

# Behold the Lamb

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## God's Witnesses

What is the proof of God's existence? Is it found in philosophy or science? Actually, God Himself said that the "proof" of His existence is in the existence of the little nation of Israel. "I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: THEREFORE YE ARE MY WITNESSES, SAITH THE LORD, THAT I AM GOD." I Isaiah 43:12 Israel was in a backslidden state, yet God reached out to them. "Remember where I brought you from. I destroyed Egypt to deliver you. I opened the Red Sea to bring you out. I stopped the Jordan River at flood stage to bring you in. You, as long as you exist, are my witnesses, my 'proof' to the world, that I am God." The existence of Israel is guaranteed by God Himself: "...all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it." Zechariah 12:3 For most of its history, the great nations of the earth have sought to destroy Israel and its people, yet Israel still exists. Even in a backslidden state, the nation of Israel is the proof of who the true God is.

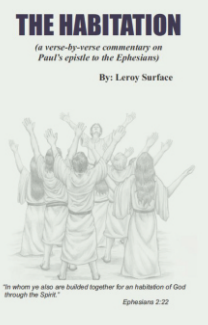
"Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" he was asked as he stood on trial for his life. Jesus answered, "I am." Mark 14:61-62 On the strength of that confession he was condemned to death even though the court received no witnesses in His defense. They crucified Jesus as a blasphemer and a deceiver, but God became His "witness" when He raised Christ from the dead and declared Him to be "the Son of God with power...by the resurrection from the dead." Romans 1:4 Just before He ascended to the right hand of God, Jesus told his disciples, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me." Acts 1:8 The case against Jesus was reopened in the minds of the people when they heard rumors that He had risen from the dead. It was time for His faithful witnesses to take the stand to offer proof that He lives, and is in fact "The Christ, the Son of the living God." The evidence they gave was of a sort that no sincere observer could deny, and the world of that generation was "turned upside down" by the things they saw and heard in those who believed. The "proof," however, is not in an argument: it is in the "life" that only Christ can give. Jesus confessed before the high priest that He is "the Christ." The angel Gabriel told us that Christ would come into the world to "finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness." Daniel 9:24-25 Jesus can only be "The Christ," if he in fact "finished the transgression, made an end of sin, made reconciliation for iniquity, and brought in everlasting righteousness" when he gave his life on the cross. Yet he is only proven to be "The Christ" if these things are accomplished in those who trust in him.

Jesus also claimed to be the "Son of God," but what real proof is there that this is true? Paul tells us it is the resurrection of Jesus that declares Him to be "the Son of God with power." Certainly if we can prove the resurrection, we can prove that Jesus is "The Son of God." Christian apologetics say that it is a "matter of faith" to believe in the resurrection, but in fact, it can be "proven" by "His witnesses." The apostle John

said, "He that believeth on the Son of God hath THE WITNESS (evidence) in himself." I John 5:10 The evidence that Jesus is the Son of God is in the believer. It is the "life" that God has given us in Christ Jesus. "And this is the record (evidence), that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." I John 5:11 So, what is the "evidence" that we believe? Is it that we say we believe? John tells us "For whatsoever (whosoever) is born of God overcometh the world ... Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" I John 5:4-5 According to the apostle John, everyone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God also "overcomes the world," and "overcoming the world" is the proof that they believe that Jesus is the Son of God. The children of God are not sinners and they do not continue in sin, not because they try harder: but because "Jesus is the Christ" who came into the world to "make an end of sins." Daniel 9:24-25 It is Christ who lives... it is "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:27

If Jesus is in truth "the Son of God," then any God who is not identified as "the Father of Jesus Christ" II Corinthians 1:3 is proven to be a false god. It is also evident that if Jesus is "the Son of God," He must have "destroyed the works of the devil" I John 3:8 when He died on the cross. If He is "the Savior," there must be those who are "saved from their sins" through simple faith in Christ. If he is the "Lamb of God" which was prophesied by Abraham, Genesis 22:8, 14 He must have "taken away the sin of the world" John 1:29, I John 3:5 when He offered His body and blood as a sinless sacrifice. If he is "The seed of the woman," Genesis 3:15 He must have "bruised the head of the serpent" Hebrews 2:14 through His death on the cross, exactly as God promised He would. If Jesus fulfilled in His death and resurrection everything that God promised that the Messiah and redeemer would come to do, it must be that the "believers" are also "possessors" of all that was promised. Paul said to those who believe the gospel of Christ which he preached, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." Romans 6:22 Such are the "witnesses" that Jesus has sent into the world. "What they are" is the proof of "who Jesus is." A weak and sinful church cannot prove the existence of God, much less are they the "proof" that Jesus is the savior, the Christ, the Son of the living God.

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In this verse by verse commentary on Paul's epistle to the Ephesians by Leroy Surface, you will be taken from pinnacle to pinnacle with the apostle Paul as he reveals all that God did through Christ in order to have a people whose very existence would "be to the praise of his glory." This apostle was part of such a church, and his words remind us that what God has purposed for his people is far beyond what most have ever seen.

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