



### Witnesses of God

**“You are My witnesses,’ declares the Lord, ‘And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He’” (Isaiah 43:10a NASB).**

Here, God is telling Israel that He has set them apart as a nation to be His witnesses - evidence of His nature in the world. As a nation, they were to stand out among the peoples of the world as a proof of God’s nature. Their existence was to be a testimony and conviction against the sin of the world.

God takes witness very seriously. One of the Ten Commandments stated that man “*shall not bear false witness*” (Matthew 19:18b). Unfortunately, Israel repeatedly defiled themselves in sin and wickedness while bearing the name “God’s People.” This was false evidence of God’s character submitted before the nations. Through unrepentant sin, the people were taking God’s name in vain—calling themselves the People of God with no intention of obeying His will.

They were not content to live in sin themselves but evangelized their perverseness in God’s name as Jesus says: “*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves*” (Matthew 23:15).

These are false witnesses because “*the one who says, ‘I have come to know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him*” (1 John 2:4). God calls this “*an appalling and horrible thing*” when “*the prophets prophesy falsely, And the*

*priests rule on their own authority; And My people love it so!*” (Jeremiah 5:30-31)

As Believers, we are Christ’s witnesses on earth, for when Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, He said, “*Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things*” (Luke 46-48).

Believers stand apart from the World because God has made us “**A CHOSEN RACE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God’s OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light**” (1 Peter 2:9). Our lives are witness to God’s nature and His glory.

How serious it is then when we see churches and ministries bearing false witness before men by twisting the Gospel to suit the culture and times we live in. They long for the praise of men rather than of God, taking God’s name upon themselves in vain for profit and power! We should be aware of these “*false teachers*” among us “*who will secretly introduce destructive heresies,*” for “*because of them the way of the truth will be maligned*” (1 Peter 2:1b-2b).

As faithful Witnesses, we must test the intent of everything we see and hear by the Word and the Holy Spirit, which convicts the world “*concerning sin and righteousness and judgment*” (John 16:8b). Our witness is to imitate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Who is the Word of God and Whose testimony about God’s nature convicts the world, for if He “*had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin*” (John 15:22). Even so, Amen.