

WHO WERE JEHOVAH'S FIRST WITNESSES?

We suggest that you clip these articles out and save them since they form a series of articles that are interrelated and form a contiguous progression of study. This article and the next two form a trilogy about God's three main publishers of His plan of salvation. Free reprints are available by calling 318-346-2970.

God shed the blood of an innocent animal in the Garden of Eden in order to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21). Could Jehovah have clothed their nakedness without sacrificing an innocent animal? Of course He could. But God was giving them a reality picture of their need for the sacrifice that His Son, Jesus Christ, would give one day in the future. From that day forward, every Patriarch testified about the coming Messiah each time He offered a sacrifice to Jehovah.

As the innocent animal was dying, the people of the Old Testament went to God in prayer and asked forgiveness of their sins. While looking forward in faith, they asked that the sacrifice the innocent Son of God would give one day, pay the sin debt they owed God. Every sin has to be paid for by either the Messiah or by us. Each time the Patriarch was asked by his friends and family why he was sacrificing animals and birds, he was to explain the gospel to them. He was to tell them about the death of the coming Messiah and he was to invite them to repent of their own sins and to ask that the sacrifice the coming Messiah would give some day pay their sin debt. It did not take them any more faith to believe that He would die then it takes for us to believe that He has died. There was not one person in the Old Testament that deserved to be saved from the Lake of Fire. All are saved by faith in Christ because of the grace (the unmerited favor) of God.

The age or Dispensation of Grace will last from the time of Adam and Eve to the last person who will take advantage of God's glorious plan of salvation.