

# Revelation 11:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

## Analysis

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The witnesses' powers parallel Moses (turning water to blood, Exodus 7:19) and Elijah (shutting heaven from rain, 1 Kings 17:1), identifying them as prophet-figures representing the church's testimony. Power to 'smite the earth with all plagues' demonstrates their authority in declaring God's judgments. Reformed theology sees the church as prophetic witness, proclaiming both salvation and judgment. The accumulation of these powers emphasizes the witnesses' complete authority during their testimony period. Their ministry combines Law (Moses) and Prophets (Elijah), pointing to Christ's fulfillment of both.

## Historical Context

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Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ at the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:3), representing Law and Prophets testifying to Him. First-century Jewish expectation anticipated their return before Messiah. This vision asserts the church continues their prophetic function—testifying to Christ and pronouncing judgment on rejection. The plagues recall Egypt's judgment, warning of similar consequences for gospel rejection.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does the church today continue the prophetic ministry of declaring both God's invitation and warning?
2. What does the combination of Moses and Elijah's powers teach about the unity of Law and Prophets in testifying to Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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οὗτοι ἔχουσιν ἐξουσίαν κλεῖσαι τὸν οὐρανόν ἵνα μὴ  
**These** **have** **power** **to shut** G3588 **heaven** G2443 G3361  
G3778 G2192 G1849 G2808 G3772

βρέχῃ ὑετὸς ἐν ἡμέραις αὐτὰ τῆς προφητείας καὶ  
**it rain** G5205 **in** **the days** **of their** G3588 **prophecy** **and**  
G1026 G1722 G2250 G846 G4394 G2532

ἐξουσίαν ἔχουσιν ἐπὶ τῶν ὑδάτων στρέφειν αὐτὰ εἰς  
**power** **have** **over** G3588 **waters** **to turn** **of their** **to**  
G1849 G2192 G1909 G5204 G4762 G846 G1519

αἷμα καὶ πατάξαι τὴν γῆν πάσῃ πληγῇ ὅσάκις ἐὰν  
**blood** **and** **to smite** G3588 **the earth** **with all** **plagues** **as often** **as**  
G129 G2532 G3960 G1093 G3956 G4127 G3740 G1437

θελήσωσιν  
**they will**  
G2309

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 4:25** (Parallel theme): But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;

**1 Kings 17:1** (Parallel theme): And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

**1 Samuel 4:8** (Parallel theme): Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

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