

7 TESTIMONIES OF JESUS

John 20:30-31

And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Introduction

1. In the gospel of John the number seven is quite conspicuous. The seven examples below are just a few among many others.
 - a. 7 disciples: (i) Andrew (1:40), (ii) Peter (1:42), (iii) Philip (1:43), (iv) Nathanael (1:45), (v) Thomas (20:24), (vi) Judas Iscariot (12:4), (vii) Judas, not Iscariot (14:22).
 - b. 7 men: (i) John the Baptist (1:6), (ii) Nicodemus (3:1), (iii) Lazarus (11:1), (iv) Annas (18:13), (v) Caiphas (18:24), (vi) Pilate (19:19), (vii) Joseph of Arimathea (19:38).
 - c. 7 women: (i) Mary, Jesus' mother (19:25), (ii) Mary, Jesus mother's sister (19:25), (iii) Mary Magdalene (19:25), (iv) Mary, the sister of Lazarus (11:1), (v) Martha (11:1), (vi) Samaritan woman (4:7), (vii) Adulteress (8:3).
 - d. 7 signs: (i) Water to wine (2:1-11), (ii) Feverish son (4:46-54), (iii) Lame man (5:1-15), (iv) Feeds 5,000 (6:1-14), (v) Walks on water (6:15-21), (vi) Blind man (9:1-12), (vii) Raises Lazarus (11:1-44).
 - e. 7 I Am's: (i) I am the Bread of life (6:35, 48), (ii) I am the Light of the world (8:12), (iii) I am the Door of the sheep (10:7, 9), (iv) I am the Good Shepherd (10:11), (v) I am the Resurrection and the Life (11:25), (vi) I am the Way, the Truth and the Life (14:6), (vii) I am the True vine (15:1, 5).
 - f. 7 I AM: (i) To the Samaritan woman (4:26), (ii) To the disciples (6:20), (iii) To the Jews (8:24), (iv) To the Jews (8:28), (v) To the Jews (8:58), (vi) To the disciples (13:19), (vii) To the guards (18:5, 6, 8).
 - g. 7 testimonies: (i) Father (5:37), (ii) Son (5:31), (iii) Holy Spirit (15:26), (iv) John the Baptist (1:6, 7), (v) John the Apostle (21:24), (vi) Miracles (5:36), (vii) Scriptures (5:39, 47).
2. The focus of this lesson is on the seven testimonies of Jesus and man's response. The words "testimony" and "testify", combined, appear 35 times in John. The word "witness" appears only twice and both times refer to John. It is in Revelation that Jesus is referred to as "the faithful witness" (Revelation 1:5), which might answer the question regarding the identity of the *two witnesses* (see Revelation 11:3).

7 Testimonies Of Jesus

1. The testimony of Jesus (Matthew 16:13-20).
2. The testimony of John the baptist (John 1:29-34).
3. The testimony of the works accompanying Jesus' teaching (John 5:36).
4. The testimony of the Father (Matthew 3:16-17).
5. The testimony of Moses and the scriptures (John 5:46-47).
6. The testimony of the Holy Spirit (John 15:26).
7. The testimony of the apostles (Acts 28:13).

7 Testimonies Of Jesus

1. The Testimony Of Jesus.

We often point out that Jesus never plainly stated, "I am the Christ", but Jesus did bare witness of Himself after others had done so (John 4:25-26; 10:24-25; Mark 14:61-62; 15:1-2; Matthew 16:13-20) or if it was directly inferred (John 9:34-38). Jesus clearly expected others (including us) to make the confession of His identity.

“When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? So they said, Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. He said to them, But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered and said, **You are the Christ**, the Son of the living God. Jesus answered and said to him, **Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ” (Matthew 16:13-20).

2. The Testimony Of John The Baptist.

God had told John what to look for in the Christ rather than who the Christ was, so that he could then reveal Him. John “came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him” (John 1:7). John was prepared and prophesied ahead of time.

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water. And John bore witness, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And **I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God**” (John 1:29-34).

3. The Testimony Of The Works Accompanying Jesus’ Teaching.

Jesus said that the works He performed are a greater testimony than John. Consider: when John questioned whether Jesus was the One, Jesus pointed to the works He had done (Matthew 11:3-5). The works of Jesus were prophesied to be works of the Messiah (Isaiah 35:4-6). Works in general testify that God is operating through someone (Matthew 9:5-7), so Jesus’ unique miracles testify to His identity.

“But I have as My witness something greater than that of John; for the works that the Father has appointed Me to accomplish and finish, the very same works that I am now doing, are a witness and proof that the Father has sent Me” (John 5:36).

4. The Testimony Of The Father.

Jesus says that the Father offers a greater testimony than any other (John 5:37). The New Testament records three times in the life of Jesus that the Father spoke from heaven; which are a testimony to the identity of Jesus.

“When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, **This is My beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:16-17).

“While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, **This is My beloved Son**. Hear Him!” (Luke 9:34-35).

“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. 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).

The Testimony Of The Father

- ▲ Jesus at the Jordan River (Matthew 3:16-17).
- ▲ Jesus on the mountain of transfiguration (Luke 9:34-35).
- ▲ Jesus at the temple (John 12:27-28).

All three are a testimony to the identity of Jesus.

5. The Testimony Of Moses And The Scriptures.

The Scriptures, or “Moses” as they are personified testify of Jesus. Jesus said, “If you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me” (John 5:46; cp. 1:45). We know that the scriptures are the foundation of the testimony of Jesus; His disciples would use them repeatedly to introduce Jesus (Acts 26:22, Acts 8:35).

Moses wrote many things that foreshadowed the coming of the Messiah.

- ☞ Jesus is the Passover Lamb (Exodus 12:1-13), and those who put their faith in His blood are rescued from the judgment that is to come (1 Corinthians 5:7; John 3:16-18).
- ☞ Like the manna in the desert (Exodus 16:1-4), Jesus is the Bread from Heaven (John 6:51) Who satisfies our spiritual hunger and gives us life.
- ☞ Like the water that sprung from the rock (Exodus 17:5-7), Jesus is the living water (John 7:37) that satisfies our spiritual thirst.
- ☞ Like the snake in the desert that was lifted up that those who were bitten by deadly snakes could look upon and be saved (Numbers 21:6-9), Jesus was lifted up so that we who have been bitten by Satan in our sin can look upon Jesus and be saved from spiritual death (John 3:14-15).
- ☞ Jesus is the offspring of the woman that would crush the head of Satan (Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4).
- ☞ Jesus is the fulfillment of the life of Joseph (Genesis 37-46), which foreshadows Him being the beloved Son, being envied and rejected by His own (John 1:11); cast down into the pit, resurrected, sent to a distant country where He became lord of all, and who then provided salvation for His own.
- ☞ Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah (cp. Genesis 49:8ff as interpreted by Revelation 5:5).
- ☞ Moses also said that God would raise up “a prophet like me” (Deuteronomy 18:15), and this is probably the clearest reference to the coming Messiah.

“For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for **he wrote about Me**. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?” (John 5:46-47).

6. The Testimony Of The Holy Spirit.

Later in the Gospel of John Jesus would point to the coming of the Holy Spirit as one who testifies of His identity. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come as the apostles’ helper. As they witnessed to the world they would have the companionship and fellowship of the Spirit. As eyewitnesses the apostles would testify concerning Jesus (cp. Acts 1:21-22; 4:19, etc.). The Holy Spirit would bring to their remembrance all that they had seen and heard (cp. 1 John 1:1-4; 2 Peter 1:16-21) and guide them into all truth. But more than this, the Holy Spirit would accompany the apostles and bear witness to Jesus through the miracles He wrought through them (cp. Hebrews 2:4).

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify about Me**” (John 15:26).

7. The Testimony Of The Apostles

When the Holy Spirit had come, He would enable the Apostles to testify of Jesus. “And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning” (John 15:27). They would reveal the truth of Jesus, as John does in this Gospel: “This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true” (John 21:24).

“So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, **persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets**, from morning till evening” (Acts 28:23).

Conclusion

1. The scriptures repeatedly tell us that “by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established” (**2 Corinthians 13:1, Matthew 18:16, Hebrews 10:28**). Consider how much more perfect the testimony of the identity of Jesus as the Christ is from these seven testimonies.
2. If you have any doubts as to Jesus’ identity, then we urge you to study the scriptures and consider the testimonies of Jesus, John the baptist, the works accompanying Jesus’ teaching, the Father, the scriptures, the Holy Spirit, and the apostles. The purpose of these testimonies is that you might come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that believing you might have life through His name (**John 20:30-31**).
3. If you are already a Christian, then you already have life through His name (**John 5:24**). But we must continue in love, faith, and hope. Obedience is the proof of love (**John 14:21**), works are the proof of faith (**James 2:14-26**), and holiness is the proof of hope (**1 John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 7:1**).