

*Below is one way it could happen. The following narrative is based on scripture with some imagination filling in the holes!*

## The "Abomination of Desolation"

by Bill Perkins

*In the middle of the 7 year Tribulation period, a chain of events takes place that the entire world will watch—ending with the desecration of the newly rebuilt Jewish Temple.*

**The Rapture had stunned the world.** And out of the chaos that followed that ear splitting event, one man's voice rose above all others as he outlined immediate solutions to save the planet. In the post- Rapture vacuum, the world was on the brink of total collapse and he was the only person making any sense. (1 Cor 15:51,52, 1 Thess 4:14-17.)

Using deft reasoning, uncanny negotiating skills and a polished tongue, the "man-out-of-nowhere" did something no previous world leader had been able to achieve—he brought the Arabs and the Jews together in a peace agreement, even if it was only for a seven-year time period. (Dan 8:23; 9:27.)

Thus began the 3 1/2 year rise in power of a New World Leader that was spectacularly stunning, to say the least. Beginning with a lightening-speed negotiation for the seven-year/ten-nation peace treaty —stopping Israel from annihilating her Arab neighbors—the world governments gave him more and more authority until he was able to implement his ideas and programs without opposition. (Dan 9:27; 7:24; Zech 12:6.)



His brash oratory, genius military tact and brilliant economic policies had the world following his every command in lock-step. In just a few years he had mesmerized humanity as he garnered complete control of almost every facet of human life on earth. (Dan 7:8; 8:23-25; Dan 11:21, 23, 24.)

Most of the people on earth were believing/hoping this man could bring the world back from the catastrophic effects of the Rapture and subsequent nuclear wars. Almost everything he did worked like a charm. (Zech 12:6.)

But there was one problem he could not seem to solve . . . the problematic effects of the "Two Witnesses" who showed up in Israel the same day the seven-year peace treaty was signed. (Rev 11:3.)

These two weirdly dressed guys (they looked like they were wearing burlap bags sewn together) seemed to have dropped in from outer space, causing a great sensation within Israel. (Rev 11:3.)

Claiming to be Elijah from the Old Testament and John from the New Testament, they self-proclaimed themselves to be the prophetic "Two Witnesses" described in Revelation 11. These Two Witnesses backed up their claims with supernatural powers and the fact nothing could harm them in any way. But it wasn't until they showed Temple Mount excavators the location of the long lost Ark of the Covenant that they began to be considered truly authentic. (Rev 11:3; Mal 4:5; John 21:21-23; Rev 10:11; Rev 11:5,6.)

In the post-rapture world, void of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, these Two Witnesses claiming to be sent from God were anything but accepted to those living outside of Israel. Not all that many Jews wanted to have anything to do with the State of Israel, much less return to the Jewish homeland. But using their extraordinary powers, they seemed unstoppable in their openly brazen mission to get every living Jew back to the land of Israel. (Rev 11.)

Basically, the entire world loathed Israel. She had discovered the largest oil reservoir in the world beneath her borders. She was completely independent, prosperous and militarily monstrous. (Ezek 37:10) But despite all that success, not many Jews around the world were enticed to move to Israel. Rather, all but a few preferred to remain in their known environments and not travel to the newly peace-treaty-protected State of Israel. (Zech 12:3; Ezek 37:10; Ezek 38:12.)

Eventually every living breathing Jew in the world would be back in Israel. This is because the Two Witnesses had the power to stop the rain in any area where Jews were refusing to leave, and that they did. Of course, this caused even more dissension between the world and the Jews. (Rev 11:6, Is 11:11.)

To make matters worse, if the droughts didn't work, the two witnesses contaminated the lakes and rivers of the area. And if even that didn't work, they pronounced plagues on the area that would arrive in short order, infuriating the local population of the targeted areas. (Rev 11:6.)

Not surprisingly, it wasn't long before the world was hunting down and air-freighting every Jew they could find to Israel. It was the only way to stop the plagues. But the hatred of the Jews was cemented, and after over three years of dealing with these two characters, the world, and especially the New World Leader, was universally driven to eliminate them.

Several attempts were made by individuals to kill the Two Witnesses, but in what could only be described as "fire shooting from their mouths," they literally scorched all attackers to death.

***"And if anyone desires to harm them, fire proceeds out of their mouth and devours their enemies" Rev. 11:5***

So as time wore on and patience wore thin, the New World Leader couldn't delay any longer ridding the world of these two menaces. Between the plagues, droughts and poisoning of the water sources, they were a royal pain to all. He had to act or lose face. (Rev 11:10.)

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Using his unlimited resources and intelligence, the New World Leader plotted to kill the two witnesses. A cleverly disguised meeting was arranged with the New World Leader and the two witnesses in Jerusalem. (Rev 11:7.)

The New World Leader had negotiated to allow 100,000 of his troops to be in Jerusalem, purportedly to be the buffer for the still-seething Arab population. And the tension between the Two Witnesses and him, operating out of the same town, was acrid. Regardless, he asked for and received a meeting with the Two Witnesses.

The plan was simple. The New World Leader would meet them at the highly secure King David Hotel near the Old City, purportedly to discuss how he could help them find the few remaining Jews hiding around the world. But then he would abruptly step outside the meeting room so a bomb could be exploded, ending the Two Witnesses' lives. (Rev 11:7.)

But, as had happened with each of the others in the past who tried to harm or kill the Two Witnesses, instead it was the New World Leader who was killed. As he approached the Two Witnesses in the lobby, before he could even open his mouth to even greet them, molten lava-like fire shot out of their mouths, consuming his head and upper body as well as killing several people in his entourage. There was no reviving the New World Leader. (Rev 11:5.)

This bizarre event brought grief to the entire world as they mourned the loss of the man in whom so much hope had rested. Israel, not wanting to be blamed for or connected to the acts of the Two Witnesses, arranged to secure the body and prepare to send it back to Syria, his home country. (Mic 5:5,6)

### **But he didn't stay dead.**

Three days later, the world was still in complete agony trying to grasp the fact their great leader had died. In Jerusalem, with billions of eyes watching on television, Israeli personnel began moving the body from the hospital to the airport in order to fly it back to Syria. (Mic 5:5,6.)

News cameras were showing live coverage as the coffin came into view, exiting the hospital and being carefully rolled to the waiting hearse only a few feet away. Then, with all eyes on the coffin, the unthinkable happened. The thought-to-be-dead leader pushed open the closed casket and his body emerged . . . slowly rising upward. The whole world watched . . . he was alive! (Rev 11:7.)

Trying to grasp the obvious, everyone was stunned as the man struggled to climb out of his casket using only one arm, the other withered and useless. Then a woman's scream pierced the quietness as his hugely disfigured and blackened face became visible. Only one eye was visible—in fact, the entire right side of his face was unrecognizable. (Zech 11:17, Rev 13:3.)

The entire world watched this incredible event on television, transfixed on his every movement, trying to understand what they were seeing. Several men scurried to his side, holding him upright. Then, looking straight into the network cameras beaming to the world, with a clear and booming voice, he declared: *"You have heard that the Messiah would be dead for three days and rise again . . . I am the Messiah!"* Within moments, he was directing his dumbfounded but quickly reassembling staff to take him to the Old City of Jerusalem where the Two Witnesses were living. Entering through the Dung gate with news cameras following, he met the Two Witnesses coming out of the Western Wall area.

With his good arm raised and a single verbal command, the Two Witnesses, who had tormented the earth for years, were struck down in what looked and sounded like a great flash of lightning, even though the skies were clear. (Rev 11:7.)

The newly risen-from-the-dead New World Leader did what no other human could do—he finally killed the torturous witnesses. Television coverage of them lying dead in the streets of Jerusalem sent the world into celebration! (Rev 11:10.)

The bodies of the dead witnesses were left in the Wailing Wall Plaza for the world to see and appreciate what the New World leader was able to accomplish. It was proof he had his own supernatural strength. He also had a sign put in front of the crumpled bodies: "Here are the dead JEWISH witnesses." (Rev 11:9.) Throngs of people surrounded the bodies, singing, chanting and joyously celebrating their deaths. Israel decided she had better wait for the emotion to subside before she gathered up the bodies for burial. (Rev 11:9.)

The New World Leader spent the next couple of days reassembling his staff—talking and meeting with world leaders, again solidifying his iron-grip control. All countries except Israel. Israeli leaders seemed to have every scheduled meeting with him cancelled at the last moment without warning.

The peace agreement was only half-way through the seven-year deal, and some Israeli leaders even warned that it seemed the dearly loved peace was in jeopardy. But to a country willing to do almost anything to keep peace, those voices of concern were ignored. (Dan 9:27.)

After three days the huge crowds did eventually begin to subside a bit, and Israel used that opportunity to announce she would now remove the bodies of the Two Witnesses. The major television networks, seeing a ratings opportunity, were able to get the New World Leader to come to the Plaza area for an interview.

With national television cameras rolling, the networks beamed video of the victorious New World Leader smugly discussing why the world would now be a better place because he had killed the Two Witnesses. Just over his left shoulder behind him, you could still see them lying in the street. *"And after the three and a half days the breath of life from God came into them, and they stood on their feet; and great fear fell upon those who were beholding them."* *Rev. 11:11* And as if on cue, without the New World Leader realizing what was happening, the Two Witnesses' lifeless bodies began to stir, straighten, then roll to their knees and stand up! (*Rev 11:11.*)

Cameras quickly cut away and zoomed in on the Two Witnesses standing in the Plaza. They seemed to be perfectly normal as their faces peered hauntingly at anyone making eye contact.

To say a great fear fell on the people would be an understatement. It was wholesale panic and mass exodus as the terror-stricken crowd fled from the Plaza. Within seconds, the Two Witnesses began rising up slowly into the air while the world watched live on television! When they were five to six hundred feet up, it was obvious to all that they were heading to the sky above and weren't coming back. (*Rev 11:11,12.*)

When the New World Leader realized the Two Witnesses were alive and being taken up into the sky, he immediately began moving his growing entourage up the western entrance to the Temple Mount where in the newly rebuilt Jewish Temple stood and daily animal sacrifices were being made. The new Jewish Temple was located just north of the Muslim Dome of the Rock, which was north of the newly built "World Church." The daily animal sacrifices were permitted under the seven-year treaty. (*Dan 9:27.*)

No one knew where the New World Leader was going or what he was going to do. Walking to the east of the World Church and the Dome of the Rock with the Mount of Olives on his right across the Kidron Valley, he seemed to gain strength and speed with every step. As this New World Leader moved, a strange sense of extraordinary power exuded in the air around him. No one stood in his way, everyone moved aside. Coming to the entrance of the Jewish Temple, without hesitating he walked boldly inside.

Inside the Temple compound walls he moved through the Women's Court, up the 15 steps to the Court of Israel where animal sacrifices were taking place. In a stunning violation of the seven year treaty, he barked orders for the sacrifices to cease and for all Jews on the Temple Mount to be arrested. (*Dan 9:27, 11:31.*)

He walked briskly past the altar and toward the actual Temple building. Without hesitation, he went inside the Temple, live cameras still following his every move. No one knew what was going to happen, but everyone sensed SOMETHING big was about to go down.

Walking through the front entrance of the Temple building, he moved quickly past the table of incense, golden table of showbread and the gold, six-foot-high menorah, whose flames gave light to the room. He stopped briefly at the massive curtain in the back of the room behind which was the Holy of Holies, the most sacred spot in the world to the Jews. (*2Chron 5:7.*)

*"... who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God."* *2 Th 2:3-4*

Getting a little help from some of his staff, he pulled back the six-inch- thick curtain and entered the Holy of Holies— standing directly in front of the Ark of the Covenant. With the world glued to his every move on their televisions, he turned, lifted his good arm and declared emphatically, *"I am God. I am your salvation. Worship me and have life!"* (*Matt 24:15.*)

A nervousness filled the room, as people wondered just exactly what that statement meant. He then ordered his staff to set up a working office in the Temple. It appeared he wanted a throne-like look to

all who entered the room, and it was obvious he wanted to manage the world from this temple location. (2Thes 2:3-4.)

He was the risen New World Leader, but he was not the same man. Something was hugely different. His voice was different . . . lower and raspy, assumedly due to the scorching he received. And he seemed to care less about being politically correct and instead was demanding out- and-out worship! (Dan 11:36,37; Rev 13: 2,4)

As the Temple was being readied to handle his operation, he invited reporters inside to see the progress. Sitting on the makeshift “throne” he dropped the biggest bombshell yet, declaring:

*“All of our problems are due to the Jews. When we kill the Jews, we can get the world back like it used to be. I killed the two witnesses, now everyone hearing my voice will be blessed for each Jew killed. Find and kill them all now!”* Then all hell broke loose. It was the worst day in the history of the Jews. (Matt 24:21.)

*“ . . . flee to the mountains . . . ”* Luke 21:21

When the images of the New World Leader sitting in the Temple flashed on the television screen in Israel, millions of Jews dropped everything they were doing and ran for their lives. (Matt 24:15; Mark 13:14.)

Because the Jews in Israel had been publicly debating and discussing the New Testament for the last 3 1/2 years, due to both the Two Witnesses pointing to Jesus and 144,000 other Jews who had been marked by God, they nervously watched for any signs for the prophetic fulfillment of the “Abomination of Desolation.” (Dan 12:3, Rev 11:3; Rev 7:1-4; 14:1.)

*“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation . . . standing in the holy place . . . then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains; let him who is on the housetop not go down to get the things out that are in his house; and let him who is in the field not turn back to get his cloak. . . . for then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever shall.”* Matt. 24:15-21

For 3 1/2 years, the efforts of the Two Witnesses had caused virtually all the 15 million Jews in the world to be in Israel. Israelis were crammed to overflowing, into every available lodging space. (Rev 11:3.)

Tent cities were created just north of Tiberias and south of Tel Aviv, to temporarily house almost a million people as they waited for housing to be built. The 50% increase in population caused literal grid-lock each day in Jerusalem.

To make matters worse, only a few seconds after the image of the New World Leader standing in the Temple flashed across television screens, a huge earthquake jolted everyone off their feet. Emanating from directly under the Old City, the 9.8 quake shook the ground so hard it leveled 10% of the buildings and cut off all electricity. Chaos ensued. (Rev 11:13.)

So, even though the Abomination prophecy was on the forefront of most Jew’s minds, the swiftness by which it was fulfilled and the inability to travel except by foot caught almost all Jews by deadly surprise. It was the most horrible blood-bath imaginable. Having given up their guns in the peace treaty, it was easy pickings for the New World Leader’s forces. 10 million Jews were massacred in one day in Israel. (Matt 24:21; Zech 13:8.)

A hundred thousand of the New World Leader’s forces hunted down every breathing Jew. Only 1/3 of the Jewish population, five million, escaped out of the New World Leader’s hand—with just the clothes on their backs. (Zech 13:8.)

Those who fled west, north and east were all killed. Only those who fled south had any chance to escape, and then only if they made it into the rugged mountains southeast of Jerusalem.

Gathering in the area known as ancient Edom, near Bozrah, the fleeing Jews holed up in what is today known as Petra, thus ending the first 3 1/2 years of Tribulation. Cut off from their homeland and stripped of every material possession, five million people could only cower and wait in the wilderness. (Is 63:1; Rev 12:6,14, Is 2:10, 19, 21.)

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