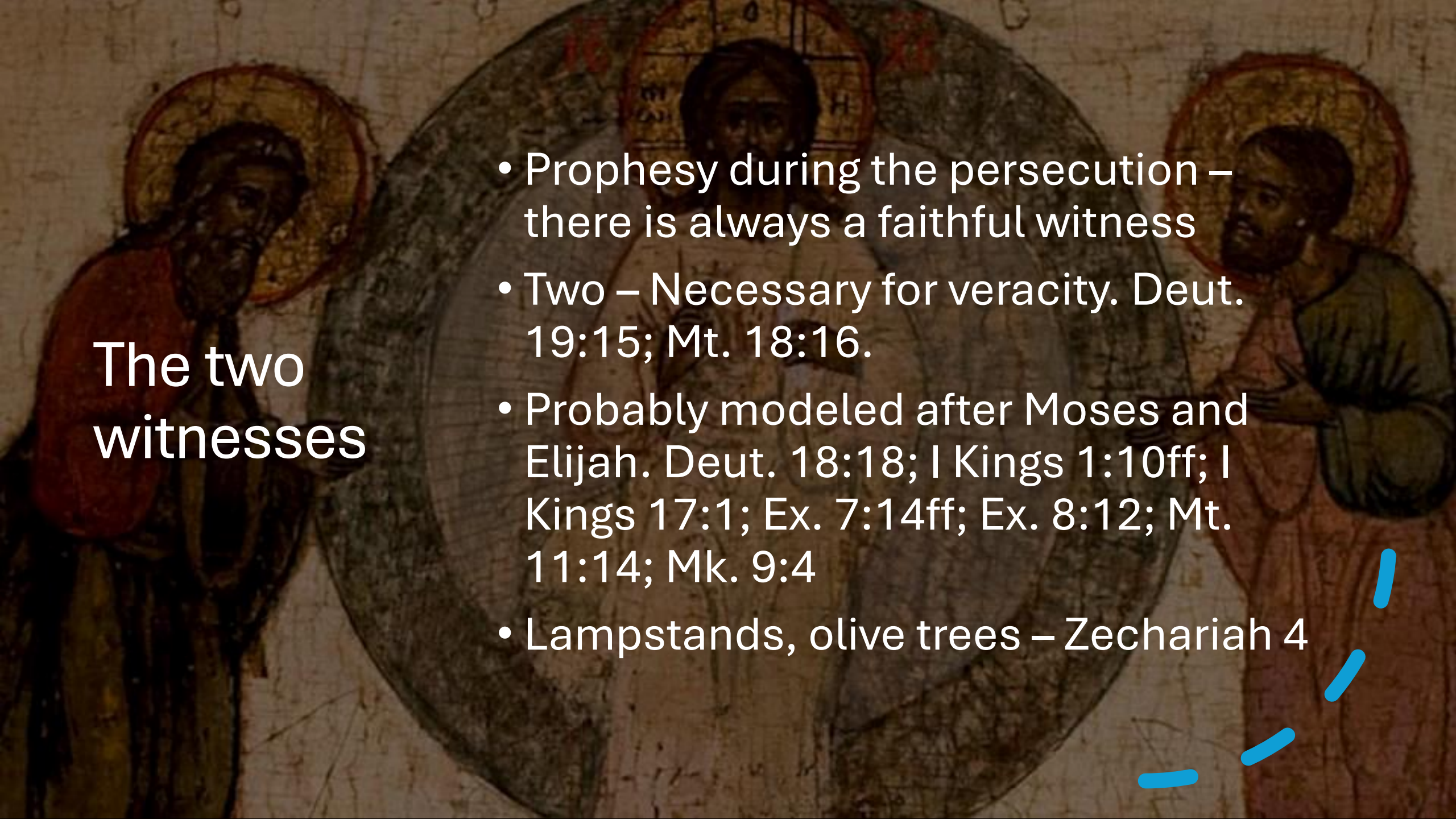
- Where is John now? (v. 1, 8)
- Eats the little scroll – cf. Ez. 2:8-3:3; Ps. 19:10
 - Sweet is the word of God.
 - The message is hard to stomach – martyrdom is part of it.
 - Consider Mt. 4:4; John 6:54-57
 - Prophets have got to know the message.





Measure

- John is given a job – follows prophetic action
 - Jer. 13:1-11; Ez. 12:1-7; Act 21:10-11
- Measure – What does measuring do? Ownership.
- Temple = God's people; Spiritually protected.
- 42 months = 1260 days = time, times and half a time – limited persecution. (More than 10 days though – 2:10)

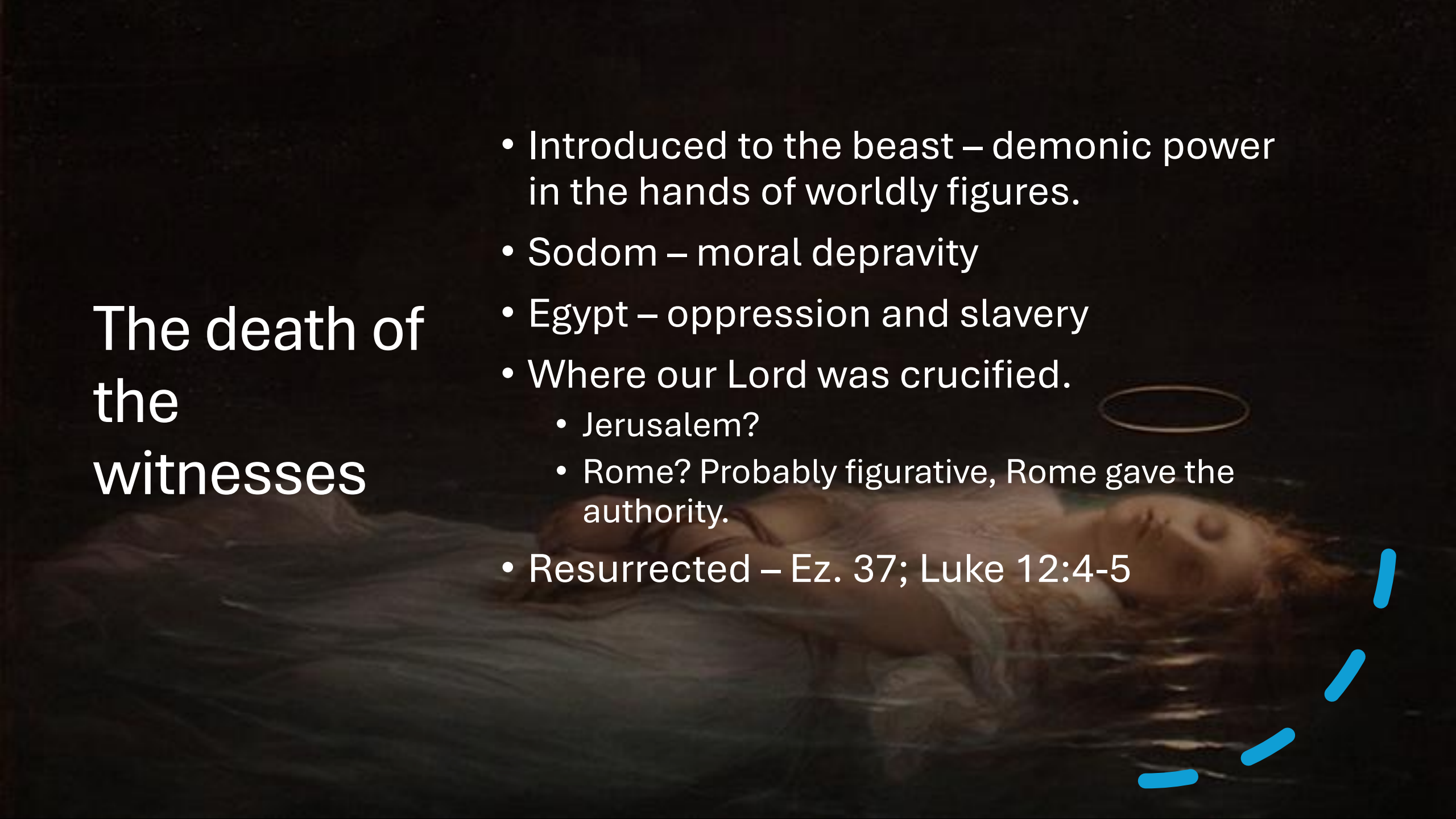


The two witnesses

- Prophecy during the persecution – there is always a faithful witness
- Two – Necessary for veracity. Deut. 19:15; Mt. 18:16.
- Probably modeled after Moses and Elijah. Deut. 18:18; I Kings 1:10ff; I Kings 17:1; Ex. 7:14ff; Ex. 8:12; Mt. 11:14; Mk. 9:4
- Lampstands, olive trees – Zechariah 4

The death of the witnesses

- Introduced to the beast – demonic power in the hands of worldly figures.
- Sodom – moral depravity
- Egypt – oppression and slavery
- Where our Lord was crucified.
 - Jerusalem?
 - Rome? Probably figurative, Rome gave the authority.
- Resurrected – Ez. 37; Luke 12:4-5



Repentance?

- Earthquake, 7,000 killed.
- Survivors give glory to God.
 - Do not discount the lives of the saints
 - Do not discount the impact of their willingness to die for their beliefs
- Taken as a whole – the warnings and the lives and martyrdom of the saints – has an impact.

The third woe....

- ...not yet
- Loud unidentified voices – butchered grammar.... “Is become”
- 24 elders – who was and is.... (4:8)
- V. 18 – see Ps. 2
- Reward: Saints, prophets, those who reverence your name....
- Punish– Ex. 34:6-7
- Ark of the Covenant – In the presence of God

