PART 3: My Promised Answer To M.

M., before offering *plain Bible* in an attempt to identify the Two Witnesses, there should *first* be some discussion regarding your leading question:

"How could *immortal beings* come (from Heaven to Earth) and be put to death?"

**Immortality -- Who Has It? What Is It? When Is It?**

M., you have assumed (as do many others) that because Moses and Elijah were taken to Heaven, they are therefore "immortal." THIS IS AN ASSUMPTION and does not fit the larger record of Scripture. Please consider these points:

1). It is possible for persons to reside in Heaven, leave Heaven, come to Earth and die. *Jesus left Heaven, came to Earth and died!*

2). Moses and Elijah were taken to Heaven *before* Christ redeemed (*purchased*) any human being by His death!

3). If Christ had failed in His earthly mission (to redeem us), is there anyone who could reasonably believe that Moses and Elijah would have remained "saved in Heaven forever as immortal beings??!

4). This was precisely the point of contention when Michael came down to resurrect Moses (Jude 9), and "the devil . . . disputed about the body of Moses."

5). There is more Scripture to be accounted for here:

"*(God) alone has immortality.*" 1Timothy 6:16.

"Now to the King eternal, *immortal*, invisible, to *God who alone* . . ." 1Timothy 1:17.

6). As to dying once, *being resurrected and never dying again*, both Old and New Testaments refute this notion.
OT example: Elijah's prayer resurrected "the widow's son." Her son lived, died, lived again and died again. No, her son did not go to Heaven at his first resurrection. WHY NOT?

NT example: Jesus resurrected "Lazarus." Lazarus lived, died, lived again and died again. Lazarus, as far as we know, did not go to Heaven at his first resurrection. WHY NOT?

Obviously resurrection from death does not necessarily make a mortal being -- immortal. But your understanding, M., is that "going to Heaven equals immortality." Once again: Persons can reside in Heaven, leave Heaven, come to Earth and die? Jesus left Heaven, came to Earth and died!

7). The Apostle Paul addresses our present sinful human condition and God's promise of eternal life (immortality) for otherwise lost human beings -- God's promise is good but the tangible reality of eternal life -- WHEN?

Please consider my supplied emphasis within these verses:

"Behold, I tell you a mystery: we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed -- In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality. So WHEN this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, THEN shall be brought to pass the saying that is written 'Death (mortal existence) is swallowed up in victory (immortal, never-ending, eternal life).''"

1 Corinthians 15:51-54 NKJV.

My understanding of Scripture is this:

· Christ died on the cross to redeem us (buy us back).

· "Through His blood we have forgiveness," but forgiveness is not yet salvation!

· Human beings are promised salvation through Christ, (a final, tangible deliverance from this present evil world and these presently sinful bodies) in the day of His appearing:

"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that LOOK FOR HIM shall he APPEAR THE SECOND TIME without sin UNTO SALVATION."

8). Redeemed human beings are central to the inheritance Christ receives at His elevation in the Judgment, WHEN HE BECOMES "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." Not until Christ receives Kingship (dominion / authority) does He receive His inheritance (lawfully owns us). THEN we receive the gift, not simply the promise, but actually receive in our bodies the tangible gift of eternal life (immortality).

Tomorrow, Part 4: Who Are the Two Witnesses?