

WHO WERE JEHOVAH'S THIRD WITNESSES?

This article is the third of a trilogy about God's three main publishers of His glorious plan of salvation. Free reprints are available by calling 318-346-2970.

After Noah's flood, God initiated a second publicizing agency with some of the descendants of Abraham who He organized into the Jewish Theocracy. God brought them to the foot of Mt. Sinai and they entered into an oral contract which you can read in Exodus 19:1-8. One of the provisions they agreed upon was that the Jewish Theocracy would represent God to the rest of the world. The people of that nation would be His priests and His authorized witnesses. They would witness of the salvation God offered through the sacrifice that His Son, Jesus Christ, would make by His death on Calvary's cross.

Unfortunately when the promised Messiah did come into the world, most of the Jews did not recognize Jesus Christ for who He was. Therefore it was necessary for God to establish and authorize a third agency to publish His good news of salvation.

God the Father gave His Son two important tasks to accomplish. The most important, of course, was to give Himself as a payment for every sinner who would repent of his or her sins and would ask, in faith, that His sacrifice pay the sin debt they owed God.

The second task God the Father gave His Son was to call out, to train, to commission and to empower a third agency whom He authorized to publish God's plan of salvation to the rest of the world until He came back. That third agency was His local New Testament churches.

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:45-49 New International Version