

WITNESSES OF JESUS

Acts 22:12-16

Introduction:

1. A witness has “seen and heard” that of which he testifies.
2. The testimony of an eyewitness to a crime carries great weight in a court of law.
3. Christianity is an historical religion.
 - a. It is based on established facts which have been verified.
 - b. One of the strongest evidences is the testimony of witnesses.
4. The Gospel is established by the canons of secular history.
5. It also has the testimony of both human and supernatural witnesses.

Discussion:

- I. ANGELS BORE WITNESS TO THE SON OF GOD.
 - A. Angels are created beings.
 1. They are lower than God, but higher than man (Psa. 8:4,5).
 2. They sinned but have no Savior (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6).
 3. They are servants of the heirs of salvation (Hebrews 1:14).
 - B. Angels were present at important times in the life of the Lord.
 1. An angel of the Lord foretold the birth of Jesus.
 - a. To Mary in Nazareth (Luke 1:26-38).
 - b. To Joseph in a dream (Matthew 1:18-21).
 2. An angel announced His birth to shepherds (Lk. 2:8-11).
 3. An angel strengthened Jesus in Gethsemane (Lk. 22:43).
 4. Angels announced His resurrection (Matthew 28:1-8).
 5. Angels were present at His ascension also (Acts 1:9-11).
- (1)

II. DEMONS BORE WITNESS TO THE SON OF GOD.

A. Demons are evil spirits or “devils” (KJV).

1. They are inhabitants of Hell who were allowed to inhabit men in the early New Testament era.
2. False teaching is “the doctrines of demons” (1 Tim. 4:1).
3. Demons often caused people to be ill, physically and mentally (Matthew 17:14-18; Mark 5:1-15).
4. God allowed demons to inhabit men in the miraculous age of Christianity to show Jesus’ power over demons. (Matthew 8:16; 10:1; 12:22,23).

B. The demons recognized and acknowledged Jesus.

“And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of God!’ And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for they knew that He was the Christ” (Luke 4:41).

III. GOD THE FATHER BORE WITNESS THAT JESUS WAS HIS SON.

- A. At Jesus’ baptism, the Father acknowledged Jesus as His “beloved Son in Whom He was well pleased” (Matthew 3:16,17).
- B. On the Mount of Transfiguration, God proclaimed: “This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased. Hear Him” (Matt. 17:5).
- C. At the final Passover, the Father acknowledged Jesus:

“‘Father, glorify Your name.’ Then a Voice came from Heaven, saying, ‘I have both glorified it and will glorify it again’” (John 12:27,28).

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT BORE WITNESS TO THE SON OF GOD.

- A. The Spirit bore witness to Jesus by the miracles which He did through Him (Matthew 3:16; Acts 3:22).

1. Jews attributed Jesus' miracles to Satan (Matt. 12:22-32).
 - a. He showed their fallacy: "If I by Satan, cast out Satan, he is divided against himself?"
 - b. "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you."
2. Honest hearers were convinced by the Spirit-given miracles to believe in Him.
 - a. Nicodemus said: "Rabbi, we know You are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with Him" (John 3:2).
 - b. The miracles confirmed the Spirit-given message.

"And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs" (Mk. 16:20).

- B. The Spirit testified of Jesus through the prophets who foretold His coming.

"... receiving the end of your faith - the salvation of your souls. Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ Who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow" (1 Peter 1:9-11).

- C. The Spirit testifies of Jesus today through the Scriptures.

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Revelation 2:7,11,17, 29; 3:6,13, 22).

V. THE APOSTLES BORE WITNESS TO JESUS THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- A. An apostle must have seen the Lord after His resurrection.
(3)

1. One chosen to replace Judas from among the disciples “must become a witness with us of His resurrection” (Acts 1:22).
2. The Lord appeared to Saul so he would be qualified to be an apostle.

“The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. For you will be a witness to all men of what you have seen and heard” (Acts 22:14,15; 1 Cor. 9:1;15:8).

B. The Spirit bore witness to Jesus through the apostles by two means.

1. He revealed the message they spoke and wrote.

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit Who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches... “ (1 Cor. 2:13,14).

2. He confirmed the message by the miracles which the apostles worked.

“...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?” (Hebrews 2:4,5).

Conclusion:

1. Angels bore testimony to the Son of God.
2. Demons bore testimony to the Son of God.
3. God the Father bore testimony to His Son.
4. The Holy Spirit bore testimony to the Son of God.
5. The apostles bore testimony to the Son of God through the Spirit.
6. We must accept this testimony to be saved (1 Jn. 5:11,12; Gal. 3:27).

