*Signified**

Revelation 1:1-3 (1) The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which **must shortly come to pass**; and he sent and **signified** it by his angel unto his servant John:
(2) Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.
(3) Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the **time is at hand**.
Revelation 11:3-6 (3) And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.
(4) These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.
(5) And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.
(6) 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.
The many topics contained within a few verses is sometimes astounding. However it should be kept in mind that Revelation is written in signs. It is a book of visions. As with the parables of Jesus, we must be careful not to miss the main point of John's visions by trying to explain every last detail. Two things stand out in Rev 1:1-3. Things which must (1) "shortly come to pass," that is, the fulfillment of the symbols would begin soon. However, there are to many symbols and too much evidence of a succession of events not to require extended time for fulfillment, indeed, until the end of time. (2) "Signified" means to make known by signs, speech, or action. Let's begin with the signification, "two olive trees,

(Rev 11:4).” Strange as it may seem, the quest begins in the old testament. Let’s turn to;
Zechariah 4:11-14 (11) Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof?
(12) And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?
(13) And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.
(14) Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.
Still the answer is not completely revealed. There even seems to be more questions generated. Who are the two anointed ones? Revelation 11:3 reveals two witnesses. Are they the same as Zechariah? Are there any answers to whom the two witnesses may be referring to? Let’s begin with;
Hebrews 10:11-17 (11) And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:
(12) But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;
(13) From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.
(14) For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.
(15) Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a **witness to us**: for after that he had said before,
(16) This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;
(17) And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.
1John 5:6-11 (6) This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that **beareth witness**, because the Spirit is

truth.
(7) For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.
(8) And there are three that **bear witness** in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.
(9) If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son.
(10) He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.
(11) And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
Acts 5:26-32 (26) Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.
(27) And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them,
(28) Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.
(29) Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.
(30) The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.
(31) Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.
(32) And we are **his witnesses** of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.
Who are the two witnesses? Many are the answers, but none without difficulties. There is a great deal of speculation over the identity of the two witnesses. However the admission of Peter and the other Apostles was that they were His witnesses

as also is the Holy Ghost. The Apostles, as a whole, would be representative of the Church as witness. And the Holy Ghost would be representative of the spirit of truth as witness. Thus, two witnesses. However there are clues that will help ascertain their identity.

Revelation 11:7-10 (7) And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

(8) And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

(9) And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves.

(10) 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.

Most likely, the most logical answer is that

(1) during the middle ages the Bible was taken from the people by the apostate church and

(2) during the same period the true Church was forced underground because of persecution. Since the Spirit works through the word, the two witnesses may thus be the true Church and the Word of God faithfully bearing witness until such time they were diminished by the apostate church. And then at the appropriate time they came back to full light by intervention of God which would correlate to the Reformation period in which the Bible once again was restored to the people. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them (Rev 11:11).

Listen; And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, (Rev

10:2). *It may be that the "**Little Book Open**" is a symbolic hint that there would be an era of the Open Bible preceding the end. If so, it exactly fits in with the course of history. Strange as it may seem, the "church of men alienated from Christ" in the middle ages took the Bible from the people. But the reformation under the leadership of Martin Luther restored the Bible to the people. The restoration under the leadership of Barton Stone, Alexander Campbell and others answered the call;* And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues (Rev 18:4). *Modern history has been an era of the open Book. Every blessing of modern civilization is a direct product of the open Bible. Civil and religious liberty, popular education, social reform, liberty of conscience and freedom of speech. The Little Book Open and the true Church have much in common with the two witnesses. If not these two, then whom or what may the two witnesses be? Shortly after the advent of the Little Book Open, the true Church began to resurface once again. She was as the moon, notwithstanding her substance and body never perish, but is not always seen in her full light by the human eye, either, because she sinks beneath the horizon, or, being too close to the sun, is obscured by him, or, being far from the sun, is darkened by the shadow of the earth, which is called an eclipse; even so it is with the substance and appearance of the church of God on earth. The true Church, though never perishing entirely, has not always shown herself in her full form and at times she seems to have vanished altogether, tho never completely. Her history is reflected in the same manner. When the emperor Domitian had banished John, the holy apostle and evangelist, for the Gospel's sake, to the island of Patmos, the Holy Ghost revealed unto him the future state of the Church of Christ, namely, that she would have to flee into the wilderness, on account of the persecution, and there be fed of God, a thousand two*

hundred and threescore days, which, reckoned according to prophetic language
*(Eze 4:6), means as many years. But with the advent of the "**little Book open**" began a new era for the Church. With the invention of printing, the Bible has become the best selling book of all time. And I would surmise, it has been the most active witness to mankind in these last days. There are other scriptures that attest to the two witnesses being the word of God and the true Church. Turn to;*
Romans 1:16-17 (16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
(17) For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.
John 15:26-27 (26) But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:
(27) And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.
Is not a witness called forth to testify? And if not the gospel, that is the spirit of truth, then what? And if not the true Church which began it's witnessing beginning with the Apostles?, then whom? But even if it should be some particular person or persons, would it not be the word of God that witnesses. And will not they that bear true witness be of one Lord, one faith, one Church? This happened with the Apostles when they were filled with the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost! Turn your Bibles to;
Acts 2:29-41 (29) Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.
(30) Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

(31) He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.
(32) This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.
(33) Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.
(34) For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,
(35) Until I make thy foes thy footstool.
(36) Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.
(37) Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?
(38) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
(39) For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.
(40) And with many other words did he **testify and exhort**, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.
(41) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

The next item of interest is the power given to the two witnesses. In particular, the power over waters to turn them to blood. What does this mean? How would this power over water effect people's lives? The power to turn the waters to blood had been given to God's witness before. Moses, the spokesperson of God. Let's turn to;

Exodus 7:20-21 (20) And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.
(21) And the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink of the water of the river; and there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.
Moses and Aaron did as the Lord commanded. The result obtained was exactly what the Lord had said, and the waters were turned to blood and all the fish in the river died. When a repentant believer goes into the waters of baptism, there he is buried with Christ who gave his blood to cover all sins. In like manner, when one is baptized into Christ, he is crucified with Christ that the body of sin might be destroyed and he is raised up out of the water a new man being justified by His blood. Turn with me to;
Romans 6:3-6 (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?
(4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
(5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:
(6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.
To suggest that all one has to do to receive the forgiveness of God and become a Christian is to mentally accept Jesus into his heart and make a verbal statement to that effect, is to dispute the declaration of Jesus in Matthew 7:21—Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.
To be sure, oral confession of Christ is one of the preexisting conditions to salvation (Romans 10:10). However, Jesus said

*there is more to becoming a **blood-bought** follower of Him than merely "acknowledge Him as Lord" or "inwardly accepting Him as Savior." He stated that before we can even consider ourselves as Christians, we must show our acceptance of His gift through outward obedience of—*He that doth the will of My Father*. Notice the significant contrast Jesus made: the difference between mental/verbal acknowledgment to accept and follow the Lord, versus verbal confession coupled with obedient faith (James 2:14). This is why we must do everything the Lord has indicated to receive salvation. Jesus said:* Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God *(John 3:5). Jesus also stated:* He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned *(Mark 16:16). Honestly, have you accepted salvation—in the way He said it must be done? He asks:* But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not the things which I say? (Luke 6:46). Turn to;
Colossians 2:8-12 (8) Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.
(9) For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.
(10) And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:
(11) In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:
(12) Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.
Have you ever considered the power or strength of a threefold record? Let's turn to;
1John 5:7-8 (7) For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.
(8) And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit,

and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.
Matthew 28:18-20 (18) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
(19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of **the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**
(20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
*The **Father**, the **Son**, and the **Holy Ghost**, bear record in heaven when you are added to the Church and they are one. The **Water** and the **Spirit** and the **Blood**, bear witness in earth when you are born again and they agree in one. Two witnesses of your conversion. But if the promise of eternal life should be broken, it would be the weak link, the flesh, which would be at fault, not the two witnesses to which salvation is attached. God had a plan for His Son.*
Before He left earth, Jesus established the ordinance of baptism based on faith in Him and His gospel.
*Do you have **faith** that is the effect of belief that cometh by hearing God's word? (Romans 10:17).*
*Do you have faith that Godly sorrow worketh **repentance** to salvation? (2Corinthians 7:10)*
*Will you, by faith, **confess** that Jesus is the Son of God? (Acts 8:37)*
*Will you, by faith, be **baptized** into Jesus Christ, crucifing the old man of sin? (Romans 6:3-6)*
When one who through faith will heed, follow and practice what faith contains, then that person will be added to the Church by the Lord (Acts 2:47). That person will be translated into the Kingdom of God's dear Son (Col 1:13). The Spirit and the bride say, come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. If one is in need of prayer for other reasons. The Spirit and the bride say, come, let us sing.

This message approved by
Jack Warford
a Minister for Christ
Revised; 11112019
***Ref**. Halley's Bible Handbook*
Apologetics Press :: Scripturally Speaking
Objections to Baptism by Dave Miller, Ph.D.
MARTYRS MIRROR, pages 24,25
"Signified" presented to; BaronOk-Sep2010/