

Passing the Torch

The Torch of God's Testimony

In every generation God seeks for a people, and individuals who would carry the 'Torch of His Testimony'. The 'Torch' was given first to the Jews. When they left Egypt, they carried the 'Torch of the Testimony' proudly. Every intervention of God that brought them victory and blessing fuelled the 'Torch of the Testimony of God'. As was intended, it attracted the attention of all the surrounding nations as they marched forward proclaiming and demonstrating that their God is the only True God, the All-Mighty God—Supreme. The Torch of God's Testimony was so radiant and powerful that even Pharaoh, who proclaimed himself god, was compelled by the power of 'God's Testimony' to call for Moses and Aaron by night, and say to them:

"Take your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and be gone and bless (pray for) me also. And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people, that they might send them out of the land in haste; for they said we be all dead men." (Exodus 12:31-33)

Such is the power of God's testimony. Before the Israelites reached Jericho, the testimony of God and His people had preceded them.

"And she (Rahab) said unto them, (the Jewish spies), I know that the Lord hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For WE HAVE HEARD how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you, when you came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. And as soon as WE HEARD these things our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you; FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD, HE IS GOD IN HEAVEN ABOVE AND IN EARTH BENEATH." (JOSHUA 2:9-11)

Again we see the power of 'God's Testimony'. The inhabitants of Jericho had their gods, but their respect was for the God of the Jews – FOR THEY HEARD OF HIM - His Wisdom, His Power, His Provision and Defense of His people.

The period of the transition between the Old Testament and the New Testament was evidenced by the rekindling of the 'Torch of the Testimony', the VOICE in the wilderness. All Jerusalem and Judea went out to see and hear John the Baptist who came on the scene bearing the 'Torch of the Testimony of God'. King Herod, and the mighty Caesar, himself a Roman god, sent for John. His message convicted them, and brought a holy fear upon them. His voice and his message awakened the spirit of the Jew and shook the Roman government. With the 'Torch of the Testimony of God', he brought a revival to the region. Simultaneously, Jesus Christ was monitoring John's ministry and waiting to receive the

'Torch' from him. John well understood his purpose when passing the 'Torch'. *"He said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30)*

Jesus Christ fuelled the flame of the 'Torch', and enlarged the 'Testimony of God'. He did so by working the works of God:

"And many other signs (miracles) did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: and that believing ye might have life through His name." (John 20:30-31)

The Early Church carried the 'Fires of Pentecost', which burned with such intensity that everyone in that time witnessed it and came under its influences. The Kingdom of God is not revealed with words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. This must be the 'Testimony of God' in every dispensation and by the people of God in every generation. The 'Torch' must not be allowed to go out. One of the main functions of the Church is to keep the flames of revival alive and carry the Torch of God's Testimony.

As in every generation, God is looking for a people in this generation through whom His glorious testimony will be heard and seen; that through the CHURCH, the next generation would be influenced and prepared to receive and faithfully carry the 'Torch of His Testimony'.

The Church must realize its great responsibility to God, and to this generation – to leave a spiritual legacy that will link it with former generations that brought the revelation of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit to man, that Jesus Christ is man's only hope for a blessed eternity.

The Voice of the Holy Spirit is speaking once more out of the pages of the book of Romans:

"For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God." (Romans 8:19)

What is the future state of the 'Torch of His Testimony'? What price must be paid by those who would dare to dream of seizing that flame? Whatever the price, it must be paid. The 'Torch' must be passed to the next generation. Come Partner with us as we seek to pass on the Torch of God's Testimony to the succeeding generation