

INTRODUCTION

1. Survey landscape on summit text - Lk 24:46-48. Heavy words.
2. *Witness* is Bible-defined: revelation culminates in Son of God: Hb 1:1-3a.
 - i. Son as agent of creation: *witness*. Reality exists for Jesus - Rom 11:36. Creation = medium of communication? Jn 1:1-4 Logos
 - ii. Review: Creation, conscience, revelation of wrath - witness.
3. Special revelation of saving grace - witness.

1st: God's Witness Given to Old Covenant Israel

1. *Witness* concerns legal issues of court - covenantal obligations.
2. YHWH gave Israel testimonies of His cov rlnshp: civil & ceremonial.
3. 10c - Ex 31:18. IXth = not bear false witness; IVth Sab = sign of Cov
4. Tabernacle = testimony - Ex 25:21-22. YHWH's presence Ex 26:33-34
5. Tent of *meeting* - Ex 27:19 LXX *meeting* = witness: embraces all of Israel's cov blessings, obligations & liabilities - assoc'd w/ NAME [IIIrd c]
6. YHWH's Word to Moses = *testimony*.
 - i. 2 Kg 23:2-3 Josiah's rfmtn - commandments, testimonies, statutes
 - ii. Ps 119 - *testimonies*: v11-17
7. Memorials to YHWH's gracious interventions. Song of Moses; 12 stones [Josh 4:4ff]; Josh 22:22-29, v34

2nd: The Legal Aspect of "Witness"

1. Testimony in courtroom. Deut 19:15 [1 T 5:19].
2. Is the witness trustworthy? - Prv 12:19.
3. IXth c - no false witness - Ex 23:1; Prv 25:18]. Lex Talionis - Dt 19:16-21
4. Objective fact not subjective feeling: what actually happened: what, where, when, how, who - the one of whom witness is being given tells why.
5. Prvs - rule justly - Prv 19:9. Warned against bribes, favoritism: fear God.
 - i. Lev 19:1 Ppl to be Holy - v11-12 - IIIrd. Lev 25:17-18 Jubilee

- ii. The courts of men are to be an extension of God's court in wh/ God's justice is enacted [Ex 23:1-3].

3rd: YHWH Took OCov Israel to Court

1. History of OCov Israel's cov infidelity & YHWH's cov faithfulness. Prophets - YHWH takes Israel to court before *witnesses*.
2. Mic 1:1-7 YHWH calls creation to witness Israel's infidelity
3. Isa 1:1-4 Isa = prosecuting attorney for YHWH the defendant before creation as judge wh/ witnesses Israel's disobedience
4. Jer 3:1-13 YHWH calls Israel to account - v12 creation witnesses
5. OCov Israel's infidelity was so persistent that YHWH sues for divorce.
 - i. Isa 50:1 YHWH legally dissolves rlnshp to OCov Israel
 - ii. Divorce of Theocratic Cov w/ national Israel. God has a believing remnant to whom He promises a NCov w/ Son of David
 - iii. Jer 2:1-8 idolatry - exile = divorce; remove from land; destroy temple
 - iv. Return from exile was type of resurrection that points us to end of this age: resurrection & restoration to land of new cosmos.
6. YHWH - remnant of faith - true sons of Ab given eschatological life on basis of union w/ Jesus, the promised seed.

Applic #1: Feel the Weight of the Significance of *Witness* as Defined by the OT

1. We live in a world wh/ testifies to God - [Hb 4:12,13]. Creation is the revelation of Logos - the Word incarnated: Jesus.
2. General revelation: Creation & Fall [present wrath] & Saving revelation recorded in Scripture. All the OT = witness to us & fulfilled in Jesus. *You are witnesses of these things*.
3. Feel the weight of *witness*. [Num 11:29].