

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 ἐπὶ¹
And G3588 them that dwelt on G3588 the earth shall rejoice on
G2532 G2730 G1909 G1093 G5463 G1909

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

ἀλλήλοις ὅτι οὗτοι οἱ δύο προφῆται ἐβασάνισαν
one to another because these G3588 two prophets tormented
G240 G3754 G3778 G1417 G4396 G928

τοὺς κατοικοῦντας ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς
G3588 them that dwelt on G3588 the earth
G2730 G1909 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.