PART 2: One Witness, Two; Two Witnesses, Three . . . Mercy Extended, Justice Met

Scripture is clear enough: every act of man or angels, whether righteous or unrighteous, is open to the eye of God! We, as sinners, experience grace until the Day of Judgment. Then Heaven's Two Witnesses shall testify all they have seen and heard. There is no place for the sinner to hide save in Jesus Christ -- His merits, His blood, His righteousness, His gracious mercy.

"For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops. And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell (gehenna); yea, I say unto you, Fear him." -Luke 12:2-5 KJV.

Cain murdered Abel. Cain is worthy of death, but the second witness to his crime is dead! Therefore, mercy (grace) was extended to an undeserving sinner. Cain's life was spared awaiting his natural death, but, "as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Hebrews 9:27 KJV.

". . . Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?" -Genesis 4:3-9, KJV.

Noah was one faithful witness to a desperately wicked generation.

"And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark." -
Genesis 7:1, 23 KJV.

God "spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly." -2 Peter 2:5 KJV.

Had God called a second witness to that perverse generation, "no flesh should be saved out of it!"

Sodom and Gomorrah, serve as a warning, a type, an example for the last generation. The Lord visited Abraham accompanied with two angels (witnesses) -- their mission was two-fold -- to promise the "Son of Promise," and to promise that grace and mercy would not be extended forever to the wicked! Sodom and Gomorrah received the fire of judgment and sank afterward beneath the Dead Sea (you can't write this script, folks). Sodom and Gomorrah have never been rebuilt. God has witnessed twice in His Word that he will thoroughly cleanse this wicked world, first with water; second and utterly, with fire.

"And he lift up his eyes and (he, Abraham) looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do . . . And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom . . . . And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground: And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it." - Genesis 18:2, 9-14, 16-18, 20-22; Genesis 19:12, 13 KJV

"And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an enexample unto those that after should live ungodly; [God] delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds); The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." -2 Peter 2:6-9 KJV.

Sodom and Gomorrah met doom at the testimony of three witnesses: "just Lot" and "two angels"!

Elijah the prophet was Witness 1 against Ahab and Jezebel, pronouncing death upon them. But they did not die under the testimony of one witness -- a second prophet of the Lord, Micaiah, Witness 2 (1 Kings 22:7, 8 KJV), pronounced the same doom upon two wicked witnesses sitting in God's land -- Shades of prophecy -- "the woman who paints her face, seduces the king, declares, 'I sit a queen and shall see no sorrow,' yet "these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh." 2 Kings 21:23; Revelation chapters 17 & 18 KJV.

"And the word of the LORD came to Eliiah the Tishbite, saying, Arise, go down to
meet Ahab king of Israel . . . And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine. . . . And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel . . . . But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.

"And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly. And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me? because he humbleth himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his days: but in his son's days will I bring the evil upon his house." —2 Kings 21:17-19, 23-25, 27-29 KJV.

Elijah the prophet, one witness, joined by a second prophet of the Lord, pronouncing doom upon brazen wickedness practiced in God's land! Is this not prophetic?

They called him "The Baptist." He was Witness 1. He testified of Christ, Witness 2:

"John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace." —John 1:15, 16 KJV.

Jesus, Witness 2, testified of The Baptist, Witness 1:

"There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light." —John 5:32, 33, 35 NKJV.

Jesus qualifies John's witness and mission as "for a season." In great mercy to that generation, God permitted John the Baptist, Witness 1, to die out of season. Thus the generation that rejected, refused, falsely accused and abused the SON OF GOD, was spared because they rejected only ONE WITNESS, Jesus the Christ, who prayed on His Cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Doubtless, some will object to my line of reasoning in Scripture, referring to Ananias and Sapphira (Acts, chapter 5), both of whom died under the testimony of One Witness!

"But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost . . . it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in . . . Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband." —Acts 5:1-5, 7-10 KJV.
Here I need only to quote Jesus:

"And so I tell you this: no sin, no slander, is beyond forgiveness for man, except slander spoken against the Spirit, and that will not be forgiven. Any man who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but if anyone speaks against the Holy Spirit, for him there is no forgiveness, either in this age or the age to come."  —Matthew 12:31, 32 NEB.

And so we turn to the last generation, the generation that will meet God and Christ face-to-face; the generation that will choose forever life or forever death; the generation that will accept or reject the promised fullness of God's Holy Spirit "poured out upon all flesh, every kindred, tongue, nation and people!" Are we to reason, no, believe, that God will close Judgment, close the Sanctuary work of Salvation in Heaven, and pass the sentence of forever death upon millions -- perhaps billions -- of human beings without sending Two Witnesses?

Stay tuned: tomorrow -- Part 3