

Revelation 11:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.

Analysis

The earth-dwellers' rejoicing and gift-giving parodies proper celebration, revealing their depravity. The testimony that 'tormented them' shows truth's convicting power—the gospel either draws or drives away. Their joy at silenced witnesses demonstrates hardened hearts celebrating suppression of conscience. Reformed theology affirms total depravity—unregenerate hearts love darkness and hate light (John 3:19-20). The gift-giving suggests celebration of perceived liberation from moral constraint. This reveals sin's enslaving power—rejoicing in rebellion rather than repenting at warning.

Historical Context

Ancient cultures exchanged gifts during festivals celebrating military victories or religious holidays. This imagery depicts worldwide celebration treating the witnesses' deaths as victory over threatening truth. The description parallels modern cultural celebration when Christian moral witness is suppressed or marginalized—revealing the natural heart's enmity against God.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the world's celebration at silenced truth reveal the depth of human rebellion against God?
2. In what ways might you be tempted to celebrate when conviction is silenced rather than heeded?

Interlinear Text

καὶ οἱ κατοικοῦντας ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς χάρουσιν ἐπὶ
And ^{G3588} **them that dwelt** ^{G2730} **on** ^{G1909} **the earth** ^{G1093} **shall rejoice** ^{G5463} **on** ^{G1909}

αὐτοῖς καὶ εὐφρανθήσονται, καὶ δῶρα πέμψουσιν
them ^{G846} **And** ^{G2532} **make merry** ^{G2165} **And** ^{G2532} **gifts** ^{G1435} **shall send** ^{G3992}

ἀλλήλοις ὅτι οὗτοι οἱ δύο προφηῆται ἐβασάνισαν
one to another ^{G240} **because** ^{G3754} **these** ^{G3778} ^{G3588} **two** ^{G1417} **prophets** ^{G4396} **tormented** ^{G928}

τοὺς κατοικοῦντας ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς
^{G3588} **them that dwelt** ^{G2730} **on** ^{G1909} ^{G3588} **the earth** ^{G1093}

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 18:17 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

Revelation 3:10 (Parallel theme): Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Acts 5:33 (Parallel theme): When they heard that, they were cut to the heart, and took counsel to slay them.

Matthew 10:22 (Parallel theme): And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

John 7:7 (Parallel theme): The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil.

1 Kings 22:8 (Prophecy): And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the LORD: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

Micah 7:8 (Parallel theme): Rejoice not against me, O mine enemy: when I fall, I shall arise; when I sit in darkness, the LORD shall be a light unto me.

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