

Two Visitors

12-27-15 AM

Charles Dickens wrote in 1843 a book entitled “A Christmas Carol”. In it, the money loving miser Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the spirit of his deceased partner, now in torment, and warned that if he does not change his ways, he too will end up in torment. He tells him to expect three visitors with particular messages to him that night. The story seems to have been inspired by the parable in Luke 16 of the rich man and Lazarus, particularly when the rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to his brothers as a warning.

This story inspires us to think about the role of particular visitors in our lives. Let us imagine having a visitor come to us in a supernatural manner. He has instructions for us on how to live our lives. He tells us that a second visitor is coming, and that while he does not have all of the answers, the second will answer all things. The first visitor tells us that his instructions will come to an end. He also tells us a timeframe of when to expect the second visitor.

Now comes the second visitor with the instructions of how to live. He tells us that there will be no other visitors with instructions after him. He tells us that he answers everything we need to know, and that his instructions will never pass away or go out of date.

Of course, you may now realize we are talking about the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament said that another Testament was coming; it says that it would be a New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31, Ezekiel 37:26) given by a new prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15). The Old Testament acknowledges it did not have all of the answers (Deuteronomy 29:29), but that the New Covenant would fill the earth with knowledge (Habakkuk 2:14, Isaiah 11:9, Jeremiah 31:34). The Old Testament told us that it was not the real things of God, but mere images (Isaiah 66:1, Hebrews 10:4) of the things to come. The Old Testament even said when the New Covenant would come, giving us a timeline in Daniel 9:25, and giving us a herald in Malachi 3:1.

Now comes the New Testament. The New Testament testifies to us that no other Testament is coming (Jude 3, Hebrews 1:2, Galatians 1:8). It tells us that it totally and completely reveals all the things we can know of God’s purpose for us (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:3, 1 Corinthians 13:10). This New Covenant will never be overcome, lasting until the very end of time (Matthew 16:18, Matthew 28:20).

Now, the question arises: why is this twofold testimony so important? Many misidentify the testimony of the First Covenant by believing it pointed PAST the cross (to our age) in ideas like premillennialism. Others think that the first covenant would not go away or that it would last indefinitely, as seen by those who teach Sabbath keeping or Ten Commandment keeping. Secondly, many more misidentify the testimony of the Last Covenant. Muslims and Mormons believe that a third covenant would be created, contrary to the testimony of the Last Covenant. Others believe that there will be more witnesses to come testify, such as the Jehovah’s Witnesses (the Watchtower & Charles Russel), the Seventh Day Adventists (Ellen White). Still more deny that the Last Covenant provides all of the answers we need, such as the Catholic Church and most Protestant churches.

We need to be confident in the testimony of these two witnesses. They each point to one another, and tell us to seek only them. We need to see the danger many fall into when they seek other revelations or look to the wrong testament. We need to look at the New as the answer to all.