

## Witness

Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity. But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain and be there; and I will give you tablets of stone, and the law and commandments which I have written, that you may teach them." So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up to the mountain of God. (Exo 24:9-13)

The sight of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights. (Exo 24:17-18)

And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God. (Exo 31:18)

And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. The tablets were written on both sides; on the one side and on the other they were written. Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets. (Exo 32:15-16)

And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp." But he said: "It is not the noise of the shout of victory, nor the noise of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing I hear." So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. (Exo 32:17-19)

And the Lord said to Moses, "Cut two tablets of stone like the first ones, and I will write on these tablets the words that were on the first tablets which you broke. So be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself to Me there on the top of the mountain. And no man shall come up with you, and let no man be seen throughout all the mountain; let neither flocks nor herds feed before that mountain." So he cut two tablets of stone like the first ones. Then Moses rose early in the morning and went up Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him; and he took in his hand the two tablets of stone. (Exo 34:1-4)

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write these words, for according to the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel." So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments. Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. So when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him.

Then Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned to him; and Moses talked with them. (Exo 34:27-31)

"If there is found among you, within any of your gates which the Lord your God gives you, a man or a woman who has been wicked in the sight of the Lord your God, in transgressing His covenant, who had gone and served other gods and worshipped them, either the sun or moon or any of the host of heaven, which I have not commanded, and it is told you, and you hear of it, then you shall inquire diligently. And if it is indeed true and certain that such an abomination has been committed in Israel, then you shall bring out to your gates that man or woman who has committed that wicked thing, and shall stone to death that man or woman with stones. Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness. The hands of the witnesses shall be the first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So you shall put away the evil from among you." (Deu 17:2-7)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' " And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. (Joh 1:14-18)

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." (Joh 1:29-34)

Again the next day, John stood with two of his disciples. And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. (Joh 1:35-37)

The testimony of witnesses is only regarded as true, when there are more than one. God wrote His Law on four tablets of stone, there are four Gospels and many prophets beside John the Baptist, who bore witness to Jesus. I have discovered the book of Jasher bears witness to many accounts from Genesis to Joshua and has been a valuable aid to me in understanding the Bible. I discovered one statement in Jasher which did not agree with the Bible.

It was at that time Methuselah the son of Enoch died; he was nine hundred and sixty years old at his death. (Jas 5:36)

So all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty-nine years; and he died. (Gen 5:27)

I thought this may have just been due to an omission in the translation of Jasher, but later it began to bother me, so I set out to prove which of the two texts was correct.

And Noah did according to all that the Lord commanded him. Noah was six hundred years old when the flood waters were on the earth. So Noah, with his sons, his wife, and his son's wives, went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. (Gen 7:5-7)

And Noah rose up, and he made the ark, in the place where God had commanded him, and Noah did as God had ordered him. In his five hundred and ninety-fifth year Noah commenced to make the ark, and he made the ark in five years, as the Lord had commanded. Then Noah took the three daughters of Eliakim, son of Methuselah, for wives for his sons, as the Lord had commanded Noah. It was at that time Methuselah the son of Enoch died; he was nine hundred and sixty years old at his death. (Jas 5:33-36)

I had seen in a previous study, that from Genesis, one can add up the father years to discover which year people were born in. This works from Adam, right up to Abraham. Methuselah was born in the year 687 and Noah in the year 1056; we know that Noah was 600 years old when the flood waters were on the earth according to Gen 7:6. Therefore the flood happened in the year 1656. If we subtract 687 from 1656 it gives a result of 969 and this agrees with Gen 5:27. When we look at Jasher 5:33-36 we can see that Methuselah died just after Noah had completed the Ark in his 600th year.

Therefore the missing nine in Jasher is just an error as the Jasher account agrees with the account of the flood in Genesis. Enoch had Methuselah and Methuselah had Lamech. According to Jasher, Lamech was fifty-six years old when Adam died.

It was in the fifty-sixth year of the life of Lamech when Adam died. Nine hundred and thirty years old was he at his death. His two sons, with Enoch and Methuselah his son, buried him with great grandeur, as at the burial of kings, in the cave which God had told him. And in that place all the sons of men mourned and wept greatly on account of Adam; it has therefore become a custom among the sons of men to this day. (Jas 3:14-15)

This is a wonderful revelation from the book of Jasher, not mentioned in the account of Genesis! I then wondered how old Abraham was when Noah died. In Genesis the story of Abraham only begins when Abraham is seventy-five years old!

And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. So all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died. (Gen 9:28-29)

So 1656 (Flood) + 350 (rest of Noah's life ) = 2006 - 1946 (Abraham's birth) = 60 years

At that time, at the end of three years of Abram's dwelling in the land of Canaan, in that year Noah died, which was the fifty-eighth year of the life of Abram; all the days that Noah lived were nine hundred and fifty years and he died. (Jas 13:9)

So where had I gone wrong?

And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Gen 5:32)

This is the genealogy of Noah. Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. And Noah begot three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (Gen 6:9-10)

Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. And Ham was the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated. (Gen 9:18)

I knew that Ham was the youngest, because Ham had disgraced his father.

And Noah began to be a farmer and he planted a vineyard. Then he drank of the wine and was drunk, and became uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment laid it on both their shoulders, and went backward and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness. So Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done to him. (Gen 9:24)

I had taken it for granted that Shem was the oldest of the three sons!

And Noah was four hundred and ninety-eight years old, when he took Naamah for a wife. Naamah conceived and gave birth to a son, and he called his name Japheth, saying, God has enlarged me in the earth; and she conceived again and gave birth to a son, and he called his name Shem, saying God has made me a remnant, to raise up descendants the midst of the earth. And Noah was five hundred and two years old when Naamah gave birth to Shem, and the boys grew up and went in the ways of the Lord, in all that Methuselah and Noah their father taught them. (Jas 5:16-18)

Oops, if I'd looked at Jasher, I wouldn't have made that mistake!  
Going back to Genesis, I searched for proof of this and found the following:

And children were born also to Shem, the father of all the children of Eber, the brother of Japheth the elder. (Gen 10:21)

This is the genealogy of Shem: Shem was one hundred years old, and begot Arphaxad two years after the flood. After he begot Arphaxad, Shem lived five hundred years, and begot sons and daughters. (Gen 11:10-11)

So according to Genesis and Jasher the order was actually, Japheth - Shem - Ham. The flood happened when Noah was 600 so the year Arphaxad was born was 602 and if Shem was one hundred years old he was definitely born in the years 502. I now had to readjust my dates because Japheth was born when Noah was 500 and Shem was born when Noah was 502. Therefore Abraham was born in year 1948 not 1946!

So 1656 (Flood) + 350 (rest of Noah's life) = 2006 - 1948 (Abraham's birth) = 58 years

This example illustrates the importance of comparing scriptures, one to another, to discover the whole truth of the message. The more honest witnesses to an event we can find, the more accurate and better understood the event becomes to us.

According to Jasher the following details are also revealed:

- Abraham spent 39 years living with Noah and Shem.
- When Abraham turned 50 he went back to his father's house.
- Noah died when Abraham, was 58 years old.
- Abraham died when Jacob and Esau were 15 years old.
- Jacob spent 32 years living with Shem and Eber.
- Shem died when Jacob and Esau were 50 years old.
- When Jacob was 50 he went back to his father's house.

Abraham and Jacob learned 'the instructions of the Lord' from Noah, Shem and Eber. The righteousness of Abraham and Jacob was not something that just happened, it was due to the knowledge of God, taught and acquired by living with righteous men. There is no shortcut to acquiring strong faith. This comes from reading, studying, learning and possessing the knowledge of God.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Pro 1:7)

My son, do not forget My law, but let your heart keep My commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones. Honour the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine. (Pro 3:1-10)

The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens; by His knowledge the depths were broken up, and clouds drop down the dew. My son, let them not depart from your eyes - keep sound wisdom and discretion; so they will be life to your soul and grace to your neck. Then you will walk safely in your way, and your foot will not stumble. When you lie down, you will not be afraid; yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet. Do not be afraid of sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; for the Lord will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught. (Pro 3:19-26)

My son, give attention to My words; incline your ear to My sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you. Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil. (Pro 4:20-27)

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2Ti 3:16-17)

-oOo-