

The Witness of God

By: David A. Sargent

Deuteronomy 17:6, “At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death.”

Having a witness or more than one witness can be the difference between life or death in the case of the Law of Moses.

Deuteronomy 19:15, “One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.”

This was not only established for the Old Testament under the Law but also in the New Testament local Church.

Matthew 18:15-17, “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”

Paul also made this fact very clear by quoting Moses applying it to the churches.

2 Corinthians 13:1, “This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.”

It is important to understand this because without the proper witness a lie could prevail. So that a disassociated witness of two or three is better. If there is only one witness the witness is not to be trusted.

1 Timothy 5:19, “Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.”

There is good reason for this but not because of Moses’ law even though it is confirmed in the New Testament over and over again but because there is an evidence to both testaments of the Bible.

Hebrews 10:28, “He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:”

Without at least two witnesses there is no confirmation of the truth of the witness. That is why there are two that show up during the seven year Tribulation. It is true that they prophecy for only 3½ years; but that does not mean there is not time prior to their prophecy; and we do know there is time after it for at least 3 days. And then the Tribulation is not over at that time either.

The two witnesses:

Revelation 11:3-4, “And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.”

Zechariah 4:3, “And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.”

Zechariah 4:11, “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?”

It is obvious who they are: Moses and Elijah. The last two Old Testament people mentioned at the close of the Old Testament.

Malachi 4:4-6, “Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”

They are also the two that appeared with the Lord Jesus Christ on the mount of Transfiguration in which the account is given with those that were involved:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ
2. Moses
3. Elijah (Elias)
4. Peter
5. James
6. John
7. The Father who spoke from Heaven

Matthew 17:1-3, “And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.”

This is a precursor appearing of the Second Coming of Christ in His glory where Moses and Elijah show up as the two prophets. This happens after 6 days; which would make it the 7th day (prophetically 7 years). This would mean that the Tribulation is seven years

Mark 9:2-4, “And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them. And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.

Mark and Luke also record this same event with the same characters involved; but Luke says it was “...about eight days...” so it was NOT eight; but “about” eight. That means it was at the END of the seventh day (prophetically 7 years).

Luke 9:28-30, “And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening. And, behold, there talked with him two men, which were Moses and Elias:”

Notice however that the numbers in each case Moses and Elijah: two witnesses; The Lord Jesus Christ and the Father: Two witnesses; and Peter, James & John: three witnesses. So there is good reason the Lord sent his apostles out by two and two.

Mark 6:7, “And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;”

It is a good practice to do this when door knocking, street preaching, jail ministry, nursing home ministry, etc. Many times the preacher will go “on his own” and will have to go with the Lord. Such is the case when none will go with you. In some cases it is not advised because the Lord told you to go “...by two and two...” for a good reason.

One good reason is that someone may lie about you and you have no witness to speak on your behalf if you are alone. Going with two also keeps you from certain temptations.

There is also another good reason for two or three witnesses and that is bad doctrine. Not everyone is going to agree on everything. But if the Bible is clear about something and someone is practicing something that also clearly goes against what the Bible SAYS; then you can know that it is NOT of God.

1 Corinthians 14:27, “If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.”

Now the whole reason for this is that God established this so that He could also witness as the Father of the Son and the Son could witness of the Father. That is that their testimony would be in agreement.

John 5:31-37, “If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth. But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light. But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.”

John 8:18-19, “I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me. Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.”

Hebrews 6:13-20, “For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men verily

swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.”

The two immutable things: God the Father in the Old Testament and The Son of God in the New Testament. Also God the Father bore witness of the Son in the New Testament:

Matthew 3:17, “And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Matthew 17:5, “While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”

Mark 9:7, “And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.”

Luke 9:35, “And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.”

2 Peter 1:17, “For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

And not only are there two but three that bear record in heaven:

1 John 5:7-13, “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. 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. 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. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

Acts 16:31, “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”

The End