

**WCCC 1987**

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## **The Witness and The Testimony (2)**

*Revelation 1: 17 – 18 And when I saw Him I fell at His feet as dead; and He laid His right hand upon me, saying, Fear not; I am the first and the last, and the living one: and I became dead, and behold, I am living to the ages of ages, and have the keys of death and of hades.*

This time the theme that we are looking at is the testimony and the witness. We know that the testimony is a central point in His word. The testimony of God is the most important thing on this earth. For Himself, He testifies of Himself. When He created heaven and the earth, He testifies of Himself through His creation. In Romans 1, it said what is known of God is manifested in the hearts of man. And from the world's creation and through the things that God created, man can see the divinity and the eternal power of God. Through the creation of the heaven and earth, we can see that our God is a mighty God. Also, through His creation we can also see a little of His character, because divinity speaks of His character. Man cannot deny that. Even though God has already testified of Himself in His creation, yet because of the foolishness of man, he is not able to know the testimony of God through His creation.

For this reason, God gave the law to the Israelites. His testimony in His law surpassed the testimony in His creation, because in His law, He has revealed more of His own character. He let us see that He is the only God. That He is a spirit. We need to worship Him in spirit and in truth. We also see that our God is unique and our God is a jealous God. Thus, we cannot put any man or anything equal to God. Only God is worthy of our worship and service. God will not allow us to worship or serve anyone or anything outside of Him. In His eye, all those things are idols and are detestable. Our God is a righteous God. He is a holy God. He is a faithful God. He is a gracious God. He is also a merciful God. Because our God is such a God, He wants us, the people whom He created, to be like Him.

The Ten Commandments is the law. God revealed Himself to the Israelites. And He revealed His testimony more complete to the Israelites. He entrusted His law to the Israelites. On one hand, we see that it is a glorious thing. Through the law, God separated the Israelites from all the other nations. But on the other hand, this is a grave responsibility. Because God entrusted His testimony to the Israelites, they became the vessels of the testimony of God. If they did not testify well of God, then God's name will be shortchanged. And they themselves will become shortchanged. But if they did well the testimony, not only the name of

God will be exalted among the nations, we see that the Israelites will be blessed greatly by God. This is what we have shared yesterday morning.

In the Old Testament, the testimony of God is the law of God. To God, it is testimony. In the hands of men, it is the law. When we come to the New Testament, we see the revelation of God is more complete. We remember our Lord said in Matthew 5:17, I come not to abolish the law and the prophets, I come not to abolish but to fulfill. To fulfill is to fill it fully. Originally, it is not full, but now it is full. The law is something that is not full and not complete. (We know that the law is spiritual and holy, and the commandments are righteous and holy.) Although it tells us a little about the character of God, and it surpassed a little the testimony in the creation of God, yet the law in the revelation of the testimony of God, is still limited. So when our Lord came to this earth, He did not come to abolish the law and the prophets. He came to fulfill this law which is not full, so that testimony of God can be complete.

In Matthew 5, our Lord used a number of parables. And He said, you know the ancient saying (the law) that you should not kill. The Lord said, I said to you, if a man for no reason got angry at his brother, then he will not escape the judgment. If you said to a brother you are a useless person, or you are a worthless person, or you are a foolish person, then you will be judged. So we see our Lord was filling the law. The Lord said, you heard that ancient saying you should not commit adultery. But I say to you, if you look at a woman with lust, then you already committed adultery. The ancient law said you should not swear and if you swear you should keep your oath. But the Lord said, I tell you, you should just say yes when it is yes and no when it is no. The ancient saying said, you have to love your neighbor and a rabbi added in original language that you should hate your enemy. But our Lord told us, if man slap your right face, you should turn your left face for him to slap too. So here we see that when our Lord Jesus came to this earth, He actually fulfilled the law, so that the testimony of God can be whole. The bible tells us that because of man's weakness, man cannot keep the law. Although the law is spiritual and holy, but because of the weakness of our flesh, we are not able to observe the law. So this law cannot make us righteous, this law can only let us see that we are sinners. The Book of Hebrew tells us the law cannot accomplish anything, because the law is but a shadow. The image of the true substance is our Lord Jesus. The law comes from Moses, but grace and truth come from our Lord Jesus.

In the New Testament times, that is in our current times, the testimony of God is a complete testimony. Because of His own Son, the testimony of God of Himself can be a complete one. What is the testimony of God? Today the testimony of God is not the law, the testimony of God is the testimony of Jesus Christ. In another word, our Lord Jesus Christ is the testimony of God. Jesus Christ in Himself, completely testifies God. There are three books in the New Testament that have the mention of the testimony the most. The first book is the Gospel of John. The second one is the Book of Acts. The third book is Book

of Revelation. The testimony of Jesus Christ is revealed to us in these three books.

The first chapter of the Gospel of John tells us God sent a man to be the vanguard of our Lord, Jesus Christ. That person was John the Baptist. John was sent. He was not the light. He came for the purpose of testifying for the light. John came to testify for Jesus Christ. He testified saying, 'the one who comes after me is before me. That is to say the one who comes after me is greater than me, because He is the eternal God who is there even before the creation of the world. He is way before me. He is before time. He is the God in eternity. In the beginning is the Word and the Word is with God. And the word is God'. John again testified that 'the one who comes after me, you do not know Him. But He is so great and so honorable. I am not worthy even to untie His shoes'. We know at that time untying shoes was a very lowly job. Just like a maid's job. But John said 'I am not worthy even to untie His shoes'. And Jesus said, 'John is the greatest among the ones born of a woman'. But John testified that he was not worthy even to untie the Lord's shoes, because Jesus is the Son of God. John again testified 'behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world'. The one who came to this earth is the Lamb of God. He is going to take away all the sins of this world.

Today, this statement may not be able to move our heart easily. But to the Jews at that time, it was a tremendous statement, because the Israelites have been offering up lambs to redeem their sins. But for so many lambs and their blood, they were but a foreshadow. It could not take away their sins. So in the old days, the bible said their sins were covered. Their sins were not being washed away. It was only covered until the lamb of God came. He takes away the sins of men. John testified again, 'I am baptizing you with water, but the One who comes after me, He is going to baptize you with the Holy Spirit'. John's baptism with water was to tell man to repent. But our Lord Jesus baptized men with the Holy Spirit. And through this baptism we are baptized into one body. All of us who believe in the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus through the Holy Spirit baptized us into one body. Regardless whether we are the Jews or the Greeks, in the Holy Spirit we are baptized into one body. And all of us are members of one body, fitted together. This is a glorious testimony.

John not only testified for the Lord with all these stories. In the Gospel of John chapter 3, some felt unfair for John, because there were more people who were baptized by the Lord than by John, so some people were saying to John that it was not fair to him. But John said, 'He that has the bride is the bridegroom. The friends of the bridegroom heard the voice of the groom and they are happy in their heart. He shall increase and I shall decrease'. John was testifying that Jesus is this Lamb of God. He is the Son of God who came to this earth to be God's Lamb. He baptized us with the Holy Spirit, so that we can be the body of Christ. Not just this, but one day when the body grows to maturity, He is going to take this body to be His bride. And we can forever be one with

Him. This is the testimony of John for Jesus Christ. We see the testimony of John was a clear and complete testimony. In John chapter 5, our Lord Jesus once said, 'John is like a bright lamp, and temporarily you like his light, but there is one who testifies for me, and He is so much greater than John'. He said, 'the things that My Father entrusted me and the things that I have accomplished testify for me. And My Father testifies for me. But you have not heard of or seen Him'. So we know that not only did John testified for the Lord Jesus, the Father in heaven also testified for the Lord Jesus.

The testimony of the Father for the Lord Jesus has two aspects. On one hand it is the Father who entrusted His work for the Son to do. Apart from His Son, no one else is able to do the Father's work. It is because only His Son can represent Him. And only this Son who is the Word became flesh can represent man. There is only one God and there is only one mediator between God and man. And the mediator is the one Jesus, who came down to this earth. He gave His life to be a ransom for all. Dear brothers and sisters, in the entire universe, there is no one who can do this work. The angels cannot do the work of redemption. But in this universe, there is one whom God entrusted to accomplish this work of redemption. And through this work of redemption, God testifies for the Lord Jesus, so that we can see who He is.

On the other hand, our God uses His own words to testify for the Lord Jesus. We know from the bible that God has spoken out of the heaven three times. The first time was in Matthew 3. When our Lord came out of the water after His baptism, the heaven opened and the Holy Spirit as a dove came down on Jesus. And a voice from heaven said, 'this is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased'. The second time was in Matthew 17. The Lord brought the three apostles up to the Mount of Transfiguration. A voice from heaven spoke again, 'this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. You have to listen to Him'. The Father was telling Peter that he should not talk so much. He should listen to His beloved Son. The third time was in John 12. Our Lord said, 'a grain of wheat falls onto the ground and will bear much fruits'. Then our Lord continued to say, 'Father, glorify Your own name'. A voice from heaven said, 'I already glorified my name and I will glorify it again'. So we know that our Father in heaven also testified for Jesus. He testified that our Lord is His beloved son. Our Lord is Lord and we should listen to Him.

Apart from God testifying for Christ, the Lord said the bible, which is God's words, also testifies for Him. The Lord said to the people at that time, 'you search the scriptures, you think you can find eternal life in the scriptures, because the scriptures testified of Me. But you refuse to come to Me to receive this eternal life'. After our Lord resurrected, He opened the hearts and minds of His disciples. He explained to His disciples what the Pentateuch, the prophets and the psalms said about Himself. So we know the entire scripture testified of our Lord Jesus. In fact, the bible just has one purpose. Do not think that the bible has sixty-six books talking about different subjects. There is only one theme in the bible and

it is to testify for Jesus. If we can see Christ in the bible, then we truly know the bible. If we see a lot of other things and do not see Jesus in the bible, then we do not understand the bible at all.

The Gospel of John tells us another very amazing thing. It said our Lord Jesus also testified of Himself. We know that usually when a person testifies for himself, that testimony is not reliable. Why is it so? First, we do not know ourselves. Second, we love ourselves. So our own testimony is not reliable. But our Lord's testimony is reliable. One time when He was testifying for Himself, the pharisees said, 'you testify for yourself and so your testimony is not reliable'. How did our Lord answer them? 'Even though I testify for Myself, My testimony is reliable. You do not know where you come from and where you are going to, but I know where I come from and where I am going to. Did not the bible say, if there is a testimony of two, then every word is credible. It is not just I Myself am testifying here. But My Father in Me is testifying with Me for Myself. Every word in the testimony of two is true'. When our Lord spoke, the Father also spoke together with Him. When our Lord was working, the Father was working with Him too. The Lord said, 'My Father works till today and so I work till today too'.

In the Gospel of John, there are many instances where the Lord testified for Himself. And He told us what kind of a Lord He is. One time when Nathaniel came before Him, He said to Nathaniel, 'You shall see the heaven opens. There are angels going up and down on the Son of man'. This of course refers to the ladder of Jacob in the Old Testament. Our Lord is the ladder that leads up to heaven. He brings God to men and He brings men up to God. In the Gospel of John 2, Jesus said, 'You destroy the temple and I will rebuild the temple in three days'. This refers to His own body. In chapter three, our Lord said, 'just as how Moses raised up the bronze serpent in the wilderness, the Son of man will likewise be raised up. All who believe in Him will have eternal life'. The Gospel of John is full of these kinds of words. He said, 'I am the bread of life. Those who eat of my flesh and drink of my blood will never die'. He said, 'I am the light of life, and those who walk in my light will never fall'. 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for His sheep'. He said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. I am the way, the truth and the life'. And the Lord said, 'I Am'. We know 'I Am' is the name of God Jehovah. In the Gospel of John, we see that the Lord tells us who He is.

We know in the Old Testament time, when God testified of Himself, the testimony became law when it came into the hands of the Israelites. The law was to be observed. But because of the weakness of men, they could not observe the law. And the result was that the law exposed the sin of men. So the law was like a teacher. It led us to Christ. But brothers and sisters, in the New Testament times, when the testimony of God in Jesus Christ comes to us, do you know what it becomes in our hands? It is not law, it is grace. So, in this age, the testimony of God is the testimony of Jesus Christ. The testimony of Jesus Christ in us is God's grace. What is grace? Grace is something given to us freely. It is

given equally to all of us. Grace is wholly from Him. Grace is everything being prepared for us. We just receive it by faith and all these will be ours. So in the New Testament time, the testimony of God is the grace of God in us.

The second book in the New Testament that talks about the matter of testimony most is the Book of Acts. In chapter 1 of the Book of Acts, when our Lord Jesus had to ascend into heaven, He told His disciples who have gathered before Him, 'You have to wait in Jerusalem to receive the power from on high, that is the Holy Spirit. After that you will be my witness from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the end of the world'. In another word, when our Lord Jesus was on earth, He testified for God. No one has ever seen God, the only begotten Son in the bosom of God declares Him. He said, 'When you see Me, you see the Father'. He completely testified of God. And God also testified for Him and also completely revealed Him to us. Now our Lord Jesus had already completed salvation. He had resurrected from the dead. And He was going to ascend into heaven. At that time, He entrusted His testimony to the church. When He was on earth, He was the vessel for the testimony for God. He gave a very beautiful testimony of God. Now He was going to ascend into heaven, He entrusted this testimony to His disciples. He said, 'You have to go all over the earth and testified for me'. The church then became the vessel of the testimony of Jesus Christ. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended on the one hundred and twenty people and baptized them into one body. And that was the beginning of the history of the church. And that was also the day when the church received the testimony of Jesus

Christ.

We see how the church testified for Jesus Christ in those days. We see that many people gathered together and Peter stood up and the eleven disciples stood up with him. Although only Peter spoke, yet the eleven apostles were there standing with Peter to testify. What was their testimony? They testified saying, 'The Jesus that you have crucified, God has already raised Him to the highest. God has established Him as Lord and Christ'. And this is the testimony that the church has to do for Christ. This crucified Lord is already on the right hand of God. God has anointed Him as Lord. He is the Lord of all things. He is also the Christ. He is the anointed of God. We see that when Peter, with the others, testified this way, the Holy Spirit was testifying with them. Those who heard felt their heart pricked because they then saw that they were the ones who crucified Jesus. God was there testifying that this crucified Christ is Lord, so their hearts were pricked. The result was that there were three thousand people who came to believe in Christ.

In Acts 3, we see that Peter and John went to the temple at the ninth hour to pray. There was a man born lame at gate of the temple. He was asking for alms from Peter and John. Peter said, '*Gold and silver I do not have, but I am going to give you what I have. In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, I command you to stand up and walk*'. The lame man leaped up. He followed them into the temple

to worship God. We see that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ became the inheritance of the church. We do not have anything. We do not have gold or silver. But we thank God we have one thing and it is the name of Jesus Christ. This name is above all names. All knees shall bow down before this name. And all tongues shall confess Jesus is Lord. Because of this name, this lame could walk. And this was the testimony that the church did for the Lord at that time. Not long after, Peter and John were brought before the Sanhedrin. And then other disciples later were brought there too. They firmly said, 'What we heard and saw, we cannot but testify to it. You decide whether we should listen to God or to man. But this Lord of life that you put to death, God has already set up Him as Lord and savior and God will give the Holy Spirit to all those who believe in Him'.

If you read the Book of Acts from beginning to the end, we can see how the early church testified for the Lord Jesus. We do not have time to go over each one. Paul himself also gave testimony. Paul himself testified three times. He testified what he has seen and heard. He saw that the Jesus is the risen Lord. He is the head of the church. He is the one that God has given the power to judge the living and the dead. In the entire book of Acts, we see the church testifying for Christ. It testified that Jesus is the savior. It testified that Jesus is Lord. It testified that Jesus resurrected from the dead and now sits at the right hand of God. And one day He is coming back to judge all the living and the dead. And because of their testimonies, many came to the Lord. In the short period of thirty years, we know that the gospel already spread throughout the world at that time. Their testimonies were so clear and so powerful.

The third book in the bible that talks about testimony most is the Book of Revelation. In Revelation there is a special term. And that is the 'Testimony of Jesus Christ'. In the Chinese bible, it is sometimes translated as 'testifying for Jesus Christ'. But in the original language that is a noun. And it is the 'Testimony of Jesus Christ'. This term is especially seen in the Book of Revelation. The testimony of Jesus Christ in Revelation was used six or seven times according to different people. (Because one time it just said testimony instead of testimony of Jesus Christ. And you have to read the context to know that it refers to the Testimony of Jesus Christ.)

The first mention is in Revelation 1:2. *'John, who testified the word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ, all things that he saw.'* John tells us in Revelation 1:1 *'Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to Him, to show to His bondmen what must shortly take place; and He signified it, sending by His angel, to His bondman John.'* God gave a revelation to Jesus Christ. And the Lord through an angel revealed this revelation to John. And John testified all that He saw of the word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Thus, there is a boundary to the testimony of Jesus Christ. And the boundary is the Book of Revelation. Thus, the entire Book of Revelation is God's word and the testimony of Jesus Christ. What John saw was God's word and the testimony of Jesus

Christ and what he saw, he testified. Dear brothers and sisters, this Book of Revelation is the testimony of Jesus Christ. This testimony requires us to be able to hear it, to see it, and to keep it. If we do that, then we will be blessed by God, because the coming of the Lord is near.

The second time is in revelation 1:9 *'I John, your brother and fellow-partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and patience, in Jesus, was in the island called Patmos, for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus.'* Here we again see the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. But here the testimony of Jesus is not limited to the Book of Revelation, because John was exiled to the island of Patmos for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. And this was before he saw the revelation in Revelation 1:1. So here the word of God and the testimony of Jesus encompass the entire bible. Hebrews chapter 1 told us that in the past, God has spoken to our fathers through the prophets. In these last days, He spoke to us through His Son. We see that now the word of God is complete. God has already in His Son spoken the last word and the most complete word. All the words are the testimony of Jesus. John was moved by the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. We know that the word of God and the testimony of Jesus are not just doctrine. It is not just for us to say and to hear. If we truly have heard the word of God, then we truly see the testimony of Jesus Christ. This testimony will completely grab us and transform us. And for this testimony, we are willing to give up our life. John was exiled to the island of Patmos for the purpose of the testimony of Jesus. He would rather be exiled than lose this testimony. So we know that the testimony of Jesus is a powerful testimony.

Dear brothers and sisters, we also heard the word of God, we also know a little of the testimony of Jesus. But what effects does the testimony of Jesus have in our life? Can we say that the testimony of Jesus is in our life or is it just something else? Can we say the testimony of Jesus and us are one? Can we say the testimony of Jesus is more important than us? John, for the testimony of Jesus, was willing to be exiled to the island of Patmos. And can we say that this is the power that the testimony has on us?

The third place is in Revelation 6:9, *'And when it opened the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of them that had been slain for the word of God.'* Here we have to read it in context to explain it. Some said here it refers to the saints who were slain in the Old Testament time. I personally think that this refers to all the people that were slain for the word and testimony of Jesus. Although in the Old Testament time there is no mention of the phrase *'testimony of Jesus'*, yet in the Old Testament time, there was the testimony of God. So I personally feel that it includes all the saints throughout the world and ages that were martyred for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. In fact, it points to the fact that there will be more of the saints who have been martyred in the New Testament time. And here there is a slight difference in the interpretation of the bible. If there are brothers and sisters who disagree with my

interpretation, you are welcome to stick to your interpretation because the bible is the word of God, but the interpretation is man's understanding of the bible.

In my own understanding, Revelation chapter 5 is the situation of His ascension. When our Lord ascended into heaven, He was as if a lamb just been slain. But He has already overcome. So He has the qualification to take the scroll from the hand of God. And this scroll is the grant deed of the earth. This great earth belongs to God. The deed is in the hand of God. Although today Satan has taken control of this earth temporarily, yet the earth does not belong to him. The earth belongs to God. The deed is in the hand of God. But who is qualified to receive the deed from the hand of God, to execute the will of God and to take this earth and give it back to God? No one in heaven, on this earth or under this earth is worthy to do so. Only the lamb who has been slain is worthy. So when our Lord is ascended into heaven, He received this deed from God. God has given all the power in heaven and on earth to Him. Psalm 2 said you ask me and I will give all things on the earth to be your inheritance. I believe Revelation chapter 5 is the situation of the Lord's ascension. The praise in that chapter is the praise of redemption.

Our Lord holds the deed of this earth in His hand. In chapter 6, He starts to open up the seals. He is going to execute the will of God and take back this earth and return it back to God. Can you believe that our Lord receives this scroll and not open the seal? And wait for two thousand years before opening the seal? Personally, I believe that after He has received the scroll, He started to open it. But I believe that He opened it up to the fourth seal. We do not have time to talk about these things in detail. Why do I say that He has not opened the fifth seal? It is because as soon as He opens the fifth seal, those spirits who have been martyred for the testimony of God begin to pray. The nature of their prayers is totally different from the prayers of the church today. The prayers of the church today are according to the prayer of our Lord Jesus on the cross. Our Lord's prayer on the cross was 'Lord, forgive them for they know not what they are doing'. So when the disciple Stephen was stoned to death, he also said, God, please do not put this act on them. The prayer of the church is a prayer of forgiveness, because today, it is the period of grace. But when it comes to the fifth seal, the prayers of the martyrs are asking God to revenge for them and to execute judgement. Thus we know the age is changing at that time.

Today we are in the period of grace. But one day, the period of grace will end. Every time when God is going to do something at the turning point, He always reveals His heart desire to those who belong to Him. He wants those people to pray to Him. Then God will listen to their prayer and execute His judgement. These martyrs knew the will of God and the heart desire of God. They know that God is going to turn around this age. So they pray according to God and ask Him to revenge for them and to execute judgement. In the sixth seal, the wrath of the lamb arrives. That is to say, their prayers are answered. So personally, I believe the fifth seal has not been opened yet. And this is the mercy of God to

us and hope that everyone will repent. But one day this age will change. Those who have the heart and mind of God are those who have the testimony of Jesus. They have once testified the testimony of God and were martyred for it. They understand the heart of God. And because of their prayers, the time will change.

The fourth time is in Revelation 12:17, *'And the dragon was angry with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, who keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus.'* Before this verse, we see that there is a woman in the travail of childbirth. And she gave birth to a man child. The man child was raptured to the throne. We know this man child represents the overcomers in the end times. And this is pointing to a group, not an individual. This is a group of brothers and sisters in the end times who overcome the accuser by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word that they have testified. And for the Lord, they love not their own life. These people are not perfect. But we thank the Lord that they know the blood of our Lord Jesus. And through the blood of our Lord, they cleanse themselves daily. So that the enemy's mouth is sealed. But these people can open their mouth to testify. And what is their testimony? Their testimony is that Jesus is Lord. No matter how luring this earth is, no matter how pompous the enemy in this world is, these people's testimony is still that 'Jesus is Lord'. In the most adverse situation, they do not compromise, they are there testifying that Jesus is Lord. The words of their testimony are powerful, because there is a living behind this testimony. In their life, Jesus is truly the Lord. So when they spoke these words, the enemy has to retreat. They do not treasure their own lives. And these are the overcomers in the end times. They will be raptured to the throne. And Satan will be thrown to the earth. And this is the beginning of the great tribulation on earth.

This dragon is Satan. He cannot devour the man child. And God hid the woman in the wilderness. So Satan goes to persecute the other children of the woman. And who are these other children? The bible said they have the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Personally, I believe these other children refer to the 144,000 devout Jews during the tribulation. These are the Jews who have the stamp on them. This is mentioned in Revelation chapter 7. The godly Jews will suffer great persecutions in the tribulation because they refuse to pay homage to the beast. And there is still another group of people and these are the remaining Christians. Although they also have the testimony of Jesus Christ, but the testimony is very weak in their life. They are like the foolish virgins. Their testimony is very weak. They did not pray and watch and are not prepared. So they cannot be raptured to the throne. They are left behind to go through the great tribulation.

But we thank and praise God. Although they have to go through the great tribulation, it can be said that God give them a second chance. Because after they go through the great tribulation, the testimony of Jesus Christ in them grow and mature. They refuse to pay homage to the beast and they refuse to have the

seal of the beast. So in Revelations 14: 13 it said, *'Blessed the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, said the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; for their works follow with them'*. They refuse to worship the beast and they are martyred for the Lord. So when we come to chapter 20: 4 – 5, we see at that time, our Lord comes. *'And I saw thrones; and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them; and the souls of those beheaded on account of the testimony of Jesus, and on account of the word of God; and those who had not done homage to the beast or to his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and hand; and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years: the rest of the dead did not live till the thousand years had been completed. This is the first resurrection.'* Here we see, those who are not willing to pay homage to the beast, and are willing to die for the Lord can reign with our Lord on the throne for a thousand years. And this is what chapter 20 tells us. And this is also the fifth time that the testimony of Jesus is mentioned.

And there are still two more times. Chapter 19: 10. *'And I fell before his feet to do homage. And he says to me, see you do it not. I am your fellow-bondman, and the fellow-bondman of your brothers who have the testimony of Jesus. Do homage to God. For the spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus.'* Because what John has seen and heard from the angel is too glorious, he unconsciously fell down and worship the angel. And the angel said see thou do it not, because we angels together with you who have the testimony of Jesus are all bond servants of God. You should worship God. Brothers and sisters, we who have the testimony of Jesus, we are the bond servants of God. We who have the testimony of Jesus, we are the servants of God. We who have the testimony of Jesus, we are the worshippers. The spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus. The entire Book of Revelation is prophecy. It tells of the many things to come.

Brothers and sisters, these many prophecies that are to come are only things on the outside. What is the essence of the prophecies? It is that all the things to come is to testify for Jesus Christ. It testifies what kind of Jesus this Jesus is. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. The testimony of Jesus, if we summarize it, is the two verses that we read at the beginning of this sharing. And that is Revelation 1: 16 – 17. There it said, *'I am the alpha and the omega'*. Alpha means He is the beginning, that is He is God. All things begin from Him. Whatever is not from Him does not count. Anything that begins with us has no value. All things must be from Him. Anything that does not begin with Him does not count. And He is the omega. He is the whole of God. Not only is that all things come from Him but all the will of God is in Him. It is for Him, through Him, and return back to Him. Ephesians 1: 10 tells us when the fullness of time comes, God is going to sum up all things in heaven and on earth to become one in Christ, because God wants His Son to be the head of all things. God's will is in Him, for Him, and through Him to be accomplished. And all things will return back to Him.

He said 'I am the living one'. In other words, He tells us that He is life. He is the origin and source of life. Our Lord, our God is life. All deaths do not come from Him. He said 'I come so that my sheep can have life and have it more abundantly'. All life comes from the Lord. Those that are not life are not the testimony. You can have the right doctrine, you can have good ideas, but if it is not life, it is not the testimony. The Lord said, 'I was dead but now I am alive and will live into eternity'. Because He had to save us, the Lord of life had to go through death. But He has devoured death. He has destroyed the power of Satan which is death. He resurrected and will live into eternity. He is the victorious Lord. The greatest enemy in this world is death. But He overcame death. He is the resurrection. He is the life. He testified Himself to us so that we can experience His life and His resurrection. He has the keys of death and hades in His hand. Originally the keys of hades were in the hands of Satan, but He had already destroyed Satan who controls death. So He has taken the keys of hades. Whatever He closes, no one can open.

Dear brothers and sisters, this is the testimony of Jesus. How great is the testimony of Jesus that we know! It is just as what the bible shows us. This testimony we have to see it in revelation. We have to see with our own eyes and hear with our own ears. We also have to personally experience it ourselves so that this testimony became our testimony. This way we can then be His witness.

Prayer:

Our Lord, we look up to You. Give us wisdom and the spirit of revelation, so that we can truly know you and truly know how great your testimony is. To truly know that your testimony includes all and that your testimony is so real. Our Lord, let us not only hear and see but truly experience yourself so that your testimony can be manifested through us and your name will be glorified. In Jesus name. Amen.