

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS, THE KING

Over the years, I have heard Christians speak of testimony. Many share what they call “their testimony”; some declare that they are “holding to a testimony”; and others declare that they are “holding to *the* testimony.”

From 1983-2000, we were with a loving group of the Lord’s people that fell into this last group. We were often taught that we had to hold to *the* testimony as if it were some deep spiritual truth that very few groups outside our group understood, let alone held. It was as if our very existence as a group depended on us holding to the testimony, and if we did not, then the Lord was no longer with us. We were also taught that the testimony has something to do with God’s eternal purpose.

Frankly, I never fully grasped what they meant by the testimony or, for that matter, the eternal purpose, both of which took on an air of spirituality as if it were part of the deeper Christian life. However, when I read the group’s source material on the matter, I generally was left scratching my head wondering what it was all about. It turns out that I was not alone, for it seems that others among the group didn’t get it either.

I have learned over the years that we must search out Scripture on our own and come to our own understanding of what we believe and why we believe it. If we don’t, we could and, most likely, will fall for the tradition of men, something of which the Lord Jesus was most critical (Mark 7:8).

Well, it wasn’t until the Lord led us out of this group that I searched Scripture regarding *the* testimony, as well as the eternal purpose. Much to my surprise, the eternal purpose was actually *the purpose of the eons*, and it was far greater than anything I had ever been taught sitting under *the testimony* teaching. After many months of research, I wrote the three volume book *The Purpose and Plan of the Eons*.

It turns out that the testimony is not very difficult to explain and not so complex to understand. We simply need to turn to John, the elder servant apostle of Jesus Christ and...

The Revelation of Jesus Christ.

John, a fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance, which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos, because of *the word of God* and *the testimony of Jesus*. He was in spirit as he was caught up to a day (*the Lord’s Day*) nearly 2,000 years into the future from his day, and he saw and heard things that no man had ever seen or heard.

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John bore witness to *the word of God* and to *the testimony of Jesus Christ*, even to all that he saw (Revelation 1). He recorded *the words of the prophecy of The Revelation of Jesus Christ* for us to read, hear, and heed the things, which are written in it; for the time is near (Revelation 1:3).

At the very outset of *The Revelation*, we are given an indication of the meaning of the testimony.

First, the testimony is the testimony of Jesus. It is His testimony. It belongs to Jesus and comes forth from Him.

Second, the testimony deals with the word of the prophecy as contained in *The Revelation*. However, it is not until Mystery Babylon is judged and falls in one hour and the marriage of the Lambkin [CV] has come that the testimony of Jesus is clearly stated.

(6) And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. (7) Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." (8) And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright {and} clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. (9) And he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God." (Revelation 19:6-9 NASB)

John was completely overwhelmed by the revelation entrusted to him. Was it any wonder that he was overwhelmed by what he heard? It is beyond anyone's greatest imagination or dream. He heard of the fulfillment of the hope of everyone who is born from above, begotten of God by the spirit of God.

And I fell at his feet to worship him. (Revelation 19:10a NASB)

What was John to do? How was he to respond to such glory? It was as if the fondest of dreams had come true, only this was no dream. It was a view of a future reality. All he could do was fall at the feet of the one delivering the message. It brought worship to John's heart. He revered the messenger. John knew that worship is due God alone; but as a man, he was caught up in the glory of the moment. Oh, that we could be caught up as well.

What mere mortal would have acted any differently? But John was not just any man. He was the one whom the Lord loved and the one who had leaned on the breast of Jesus (John 13:23, 25; 20:2; 21:7, 20). He was the abiding one who had the heart of a bride for her bridegroom. In that moment, all that his beloved Master had taught him and the other disciples, all that they had seen of His beauty and grace, must have come into sharp focus. The Bridegroom will have His Bride

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without spot or wrinkle. The afflictions John experienced in his life, and particularly as he was exiled on Patmos, became momentary, light afflictions producing an eternal [age-during [YLT]; eonian [CV]) weight of glory far beyond all comparison (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Oh, to have the heart of a bride as John did! Do you long to be wed to the love of your life, to the One who loved us first? John saw the glory of the Day that is coming soon. The angel had to rebuke John not to worship him. Worship God! God alone has brought about His glorious purpose and plan for those who hold the testimony of Jesus.

The spirit of prophecy.

And he said to me, “Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. FOR THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IS THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY.” (Revelation 19:10b NASB)

It is at this point that we are told what the testimony of Jesus is. *It is the spirit of prophecy.* The testimony of Jesus is joined to prophecy.

In the Greek, the word for *spirit* means “breath or breeze,” and it is the same word used for the spirit of God.

The Greek word for *prophecy* means “prediction.”

Thus, the testimony deals with “the breath of prediction.” It reveals something that is coming, something that has yet to be fulfilled in God’s plan. What could this prophecy be? To answer this question, we need to see the prophetic testimony of Jesus; and for this, we need to turn to the words of Paul, the striving apostle who finished the race of *the* faith. See article #20, April 2009, *The Faith*.

The good confession: “I am a king!”

As his life neared its end, Paul wrote two personal letters to Timothy, his beloved son in *the* faith. Paul was so secure in his counsel to Timothy that he wrote with God as his witness.

(13) I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, WHO TESTIFIED THE GOOD CONFESSION BEFORE PONTIUS PILATE, (14) that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, (15) which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords; (16) who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him {be} honor and eternal dominion! Amen. (1 Timothy 6:13-16 NASB)

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Notice that, according to Paul, Christ testified (witnessed) the good confession before Pilate; and he joined this testimony to the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords. In other words, Christ's testimony can be understood in the light of what He spoke to Pilate as He headed toward the cross of Calvary. What was His testimony before Pilate?

(33) Pilate therefore entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" (34) Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?" (35) Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You up to me; what have You done?" (36) Jesus answered, "MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." (John 18:33-36 NASB)

Pilate knew that there was something different about this Man named Jesus. He had heard Him called the King of the Jews, so he inquired of Jesus whether this was true or not. At first, Jesus did not directly answer his question. Instead, He declared that His kingdom is not of this world (*kosmos*). He will have a kingdom, but He did not align Himself with the kingdom of this world that lies in the power of the evil one. His kingdom is of another realm (totally different in character). Based on Jesus' answer, Pilate concluded that Jesus is a king, so he inquired again.

Pilate therefore said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "YOU SAY {CORRECTLY} THAT I AM A KING. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (John 18:37 NASB)

In answering Pilate's question, Jesus acknowledged that He is a king. He was born a Man to become the King of all men. He came to bear witness of this truth.

Later, *it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour* and Pilate sat down on his judgment seat to pass judgment on the One who would judge all mankind. With the Jewish leaders before him, Pilate acknowledged the truth that Jesus spoke by declaring, **"BEHOLD, YOUR KING!"** (John 19:14).

This was the good confession before Pilate, and this is the testimony of Jesus. **"I AM a King!"**

Thus, the spirit of prophecy refers to the Lord's testimony as King. All prophecy points to the day in which God's Anointed King ascends the throne of this earth to rule and reign over the nations. All prophecy points to the millennial reign of Christ. Not only is He a king but He is *the King*, the King of many kings who will rule and reign with Him in that glorious day.

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The testimony of Jesus is all about the King and His coming kingdom. This is the spirit of prophecy.

Prophetic vision of the King of Glory.

Receiving *The Revelation of Jesus Christ* was not the first time in John's life that he had been given a vision of the glorious day of Christ. Most likely, 60 years earlier when Jesus walked with His disciples, three of them, Peter, James, and John, were given a personal glimpse of the King and His glory.

A time came when Jesus taught His disciples over a two-day period. At the end of this time, He proclaimed the truth about His Second Coming: **“For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and will then recompense every man according to his deeds”** (Matthew 16:27 NASB).

What a truth! Do not let this one fact escape your notice. *The Son of Man* is going to come! Do you grasp the significance of these words? It is an absolute statement of truth that cannot be broken. He is going to come. Jesus Himself proclaimed His return. He is going to return with His reward. He will recompense every man according to his deeds. His coming will be in glory, the glory of His Father.

Jesus then declared: **“Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who shall not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom”** (Matthew 16:28 NASB).

Unfortunately, some people today teach that this means that His kingdom came and remained right at that moment, but this is not what Scripture reveals. What Jesus did say was that some of His disciples were about to receive a vision of the King of Glory. Six days after He made this statement, on the seventh day, the Lord took three of the disciples up to a high mountain.

In Scripture, the word *mountain* is often used to represent *kingdom* (e.g., Isaiah 2:1-4; Daniel 2:34, 35, 44, 45; Matthew 17:1-9).

The seventh day is representative of the millennial kingdom of our Lord that comes at the end of Man's Day, that is, after the sixth day (6,000 years). It is in the seventh day, the day of rest that the King will rule and reign over this earth.

(1) And six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain by themselves. (2) And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. (3) And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. (4) And Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” (5) While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud

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overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!” (6) And when the disciples heard {this,} they fell on their faces and were much afraid. (7) And Jesus came to {them} and touched them and said, “Arise, and do not be afraid.” (8) And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, except Jesus Himself alone. (Matthew 17:1-8 NASB)

On the mountain, it was difficult for the disciples to grasp what was transpiring before their eyes. The appearance of Jesus changed. It was not as if a light shined upon Him. This light came forth from within the Lord Himself. Here was proof that He is the Son of God.

The glory that is His alone had been hidden from the eyes of man, but on this mountain, His glory broke through for these three disciples to behold. It was a vision of the Kingdom of Glory. It was *the heavenly vision*. When he saw the glorified Lord standing with Moses and Elijah, Peter was so surprised by the vision that he did not know what to do, so he told the Lord that he would build a tabernacle for them. Peter didn't even realize what he was saying (Luke 9:33).

For he did not know what to answer; for they became terrified. (Mark 9:6 NASB)

Peter, James, and John were in great danger of taking this glorious sight and bringing it down to their level and making it an earthly thing. **“It is a good thing for us to be here.”**

No, it was not good for them if they remained there; it was a foretaste of that which is to come, but Jesus had to face the cross first. Jesus, Moses, and Elijah were discussing the departure that Jesus was about to accomplish; death on a cruel cross would release Jesus from this earth and defeat death for mankind (Luke 9:31).

As a side note; it is our nature to want to build tabernacles for God. We see something of God's heart; we take it and build something with it. We could say that we build boxes with it. They may not be physical tabernacles but rather anything that is organized to accomplish something for God.

Unfortunately, when we do this, we try to keep the Lord in our box. In our heart we say, “It is a good thing for *us*.” But the question is whether it is good for the Lord. Was the thing ever meant to be formalized in some fashion or was it the Lord's way of expanding our vision to lead us to a greater depth of the vision?

Many of the Lord's people have taken that which started with God and, instead of leaving it all in the hands of God, have put their own hands on it, resulting in a great monument to man, rather than a living testimony of God's grace. We can build all the boxes we want and put the Lord's name on them, but we must remember that boxes do not hold the Lord.

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By way of illustration, after the Lord's resurrection and before His ascension, He appeared and disappeared, even when the doors were shut (John 20:19, 26).

Likewise, our boxes cannot contain Him, for He does not work by being confined to our boxes. He will move in and out as He wills to accomplish His purpose and plan. ***"I will build My ecclesia!"***

Returning to the story; as soon as Peter declared that they must build a tabernacle, a bright cloud overshadowed them and God spoke: ***"This is My beloved Son. Listen to Him!"***

The three disciples were so struck with awe that they fell on their faces. It took the touch of Jesus to bring relief to them. When they opened their eyes, Jesus was found alone (Luke 9:36). God's Son is the only King; and God will not share His glory with anyone but His Son, not even Moses and Elijah. He alone was the One they were to see and the One they were to hear.

It was as if God was saying: "You are not seeing who My Son is and you are not listening to Him. My Son is the One you are to see. As great as Moses and Elijah were in My purpose and plan, don't look to them; don't seek their voices. They have already spoken, and they spoke of My Son. Listen to Him! See Him!"

Why was it so important to listen to Jesus? God was directing His command to the disciples because their view of things was an earthly view. For those two days, Jesus had explained everything to them, but they had to come into a revelation of it; and now they were eyewitnesses of all that the Lord had taught them. It was like they were being shown a movie of what was to come, and they did not understand the great significance of what their eyes were seeing. They were missing the story line. What they saw was the summation of His teaching—He is *the Son of Man*; He is *the Christ, the Son of the Living God*; He is *the Rock*, and He will build His ecclesia, His complement (likeness, fullness) that will sit upon His throne to reign with Him in His kingdom.

He had to suffer death on a cross to depart this world and atone for the sins of the world, and He is coming back and His Kingdom is the Kingdom of Glory.

In these few days, Jesus had unfolded the full extent of *the word of the Kingdom*; He even manifested it and the Father put His stamp of approval on it by declaring: ***"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"***

Peter never forgot what he saw on that high mountain. At the end of his life, he wrote his second letter to those of like precious faith and he recounted to them the transformation that they had witnessed to them. He was determined to be diligent to remind them so that they would remember after his decease.

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The prophetic word made more sure.

(16) For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. (17) For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased” — (18) and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. (19) And {so} we have THE PROPHETIC WORD {made} more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. (20) But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is {a matter} of one’s own interpretation, (21) for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2 Peter 1:16-21 NASB)

Peter previously had made known to them the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He said that he and the other two disciples were eyewitnesses of His majesty. The Majestic Glory, the Father Himself had declared that Christ is the beloved Son. They heard the voice from heaven; it was no voice of man on earth, and they could testify that it was true. God Himself authenticated the truth about His Son.

Now notice that Peter took this eyewitness account and declared that the prophetic word is right; it is true. The Holy Spirit moved men of old to prophesy of what Peter, James, and John saw. It was a confirmation to them of the prophetic word; it was made more sure to them, and to us, because they saw it manifested before their very eyes, and they have testified to us of the truth.

We must pay attention to the God-breathed word. We must heed the prophetic word, for it is a lamp that shines in a dark world. It is a beacon that shines in the dark night. As a lamp shines in the darkness, we see Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of [*the*] faith, piercing the darkness as He comes to this earth to usher in the dawn of the new day. Only the prophetic word will reveal this truth to us and lead us in the days of darkness. It is to be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Psalm 119:105) until the new day comes, the Kingdom Age, when the Son of Man comes in His glory.

Anyone attempting to go through the Christian life without knowledge of the prophetic word may be compared to a person in a car without any lights speeding at seventy miles an hour down a road in the bush on a night with no moon. It would not take very long before such a person and his car would meet the fate of a devastating crash in the bush. The prophetic word is our lamp to keep us on the path to the life of the coming kingdom. We need to be sure of this word and hold to it no matter what the cost; otherwise, we will be taken off track and not finish the race of *the* faith and receive the victor’s crown to rule with Christ.

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Through Peter's declaration, we see that the prophetic word was made more sure because they had witnessed the Son of Man coming as the King of Glory. Their testimony to us today is to read and heed the prophetic word, for it is true. It is the truth to which all the prophets and Jesus Himself testified. **The I AM is King!**

The revelation of the mystery manifested.

According to Paul, this fact has been a mystery kept secret since the world began.

(25) Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began (26) but now made manifest, and by THE PROPHETIC SCRIPTURES made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith— (27) to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen. (Romans 16:25-27 NKJV)

Thank God; it is no longer a mystery. It has been manifested. How has it been manifested? The Son of God came the first time *as Savior* to declare the truth that He is coming a second time *as King*. This has been made known by the prophetic Scriptures. **This is the testimony of Jesus.**

It is noteworthy that Paul stated that the prophetic Scriptures have been made known to all nations.

How are the nations to know that there is a king coming who will rule over all the nations? It is through the prophetic word. It is hoped that, at this point, the reader sees how essential the prophetic word is to our understanding of the age to come and of our King and His Kingdom of Glory. Ignore the prophetic Scriptures and you will miss the essential message of all Scripture.

However, there is a word of caution. Today, there are many people running to and fro within Christendom claiming to be prophets, but many are not. Much prophecy today deals with making people feel good about what is to come in their lives (prosperity, marriage, jobs, etc.); it also draws attention to the one who claims to be a prophet. This is not the prophetic word that has been given to us through Scripture. All that we need to know about God's purpose and plan and the coming of our beloved Lord is contained in the prophetic word. It is the God-breathed word, and we need the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of our understanding to this word.

We need to heed John's warning: **Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world** (1 John 4:1). We must test the spirits through the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.

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The testimony of others.

To further prove that the testimony deals with all that pertains to the coming King and His kingdom, all we need to do is look at the testimony of God's people in the Bible. Even with a very brief study of some lives, we will discover that there is one thread that runs through their testimonies. That thread is the coming King and His kingdom. There really is only one testimony, for they all held to the testimony of Jesus in some fashion. Let us look at a few testimonies.

Abraham.

The God of glory appeared to Abraham and instructed him to leave his country and enter the land of promise (Genesis 12:1; Acts 7:2). He went out, not knowing where he was going, but the word of the Lord came to Abram (later called Abraham) in a vision saying, **“Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; your reward shall be very great”** (Genesis 15:1 NASB). He was commanded to look toward heaven as God revealed His word to him (Genesis 15:5). What became Abraham's testimony?

(9) By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign {land} dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; (10) for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. (Hebrews 11:9-10 NASB)

Abraham was a sojourner looking for the city to come, the celestial city, New Jerusalem, having the glory of God. He saw a day 4,000 years from his day, and he believed. This day comes when Christ comes.

Daniel.

Daniel the prophet saw to a day over 2,500 years from his day, and the vision of this future day became his testimony.

(13) “I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. (14) And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and {men of every} language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.” (Daniel 7:13-14 NASB)

Daniel saw the Son of Man coming in the clouds to take the scepter of *the kingdom of the heavens* and rule over this earth. He saw the coming kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.

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Stephen.

Stephen, the first recorded martyr of the Pentecostal-era ecclesia of God, testified before the Jewish leaders of his day, the very ones who demanded the crucifixion of their Messiah. After unfolding the history of Israel, Stephen reached the height of his dialogue and declared that those listening to his words were stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart with ears that were always resisting the Holy Spirit. They were following in their father's footsteps.

(52) Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become; (53) you who received the law as ordained by angels, and {yet} did not keep it. (Acts 7:52-53 NASB)

Those who heard Stephen were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him. This beloved martyr did not look to men; rather, he looked to heaven and saw the most glorious sight. Being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. He declared his testimony before those who were about to stone him to death.

“Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” (Acts 7:56 NASB)

He saw the ascended Christ in glory, the One who offers the kingdom of the heavens to all who believe on Him.

Paul.

Saul (later Paul) stood by and watched as his fellow Jews killed Stephen. He was in full agreement with what was transpiring, but this was about to change forever. On the road to Damascus, Saul met the One whom he had persecuted.

(3) And it came about that as he journeyed, he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; (4) and he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” (5) And he said, “Who art Thou, Lord?” And He {said,} “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting....” (Acts 9:3-5 NASB)

At that moment, Paul was astonished. He had met the Lord. **“Lord, what do You want me to do?”** (Acts 9:6 NKJV). He saw the risen, exalted Lord; his testimony became Christ Himself (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21), and he followed Him to a martyr's death. At the end of his life, Paul testified of his faithful Lord.

(17) But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me, in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all

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the Gentiles might hear; and I was delivered out of the lion's mouth. (18) The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to HIS HEAVENLY [CELESTIAL] KINGDOM; to Him {be} the glory forever and ever. Amen. (2 Timothy 4:17-18 NASB [CV])

Like all those who went before him, Paul looked to a future day when the celestial kingdom comes. In that day, he will be crowned with the crown of *the* righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8 YLT). This is his testimony.

The controversy over the testimony.

Finally, there is a great controversy raging over the testimony of Jesus. It was a controversy when Jesus walked this earth the first time. It has continued unabated during His long absence from this earth, and it will continue to the end of Man's Day. How do we know? We know because *The Revelation of Jesus Christ* tells us so.

(10) And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night. (11) And they overcame [conquer] him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY, and they did not love their life even to death. (Revelation 12:10-11 NASB [CV])

And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and hold to THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS. (Revelation 12:17 NASB)

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I {saw} the souls of those who had been beheaded because of THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4 NASB)

The testimony of these conquerors proves without any doubt that the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Why? The answer is discovered in why Satan makes war with those holding the testimony. During Man's Day, Satan has held sway over the kingdom of this world (*kosmos*). According to the Lord's own words, Satan is the ruler of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). Paul described him as the god of this age (Man's Day) and the prince of the power of the air (2 Corinthians 4:4 NKJV; Ephesians 2:2). John wrote that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one (1 John 5:19). Thus, Satan has a throne associated with the world system in which we live.

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There is great conflict over the testimony of Jesus because it speaks of who will rule and reign over this earth; who is the rightful king of this earth; who will ascend the throne to rule over the nations.

Those who hold to the testimony of Jesus declare that there is only one rightful King over this earth and that He is God *as* Son, the Son of Man, the King of kings. Their testimony to a fallen world and the rulers, the powers, the world forces of this darkness, the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials (Ephesians 6:12 CV) is that Jesus is the Anointed King! There is no other king. They declare that a day is coming in which the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one (Zechariah 14.9).

This is their testimony, and this is what sparks the controversy in the hearts of the wicked forces among the celestials. These dark forces, headed by the archenemy of God, the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan (Revelation 20:2), hate the testimony of Jesus, for it speaks of their downfall, their ruin. The accuser of the brethren accuses those who hold the testimony of Jesus day and night before the throne of God for one reason. He is trying in vain to disqualify them from entering *the reign of the heavens in the day of Christ Jesus* (Philippians 1:6, 10; 2:16). Praise God; the Great High Priest of the brethren ministers in the heavenly sanctuary on their behalf (Hebrews 8:1-2). Satan is no match for our Great High Priest, for Christ is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25).

The day is coming very soon when the accuser will be bound, but until then the accuser will seek to persecute those who hold the testimony of Jesus. But they will overcome him, for they will love not their lives even to death. What a powerful testimony! What a victorious testimony! They will conquer and be found worthy to attain unto the Kingdom Age and rule and reign with Christ over this earth for the last 1,000 years of the history of the second heavens and the earth.

In that day, there will be no more controversy, for the One who is called Faithful and True, the Word of God and the King of kings and the Lord of lords will ride on a white horse from an opened heaven and claim His right over the nations and this earth (Revelation 19:11-16; Psalm 2).

Hallelujah! The arrival of the King will be the consummation of the truth, the testimony of Jesus, which will have been declared in heaven.

(15) Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." (16) And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, (17) saying, "We give You thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign." (Revelation 11:15-17 NASB)

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS, THE KING

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come....” (Revelation 12:10 NASB)

This is our testimony as we wait for His glorious arrival, His *parousia*.

For those who hold to the testimony of Jesus, even to death, there is great reward. It is the reward of the inheritance (Colossians 3:24), which speaks of entering *the reign of the heavens* as a co-heir with Christ—**if indeed we are willing to suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified with Him** (Romans 8:17 NASB).

What must our testimony be as we wait for the day of Christ? There is only one testimony. Our testimony is the testimony of Jesus. What is this testimony? Jesus is the King! The King of Glory is coming!

God made a promise to King David regarding his sons sitting upon his throne.

“If your sons will keep My covenant, and My testimony which I will teach them, their sons also shall sit upon your throne forever.” (Psalm 132:12)

The greater Son, Christ, now calls us to keep His testimony.

If we do, we will be granted the glorious privilege of sitting upon His own throne in His Kingdom (Revelation 3:21) as sons of the kingdom.

We will be His complement (Ephesians 1:23 CV) on earth and among the celestials, working with and through Him as He sums up or heads up all in the heavens and on earth (Ephesians 1:10) until He abolishes the last enemy death and hands over the kingdom to God the Father, so that God may be all in all new (1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Revelation 21:5). This is *the purpose and plan of the eons!*

Let us hold to the testimony of Jesus! The time is near!

Come, Lord Jesus!

CV	International Standard Version
NKJV	New King James Version
NASB	New American Standard Bible
YLT	Young’s Literal Translation

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