

The DOUBLE CURE and the SEVENFOLD WITNESS

And I [*John*] saw and **BARE RECORD** that this is the Son of God. – John 1:34

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is **COME IN THE FLESH**. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. – 2 John 1:7

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is **come in the flesh** is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is **come in the flesh** is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. -- 1 John 4:1-3

How appropriate for the writer of the Gospel of the Son of God (John - Eagle), as opposed to the Gospel of the King (Matthew - Lion), the Gospel of the Servant (Mark - Ox), and the Gospel of the Son of man (Luke -Man) to be the writer of John and also 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. John, the disciple of love, was also the disciple of **truth**. John hated both error and false prophets. His writings are filled with a passionate concern for "love and truth" (1 John 1:7, 8; 2:4, 8, 21, 27; 3:18, 19; 4:6; 5:6, 20; 2:1 - 4; 3:1, 3, 4, 8, 12) and a passionate "record, witness, and testimony" (1 John 1:34; 5:2, 6-12; 4:14) to that truth. John lets us in on a common heresy of his day, the anti-humanity or fleshly birth of Jesus Christ.

Unlike the false prophets (J.W.s and etc.), who now deny the deity of Jesus Christ, there were false prophets, in John's day, who denied the humanity of Jesus Christ and that He was physically born of a woman. The **WORD** was not only "Spirit," but the **WORD** also came in the **FLESH** as the Son of God and dwelt among us; He was the "**GOD/MAN**" Christ Jesus, who **came by water and blood**, by being supernaturally conceived by the Holy Ghost, in a physical birth. John, the one who bare record to the Son of God, also bore record to the hypostatic union of Jesus **coming in the flesh**.

Yes, even Scofield did say in his marginal note, "It is generally agreed that v.7 has no real authority and has been inserted." It was a JW that first reminded me of that note many years ago. Fortunately, we learned a long time ago to listen for the **HISS** of the serpent in expressions like, "It is generally agreed" or "the consenses of the scholars." Agreed to by whom?

Who do you consider to be a real authority: Don Waite, Rick Norris, Wescott/Hort, Jim White, Doug Kutilek, or the Biblical Evangelist and what they say? Quite frankly, we could care less whether Scofield, Norris, Wescott & Hort, Waite, White, Sumner, Kutilek, and the Biblical Evangelist say. Whether they agree on everything, including their dislike for this disputed passage, we certainly doubt and question whether they are **REAL** authorities. But then we cannot expect consistency from Bible Correcting Fundamentalists who are now joining such company as Jehovah's Witnesses (Russelites) and other modern day Arians and Sabellians who are quick to deny the authority and truth of 1 John 5:7 as did their more ancient counterparts, the Nicolaitanes and Cerinthians.

The Son of God's Atonement Pre-Pictured By Water and Blood

This shall be the law of the leper in the day of his cleansing . . . Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive and clean . . . The priest shall command that one of the birds be killed **in an earthen vessel over running water**: As for the **living bird**, he shall take it, and the cedar wood, and the scarlet, and the hyssop, and **shall dip them and the living bird** in the **blood of the bird** that was killed over the **running water**: And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him **clean**, and shall let the living bird loose into the open field . . . And he shall cleanse the house with the **blood of the bird**, and with the **running water**, and with the living bird, and with the cedar wood, and with the hyssop, and with the scarlet: But he shall let go the living bird out of the city into the open fields, and **make an atonement** for the house: and it shall be **clean**. --- Lev. 14:1-7, 52-53

The blood and water are Old Testament types, agreeing with the Holy Spirit and attesting to the double cleansing of the sinner in the blood and water of the Son of God's New Testament atonement. The blood on the altar in the tabernacle and the laver of water also agree and attest to the dual cleansing of the sinner by the Son of God.

Jesus Came by Water and Blood

. . . Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that **CAME by water and blood**, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by **water and blood**. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is **truth**. For there are **three** that bear record in heaven, the **FATHER**, the **WORD** and the **HOLY GHOST**: and these three are one. And there are **three** that bear witness in earth, the **SPIRIT**, and the **WATER**, and the **BLOOD**: and these three agree in one. --1 John 5:5-8

We tried, for many years, to symbolize the three elements, of 1 John 5:8. The awkward part, of our efforts, was in realizing that the third could not be a symbol (the Spirit). Yet, why should the blood be a symbol or even the water? Gradually, as with being "**born of water**" in John 3:5, we began to realize that none of the three could be symbols. Far from being symbols as being literally born of water in a fleshly birth in John 3:5, that they were rather witnesses, agreeing and bearing record to someone, confirming Jesus' Holy Spirit conceived **virgin birth by literal water and blood**.

John, the water, and the blood, along with the Holy Spirit, testify and agree and bear record to the fact that the Son of God came by the Spirit and by **the blood and water** of the **VIRGIN BIRTH** and testifying to that on the earth. The Son of God must, one day thereafter, employ the same earthly trio by shedding **blood and water** and **giving up the Ghost** in order to save and purify sinful mankind. No **water and blood** virgin birth - no future **double cure!** No **blood and water** atonement - **no double cure!** The ingredients in this verse were not symbols of anything; rather, they were witnesses, agreeing and bearing record to someone, certifying and confirming the Spirit conceived, **VIRGIN BLOOD** and **WATER** birth of the Son of God and His **BLOOD** and **WATER** death for the sinner.

He Went by Water and Blood

Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, **Truly this was the Son of God.** -- Matt. 27:54

And I (John) saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. -- John 1:34

. . . But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out **BLOOD AND WATER** -- John 19:30-35

John, the one who bare record to the Son of God, bares record to the hypostatic union of the natural and the supernatural, resulting in the **GOD-MAN**, Jesus, and the Son of God. The word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Heaven and earth agree! Now, all that is left is for lost men to agree with the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, the water, the blood, John, and the centurion, regarding the blood and water, virgin born Son of God and His **blood and water** atonement for man's sin. Jesus sprinkled His blood on the mercy seat in heaven as our high priest. Now it is significant that when the centurion saw the things that were done, he feared and said, "Truly this was the Son of God." We are reminded that he saw and received the witness of **water and the blood** and Jesus giving up the Ghost.

The Four Fold Witness in Earth

This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood . . . And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. -- 1 John 5:6, 8

This is he that **CAME BY WATER AND BLOOD**, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. -- 1 John 5:6

For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us . . . Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled (blood-Heb. 9:14), and our bodies washed with **PURE WATER**. --Hebrews 10:14, 15, 22

But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out **BLOOD AND WATER**. And he that saw it **BARE RECORD** and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. --John 19:34, 35

The water and the blood, along with the Spirit of Christ, testified and agree in the earth and bore record to the fact that the Son of God came by **water and blood** in His virgin birth. Future to this birth, the shedding of blood and water and giving up the **GHOST** would be done to save and purify mankind. If there is no water/blood virgin birth – there can be no double cure. If there is no blood/water atonement – there was not double cure. John bare record to the **WORD** who became **FLESH** and dwell among us.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee; Let the **water and the blood**, From thy wounded side which flowed, Be of sin the **DOUBLE CURE**, Save from wrath and make me pure. -- **Augustus M. Toplady**

One need but check the words of the hymn, "Rock of Ages" to learn the significance of the water and the blood. It was the water and the blood that flowed from the pierced side of the Saviour that is the double cure. That is the way that Jesus went – by water and blood in death, but that is also the way that Jesus came in His birth – by water and blood, born of a virgin. The threefold witness on earth is the water and the blood as well as the Holy Spirit's testimony to it in the Holy Spirit inspired word of God, joined by a fourth's witness, John.

We have seen the **three** heavenly witnesses; but here, we see the **three** earthly witnesses, six witnesses, and yea **seven** with John's record, a perfect sevenfold witness. Jesus came in the flesh by **WATER AND BLOOD** (virgin birth), and He went by **WATER AND BLOOD** (the crucifixion). The connection is readily apparent. At least, Augustus Toplady in his hymn, "Rock of Ages" saw the connection between the **water and the blood**, and the **double cure** of salvation and sanctification. The water is not to be foolishly interpreted as baptism. The water is pure water, the purest of water, and the explanation is a spiritual one and not medical one! Jews, everywhere, are called on to view the fulfilling of the Old Testament shedding of blood and also the washings with water. Jesus Christ **came by water and blood**. The Lord came by water and blood (the virgin birth) and He **went by water and blood** (the crucifixion).

The Trifold Witness in Heaven

And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, **the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.** – 1 John 5: 7

It is hard for me to grasp the Bible Correctors' position of 1 John 5:7 not being a part of the scriptures, while they are so adamant about the term "Trinity." I'll never forget my first confrontation, as a new Christian, with Jehovah's Witnesses over the passage. They challenged me to find the term "trinity" in the Bible just as some Reformed people challenge pre-tribbers and per mills to find the word "rapture" in the Bible. Of course, the terms are not in the scriptures but are rather condensed theological terms to express the doctrine of the Trinity (or as some prefer the doctrine of the **tri-unity**) and the doctrine of Christians being caught away from the earth alive. Since I subscribe to no creeds nor care what Augustine, Calvin, Spurgeon, or early so called church fathers or council said, I handled the JW's then pretty much the way that I handle the challenge today. I proceeded to prove the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God.

When Bible believers make a stink about the blood having been taken being out of the corrupt bibles (Col. 1:14), they are expected to be soothed by the fact that there are still other places in the Bible, where the blood can be found. Well, why should the same crowd be upset at a Trinitarian concept of Father, Word, and Holy Ghost which are taught in other places of the word of God? Nice, fair, consistent crowd they are! When Bible believers heap praise on the Authorized Version, they are quickly assailed with, "Erasmus was a Catholic, who at first could not find the underlying Greek manuscripts for the disputed passage, and so forth.

However, regarding 1 John 5:7, the same bunch tells us that Erasmus didn't think that verse should be included. Was he still a Catholic? Nice, fair, consistent bunch! When Bible believers contend for preservation and the Authorized Version only position, they are bombarded with the rules of Greek and Hebrew syntax, genders and all. The same Bible of the month club refuses to explain why the Greek masculine article, numeral, and participle do not match the neuter Spirit, blood, and water when the non-authoritative authorities **EXCLUDE** verse seven. Nice, consistent Bible of the month club!

When Bible believers are criticized for only having two Greek manuscripts extant to support 1 John 5:7 (actually, there are a dozen or more), they are ignored. When they respond with a list of the Best Rendering Group's renderings without support from **ANY** manuscript, they are also ignored. A case in point is Romans 8:28, "the Holy Spirit himself." Why doesn't this group explain why the Greek gender for "Holy Spirit" and "itself" are neuter as they insist that it should be, "the Holy Spirit **HIMSELF?**" Nice, fair, consistent group!

When Bible believers believe 1 John 5:7, their critics boast of the antiquity of their corrupt manuscripts, which do not contain it (you know, the oldest and best manuscript trick). However, the same outfit ignores the antiquity of the ancient writers and commentators who do refer to the passage, ignoring also the antiquity of the Old Latin manuscripts translated from the Greek. Nice, fair, consistent outfit!

To What Do They Witness?

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came **BY WATER AND BLOOD**, even Jesus Christ . . . If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son . . . And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son . . . These things have I written unto you that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the Son of God. -- 1 John 5:5, 9, 11, 13

The Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost in heaven; the blood and water and Jesus' Spirit, which He commended to the Father, while on earth, and John's records (both of them) all bare record to the Son of God and the complete salvation that is in His **ONE** offering **FOR EVER**. That one offering is pre-pictured and prophesied throughout the Old Testament. These six witnesses all agree with John's record, the Seventh Witness, even the word of God. Who but a Bible Corrector could or would object to that!

-- by Herb Evans

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Let the **water and the blood**,
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