

The secret of the Lord

The testimony of our Lord is the proclamation of everything that will ever 'be' and it cannot be known unless the Lord proclaims it Himself. This testimony is beyond finding out until it is proclaimed. The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever. The Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets. Let's say firstly, that the testimony of the Lord is who He is. The word that is proceeding to us is firstly the testimony of Yahweh. Our Lord is one and His name is one. Nevertheless, the testimony of Yahweh has no expression apart from the word of the council of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. There are Three who testify in the council of *Elohim*. Every word which They speak is confirmed in the mouth of two or three witnesses.

This word is proceeding as the word of Their council. As Jesus said, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'. And by this word He makes known His covenant. King David called this the secret council of the Lord. David said that the secret of the LORD is with those who fear Him. He will show them His covenant. We can go there. This is the place of which Jesus spoke, when He said to go 'to your Father who is in secret'. In the day of trouble, He will conceal us in the secret place of His tent. He will hide us there. We are very thankful that the Lord has appointed messengers of His word. He does nothing unless He reveals it to them. He gives to us the treasures of darkness; the hidden riches of secret places.

References:

Amos 3:7
Zech 14:9
Psa 27:5
Isa 45:3

Deut 29:29
Psa 25:14
1 John 5:7
Matt 6:6

Further Study

Amos 3

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 4

The word of His testimony

In the assembly of Their council, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit dialogue and communicate together. The Scriptures refer to this dialogue as the 'counsel' of the Lord. And from this counsel of *Elohim* the will of God is set forth. Even so, the Lord's will is not revealed until the word of the covenant proceeds. It is according to the covenant that He proclaims His name. According to the Eternal Covenant, He makes His testimony known. We can be included in His name and in His covenant if we receive His testimony. This testimony is true.

The book of Hebrews refers to two unchangeable things – the Lord Himself and His word. In the declaration of His testimony, the Lord could swear by no-one greater than Himself. So He swore by Himself and by His name. This is the word of the oath. He said, 'Behold, I have sworn by My great name'. We recall the words of the psalmist, 'You have magnified Your word according to all Your name'. This is the proceeding word that will not return to the Lord empty or void.

We may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true. We know that it is the Lord who calls us by our name. Therefore, we need to hear the counsel of the Lord and His purposes. He is giving us the treasures of darkness; the hidden riches of secret places. The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind. This is the word of the oath which appoints a Son made perfect forever. And it is the word which appoints the Son as Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. This is the same word by which the testimony of the Lord is proclaimed to us.

References:

Titus 1:13 1 John 5:20
Jer 44:26 Jer 50:45
Psa 138:2
Heb 7:17, 21, 28

Further Study

Heb 7

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 5

Proclaimed in weakness

The testimony of God is the way of offering and it is proclaimed in weakness. We can understand why Paul said to Timothy, 'Do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner'. The weakness of the messenger, and the foolishness of preaching, will be enough reason for many to reject the testimony of the Lord. It is very easy to discredit someone who is in weakness, fear and trembling. Nevertheless, the Lord confirms the word of His servant and performs the counsel of His messengers. When we receive the testimony of a messenger who proclaims the testimony of Jesus, we receive the Lord Himself. We receive the testimony of Father, Son and Holy Spirit that is concealed in the council of *Elohim*. Speaking of the testimony of the Godhead, Jesus said, 'We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness'. We know that there are Three who bear witness. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all bear witness concerning the way of offering.

When Jesus came among the Jews preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, He came in weakness. He fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah as the suffering servant. And He fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah, 'Behold your King is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey'. Despite the volumes of prophetic Scripture that foretold the nature of His coming, Jesus was most certainly not the Messiah many expected. He was a carpenter's son with a seemingly dubious background. He came in weakness and the words He preached were the cause of great offence. However, the apostle John said that 'as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God'.

References:

Isa 44:26 2 Tim 1:8
John 1:12 John 3:11
Zech 9:9

Further Study

2 Cor 12

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 6

My testimony is true

John the Baptist bore witness that Jesus is the Lamb of God. But Jesus said, 'The testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John'. John testified to the truth, but the testimony which Jesus received was not from man. It was directly from the council of *Elohim*, the witness of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Speaking as the Son of Man, Jesus said, 'If I alone testify about Myself, My testimony is not true. There is another who testifies of Me, and I know that the testimony which He gives about Me is true'. When He spoke of 'another', He was referring to the Father and the Holy Spirit. In this way, Jesus was not declaring His own testimony, other than to say, 'If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also'. He is the express image of the Father's glory.

On another occasion, He seemed to say the complete opposite. Having been accused by the Pharisees of testifying about Himself, Jesus responded, 'Even if I testify about Myself, My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going'. This in no way contradicts His earlier statement. As God the Son, He exercised His sovereignty and authority to testify about Himself. He is I AM, the full expression of the sonship of Yahweh. When He made the promises to Abraham, He could swear by no-one greater, so He swore by Himself. We know that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all bear witness concerning the Lamb. The Father and Holy Spirit have sanctified the Son to be the Lamb of Yahweh, the offering of *Elohim*. And the Son sanctified Himself to be the Lamb, and offered Himself without spot to God. The Father and Holy Spirit have committed the fullness of new creation to the Son.

References:

John 8:14 Heb 6:13
John 3:33 Col 2:9
John 14:7
John 5:31-32, 36

Further Study

John 5

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 7

Obtaining testimony

In the book of Hebrews, we read of Abel who ‘offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony’. What an amazing outcome. God testified concerning his offering. In a similar way, Enoch ‘obtained testimony that he was pleasing to God’. This is our goal. If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater. If we will participate in His offering and in the fellowship of His sufferings, then we will also obtain testimony. Paul, as a bonds slave and prisoner of the Lord, exhorted Timothy to join him in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God. The apostle John was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. He was a fellow partaker with all the saints in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus. Like John, and indeed all those men and women of old, we obtain testimony as bonds slaves and prisoners of the Lord.

Let’s briefly mention Demetrius. We don’t know much about him except that John commended this bonds slave of the Lord. Demetrius received a good testimony from everyone and from the truth itself. And to this, the apostle John said, ‘We add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true’. The first seven deacons were all men of good ‘testimony’, therefore, they were men of good ‘reputation’. They had obtained testimony by an ongoing commitment to offering and fellowship in the sufferings of Christ. The Holy Spirit empowers us to obtain and bear the witness of Christ to the ends of the earth. The Holy Spirit is the Helper and empowers all witness.

References:

Heb 11:4-5 2 Tim 1:8
Rev 1:9 Acts 1:8
3 John 1:12 Acts 6:3

Further Study

Heb 11

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 8