

## **#2 – John 1:6-13**

**Need:** To provide John's authenticity as the forerunner of Jesus and the to show the general rejection of that witness and the promise to those who receive.

**Aim:** To provide prophetic evidence.

**Title:** "Witness & Rejection"

**Prop:** In John 1:6-13 John presented three distinct truths: **I. John's Witness – Jn. 1:6-8, II. General Rejection – Jn. 1:8-9-11 and III. Promise – Jn. 1:12-13 of eternal life to all who believe.**

**Intro:** I have on occasion, been called as a character witness in a trial situation. I always requested that I be subpoenaed to avoid the accusation of favoritism, especially in divorce cases. In my lawsuit against an insurance company, I was under oath to tell the truth in a deposition when cross-examined by the defendant's lawyer.

Here in John 1:1-13 we find that John presented evidence and a witness, concerning Jesus' credentials regarding His claim to be Messiah, Savior of the world. The first witness was from heaven as Jesus was presented as God, Creator of the universe in verses 1-5. Now in verses 6-8 we find the witness of John the Baptist. In Jewish law testimony must be verified or corroborated by two or three witnesses, along with evidence. In this case, the Apostle John presented the Baptist as his witness to the truth in verses 6-8. The first witness and evidence was creation.

**Prop: In John 1:6-13 the Apostle John presented three distinct truths about Jesus: I. John the Baptist's Verifying Witness – Jn. 1:6-8, the II. World's General Rejection – Jn. 1:9-11 and the III. Promise to all Who Believe – Jn. 1:12-13 of eternal life.**

**Transition: Let's begin by looking at the call of John as a witness.**

### **I. John the Baptist's Call and Witness – Jn. 1:6-8**

#### **A. Call (6)**

**1. Agent (6)** – In verses 6-8, the human agent for introducing the Word was presented. John's Gospel stressed the function of John the Baptist rather than his origin or character. In the Gospels of Matthew and Luke we find more details of John's life and upbringing as the Apostle John just assumed that everyone knew who John was and the nature of his ministry.

It is important to note at this juncture that John in his introduction was recounting from memory what he already knew and experienced. He also assumed that his readers had read the first three gospels as his was the final Gospel written. He assumed that he was just refreshing their memory about Jesus' and John the Baptist's ministries and the purpose of each. This was not new information, but the viewpoint from which the Apostle wrote was indeed fresh. No other Gospel gave a glimpse of eternity as John did or a verification of John the Baptist's word and mission.

**2. Sent** – The important thing about John the Baptist was that he was “**sent.**” The use of the word referred to the authority that commissioned him; the identification by name was incidental. He had been commissioned and sent by God for a specific purpose. John’s mission was defined in verse 7.

### **B. Witness (7)**

**1. John’s Role** – The term that John the Apostle used to refer to John the Baptist was the word “**witness.**” It was John’s purpose to prepare the people by the call to repentance and to establish adequate testimony to the claims of Jesus as the Son of God. The preaching of John the Baptist must have been known to the original readers and that it was preparatory for the coming of Messiah. John’s role was to prepare the way through a call to repentance and to identify Jesus as the Man, the Son of God, the One “**Who takes away the sin of the world.**”

**2. Message** – The Message was clear to the readers that John the Baptist came for the distinct purpose of preparing hearts for the receiving of the Messiah.

It was also noteworthy that John was a cousin of Jesus through Mary’s aunt Elizabeth, who conceived a son by her husband Zechariah, both well beyond child bearing years. According to Matthew there was about 6 month’s difference in age between John the Baptist and Jesus.

Since Zechariah was a priest, John was of the tribe of Levi, while Jesus was of the tribe of Judah and a direct descendant of David through His mother Mary. Another interesting fact was that John the Baptist spent 33 years in preparation for a ministry that lasted about 6 months, give or take a month.

The call was to repent and to receive Jesus. The appeal remains the same today. Jesus is still the “**Light of the World**” and all who call on His name will be saved!

### **C. Clarification Identity (8)**

**1. Light** – The **Light** was Jesus as He classified Himself as the “**Light of the World,**” as we will see later on in this Gospel. The Apostle John verified this claim with his own experience and the hearing of the message of the Baptist. The Apostle was also a witness of both men’s ministry.

**2. Testimony (8)** – During John the Baptist’s preaching many thought that he might be the Messiah himself. The Baptist replied each time that he was not the Christ. He clearly indicated that Jesus was the Christ, and that He was God in human form, the Son of God. John’s purpose was to prepare peoples’ hearts through the baptism of water in recognition of their sin.

It was an act to signify a change of heart and openness to the coming of the Christ.

**Trans: Having identified John as the witness of Jesus, the Apostle John turned to the general rejection by the world of the Light of the World.**

## **II. World's General Rejection – Jn. 1:9-11**

### **A. Truthfulness of Mission (9)**

**1. Coming Light** – With the truth of verses 1-5, Jesus is verified as being God. In verses 6-8 John presented the Baptist as the witness, the forbearer, having been sent by God. The mission was clear in verse 9; the Savior had come into the world. Jesus born of a virgin, bearing the rightful credentials as the King, had come. The **Light** was qualified by being the true, the one and only **Light**.

**2. Enlightening** – The term “**Light**” here should be understood to mean, not that God had already illumined everyone, but that Jesus’ function would be to give the light of truth to all whom His ministry would effect.

Regardless of whether one accepted it or not, Jesus had come into the world as the **Light**. But: “**Men love darkness rather than light...**” as the **Light** exposed hidden evil deeds when it exposed a darkened heart.

### **B. Object Rejection (10-11)**

**1. Rejection of Creator (10)** – The term “**world**” referred to both the current population in that day and down through the time tunnel of human history as to the spiritual condition.

It referred to the total environment that the Word created. Jesus was rejected by all mankind in general which led Him to the cross. Even though Jesus created the universe, this planet we call earth and mankind, the crowning achievement of all creation, man rejected God, from the original sin in the Garden of Eden until sin was no more. I find it odd that the only part of God's creation which does not function according to its original design is us!

**2. National Rejection (11)** – To be more specific Jesus was rejected by His own people the Jews. He came to bring spiritual renewal, eternal life, but as a Nation they rejected Him and then crucified Him. So now we find God's arms open wide to all who believe.

**Transition: The Jewish rejection meant our redemption. We are now God's special people.**

### **III. Promise of Eternal Life – Jn. 1:12-13**

#### **A. Jew, Gentile, Male, Female, Bond or Free (12-13)**

**1. Jewish Birthright** – From the time of Abraham until time be no more, Israel was God special people. In the OT they were referred to as the “**apple of His eye.**”

**2. Children of God! (12)** - But now in verse 12 when the Jews rejected Jesus, they were set aside. As Paul in the book of Romans said, now all who believe are His special people.

The right has been given to us, the privilege of becoming God's children. As His children we receive all the rights and privileges that come through that special relationship. I am a child of the King of the Universe!! I have value, I have worth!! God has given me His name!!

## **B. Manner (13)**

**1. "Not by Natural Assent"** – In contrast to the OT practice where only those born as Jews entered into God's special covenant, bloodlines don't matter anymore. There were records in the OT of pagans who had converted to the Jewish faith of their own freewill, but that doesn't matter anymore! Physical birthright, which had been the manner of God's practice in the OT, has been broken. Paul in Galatians, one of the earliest of NT letters written proclaimed this truth: "**Neither Jew or Gentile, Male or Female, neither Bond nor Free**" has any meaning in becoming God's child. The door was open wide to all who believe!!

**2. God's Will** – I don't want to open the door of a theological discussion here and now, but it was God's will that you became a believer. He energized your spirit to hear the word of salvation, and provided the faith to believe. The more I study God's Word, the more clear it becomes that God has done everything in the salvation experience, we are passive, faith is something done to us apart from an activity of our own.

God called us and gave us the ability to believe and the faith that was needed. Having become His child, He by His Holy Spirit who now resides within me, took this life and began the transformation process within me. Anything I do which God's word considers as godliness is a product of God's grace working within me. There is much more to this for a later date, but God's will was that you become His child. How great is that!!

So creation stands as witness to the existence of God and John tells us that Jesus was the Creator of all that exists. Secondly He took on the form of a man through birth of a virgin. As Jesus prepared for His ministry on earth, God prepared a special servant sent six months prior to Jesus' appearance on the world stage, who called men to repent and prepare their hearts to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord. John the Baptist was God's 2<sup>nd</sup> witness of who Jesus was and soon after the mission was completed John died even as he told his followers – **“He must increase and I must decrease!”**

So here in is the application. God has revealed Himself in the person of Jesus, the Creator God. He became a man like us to show us what God was like and then to die for the sin of the world. God issues His call to all who would receive Him as Savior and Lord.

My thought is this: If God was powerful enough to create the universe by the Word of His power, and manage it, who are we to think that He can't manage our lives?! That is the epitome of arrogance on our part. The God who designed us and made us unique has given us the Living Word of God and His written Word, He knows all about the pressures and struggles of human existence. Should we not let Him have control in our lives, seek to do His will for us?

And to those who are outside of Christ, the call is for you to give your heart and life to Christ. He who rules the universe has the ability and power to bring order and purpose to your life.