Rev 1:3 <u>Blessed</u> are those who <u>obey</u>.

These words are trustworthy, 22:6-7

The

John uses OT words/images and applies them to NT concepts.
Here: Ezk 40-48; Zech 2-4; Dan 7-9
God's People=Holy Priesthood/Temple

interpret in the entire book."

-Keener, 287, NIVAC

The Sevens of Revelation

There

The 2 Witnesses are between:
The 6th & 7th Trumpet Judgments
And is the 2nd of 3 Woes. 8:3, 9:12

Seven Trumpets [11:19]

Seven Bowls

[16:18]

"The difficulty of Revelation surfaces when so many views compete for attention." (Schriener, 375) Like John, they're authorized to prophesy [Rev 11:3-4]. They're further described with Zech 4 & [Rev 1:20]. Described in prophetic images [v5-6]. Moses/Elijah/Jeremiah Their hard words lead to persecution. [11:7-10]

God resurrects them & brings them to heaven. [11:11-14]

Symbolic & Parallel Numbers:
3½ years=42 months=1260 days="3x & ½time."

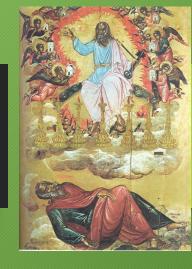
Wide array of prophetic images... ending in martyr victory.

Keep in mind: Be humble. Variety of approaches.

John's use of symbolism elsewhere:

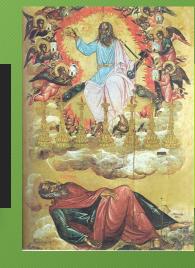
Why specific people? What about The Harlot?

Numbers are often parallel, contrasts are often present.



Who are the Witnesses: (1) OT & NT

- (2) Law & Prophets (3) Peter & Paul (4) Christian Jews & Gentiles
- (5) Out of 7 churches, 2 will be persecuted. (6) Figures t/o history
- (7) Unknown early prophets (8) Enoch/Moses & Elijah
- (9) Most common: symbolic for God's church.
 But, how did it lay in the street for 3 days?
 Or what about *prophecy*? Not always prediction [19:10].

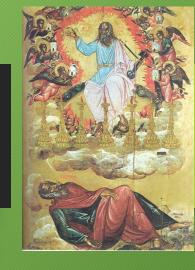


2) How Are The Witnesses A BLESSING?

It is GOOD to know that some *Repent*. Give glory to God! Pray, we never know who or why they'll turn.

It is GOOD to know God *Rewards* His saints. [11:15-18] He sees the injustices & hears the slander.

It is GOOD to know God will *Resurrect* His people/prophets. The world can kill the body, but it'll NEVER kill the soul!



3) How Do We OBEY The Witnesses Story?

Join the Mighty Army of God, blow the trumpet warning.

Note the battle strategy: Victory by suffering. [12:11]

Are we proclaiming The Words of God?

Jer 5:14 Behold I am making My words in your mouth <u>a fire</u>, And this people wood, & <u>the fire</u> should consume them.

Our task: Speak the fire of God's Word [Jer 23:23-32].