

7/29/2007

What is the church? Before we delve into the doctrine of the church, let's investigate why we believe the way we do.

Visible and invisible church.

Why do we believe all this? Why Christianity and not Judaism? **We read the testimony and accept the verdict.** Any court does the same and some are sent to prison or set free based on the testimony of two or three.

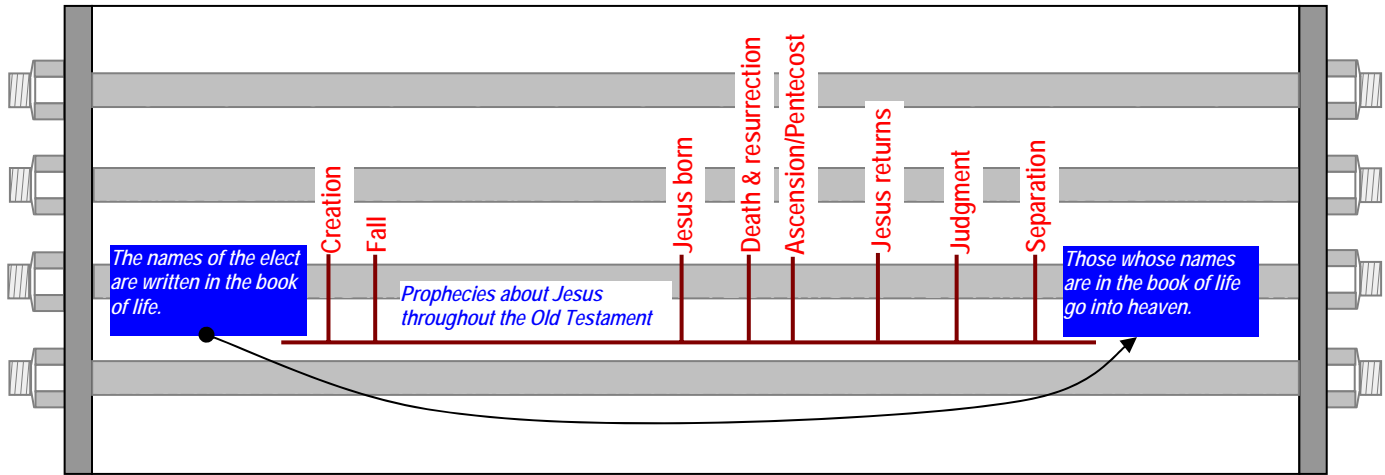


Table of proof of Scripture

Predestination: God not unjust. No neutral position from which elect are chosen to go up to heaven and from which the reprobate are thrown down into hell.

10/20/2007

Page 1 of 7

Adult Sunday Study

Covenant of Grace, OPC, Oxnard, CA

Four threads that seal Scripture against forgery and false interpretation:

1. Prophecy and outcome

Isa 42:1-8 "Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one *in whom* My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. ²"He will not cry out or raise *His voice*, nor make His voice heard in the street. ³"A bruised reed He will not break, and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴"He will not be disheartened or crushed, until He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law."

⁵Thus says God the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and its offspring, who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk in it, ⁶"I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, and I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the nations, ⁷to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the dungeon, and those who dwell in darkness from the prison. ⁸"I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, nor My praise to graven images.

Isa 53:1-12 Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no *stately* form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.

³He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. ⁶All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

⁷He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth. Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth. ⁸By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, (*question*) who considered

10/20/2007

Page 2 of 7

Adult Sunday Study

Covenant of Grace, OPC, Oxnard, CA

that He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people to whom the stroke *was due?*

⁹His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death (*Joseph of Arimathea was a rich disciple and gave Jesus a new grave Matt 27:57-60*), because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

(Astonishing prophecy about salvation history)

¹⁰But the LORD was **pleased** to crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; if He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. ¹¹As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it* and be satisfied; by His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, as He will bear their iniquities. ^{12z}Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors.

2. Miracles

Exo 34:10 Then God said, "Behold, I am going to make a covenant. Before all your people I will perform miracles which have not been produced in all the earth, nor among any of the nations; and all the people among whom you live will see the working of the LORD, for it is a fearful thing that I am going to perform with you.

Mat 11:20-23 Then He began to reproach the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. ²¹"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²²"Nevertheless I say to you, it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in *the* day of judgment, than for you. ²³"And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day.

Joh 10:37, 38 "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."

3. Testimony of many.

The ark of the Covenant was also called the ark of Testimony. The tent of meeting was also called the tent of testimony.

Testimony has many components, such as **messenger, hearer, message, integrity, obedience and instruction.**

Integrity:

Psa 19:7 The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.

Instruction and messenger:

Psa 78:1-7 A Maskil (*wisdom, instruction in the law of God*) of Asaph.

Listen, O my people, to my instruction; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. ²I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, ³which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. ⁴We will not conceal them from their children, but tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done. ⁵For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should teach them to their children, ⁶that the generation to come might know, *even* the children *yet* to be born, *that* they may arise and tell *them* to their children, ⁷that they should put their confidence in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments.

Mat 10:18 and you shall even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a **testimony** to them and to the Gentiles.

Mar 6:11 "And any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake off the dust from the soles of your feet for a **testimony** against them."

Joh 5:30-38 "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³¹"If I *alone* bear witness of Myself, My testimony is not true. ³²"There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the testimony which He bears of Me is true. ³³"You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. ³⁴"But the witness which I receive is not from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. ³⁵"He was the lamp that was burning and was shining and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. ³⁶"But the witness which I have is greater than *that of* John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish, the very works that I do, bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. ³⁷"And the Father who sent Me, He has borne witness of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. ³⁸"And you do not have His word abiding in you, for you do not believe Him whom He sent."

10/20/2007

Page 4 of 7

Adult Sunday Study

Covenant of Grace, OPC, Oxnard, CA

Joh 8:17, 18 "Even in your law it has been written, that the testimony of two men is true. ¹⁸"I am He who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me."

1Co 1:4-8 I thank my God always concerning you, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, ⁶even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed in you, ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who shall also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2Co 13:1 This is the third time I am coming to you. EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE **TESTIMONY** OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.

2Th 1:9, 10 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed--for our **testimony** to you was believed.

1Ti 2:5, 6 For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the **testimony** *borne* at the proper time.

Heb 3:5 Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a **testimony** of those things which were to be spoken later;

Heb 10:28 Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on *the* **testimony** *of* two or three witnesses.

Obedience

Psa 132:12 "If your sons will keep My covenant, And My testimony which I will teach them, Their sons also shall sit upon your throne forever."

Isa 8:19-22 And when they say to you, "Consult the mediums and the spiritists who whisper and mutter," should not a people consult their God? *Should they consult* the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. ²¹And they will pass through the land hard-pressed and famished, and it will turn out that when they are hungry, they will be enraged and curse their king and their God as they face upward. ²²Then

10/20/2007

Page 5 of 7

Adult Sunday Study

Covenant of Grace, OPC, Oxnard, CA

they will look to the earth, and behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish; and *they will be* driven away into darkness.

4. Salvation history (not the history of salvation).

One of many synopses of salvation history in Scripture:

(Eph 1:1-23) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are at Ephesus, and *who are* faithful in Christ Jesus: ²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, ⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, ⁸which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, *that is*, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things upon the earth. In Him ¹¹also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, ¹²to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

¹³In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory. ¹⁵For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you, and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers; ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

¹⁸*I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name

10/20/2007

Page 6 of 7

Adult Sunday Study

Covenant of Grace, OPC, Oxnard, CA

that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. ²²And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Before fall, man was immortal and righteous; after fall mortal, corrupted and prone to evil.