

# "In the Mouth of Two or Three Witnesses"

Deut.19=Matt.13= 2 Cor.13= 2 Ne.11=D&C 6=Ether 3=D&C 128 Parallel

by Sterling D. Allan; Greater things, Tucson, Arizona, April 28, 1995



Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people. (Isaiah 55:4.)

<sup>1</sup>Deut. 19  
Moses

<sup>2</sup>Matt. 18  
Jesus Christ

<sup>3</sup>2 Cor. 13  
Paul

<sup>4</sup>2 Ne. 11  
Nephi

<sup>5</sup>D&C 6  
The LORD

<sup>6</sup>Ether 5  
Moroni

<sup>7</sup>D&C 128  
Joseph Smith

v15 One

v16 But if he will *not*

v1 This is the third  
time

- v3 And *my brother, Jacob, also has seen him*
- *as I have seen him*;

v28 And now, behold,  
I give unto you,  
and also unto my  
servant *Joseph*,  
the *keys of this gift*,

v1 And now I, Moroni,  
have written the *words*  
which were *commanded*  
*me*, according to my  
memory; and I have  
told you the things  
which I have *sealed* up;

v2 I wrote a few words  
of revelation to you  
concerning a recorder. I  
have had a few  
additional views in  
relation to this matter,  
which I now certify.  
That is, it was declared  
in my former letter that  
there should be *a*  
*recorder*, who should  
be *eye-witness*, and also  
to *hear with his ears*,  
**that he might make a  
record of a truth  
before the Lord.**

witness

hear thee,

I AM

wherefore, *I will send  
their words forth* unto  
my children

which shall bring to  
light

therefore touch them  
not in order that ye may  
translate; for that thing  
is forbidden you, **except  
by and by it shall be  
wisdom in God.**

v2 And behold, ye may  
be privileged that ye  
may show the plates  
*unto those who shall  
assist to bring forth  
this work*;

To obviate this  
difficulty, there can be  
*a recorder appointed in  
each ward of the city*,  
who is well qualified  
for taking accurate  
minutes; and let him be  
very particular and  
precise in taking the  
whole proceedings,  
certifying in his record  
that he saw with his  
eyes, and heard with  
his ears, giving the

- shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity,
- or for any sin,
- in any sin that he sineth:

*then take with thee one or two more,*

*coming to you.*

to prove unto them that my words are true.

this **ministry**;

v3 And unto three shall they be shown by the power of God; wherefore they shall know of a surety that these things are true.

date, and names, and so forth, and the history of the whole transaction;

naming also some three individuals that are present, if there be any present, *who can at any time when called upon certify to the same,*

- at the mouth of two witnesses,
- or at the mouth of three <sup>2</sup>witnesses,

that in the mouth of two or three <sup>3</sup>witnesses

In the mouth of two or three <sup>4</sup>witnesses

Wherefore, by the words of three,

and in the mouth of two or three <sup>3</sup>witnesses

v4 And in the mouth of three <sup>6</sup>witnesses

that in the mouth of two or three <sup>7</sup>witnesses

shall the matter be established.

every word may be established.

shall every word be established.

God hath said, I will shall these things be established; establish my word.

shall every word be established.

shall these things be established;

every word may be established.

v16 If a **false witness** rise up **against** any man

v17 And if he shall **neglect**

v2 I told you before, and foretell you, as if I were present, the second time; and being absent now *I write to them which heretofore have sinned,* and to all other, that, if I come again,

Nevertheless, God sendeth more witnesses,

v29 Verily, verily, I say unto you, if they **reject my words, and this part of my gospel and ministry,**

and the testimony of three,

v4 Then, let there be a general recorder, to whom these other records can be handed, being attended with certificates over their own signatures, certifying that the record they have made is true. Then the general church recorder can enter the record on the general church book, with the certificates and the attending witnesses, with his own statement that he verily believes the above statement and records to be true, from his knowledge of the general character and appointment of those men by the church.

to testify against him to hear them,  
that which is wrong;

*I will not spare:*

• and he proveth all  
his words.

• blessed are ye, for and this work,  
they can do no  
more unto you than  
unto me.

And when this is done  
on the general church  
book, the record shall  
be just as holy, and  
shall answer the  
ordinance just the same  
as if he had seen with  
his eyes and heard with  
his ears, and made a  
record of the same on  
the general church  
book.

v17 Then both the tell it  
men, between whom  
the controversy is,

v3 Since ye seek a  
proof of Christ speaking  
in me,

• v4 Behold, my soul  
**delighteth** in  
proving unto my  
people

• v30 And even if  
they do unto you  
even as they have  
done unto me,

in the which shall be  
shown forth

v5 You may think **this**  
**order of things** to be  
very particular; but let  
me tell you that *it is*  
*only to answer the will*  
*of God,* by conforming  
to the ordinance and  
preparation that the  
Lord ordained and  
prepared before the  
foundation of the world,  
for the salvation of the  
dead who should die  
without a knowledge of  
the gospel.

shall stand before the  
Lord, before the priests  
and the judges, unto the church:

which to you-ward is  
**not weak,**

the truth of the coming  
of Christ;

**blessed** are ye, for you  
shall dwell with me in  
glory.

**the power of God**

v6 And further, I want  
you to remember that  
John the Revelator was  
contemplating this very  
subject in relation to the  
dead, when he declared,  
as you will find  
recorded in Revelation  
20:12--And I saw the  
dead, small and great,  
stand before God; and  
the books were opened;  
and another book was  
opened, which is the  
book of life; and the  
dead were judged out of  
those things which were

D&C 128 (continued from below, right)

v7 You will discover in this quotation that the books were opened; and another book was opened, which was the book of life; but the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works; consequently, the books spoken of must be the books which contained the record of their works, and refer to the records which are kept on the earth. And the book which was the book of life is the record which is kept in heaven; the principle agreeing precisely with the doctrine which is commanded you in the revelation contained in the letter which I wrote to you previous to my leaving my place--that in all your recordings it may be recorded in heaven.

which shall be **in those days**;

v18 And the judges shall make diligent inquisition:

and, behold, if the witness be a false witness,

and hath testified falsely against his brother;

v19 Then shall ye do unto him,

but if he neglect to hear **the church**, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican.

v18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

v19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

v20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

v21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

v22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

but is **mighty** in you.

- v4 For **though he was crucified** through weakness,
- yet he liveth** by the power of God.

- For we also are weak in him,
- but we shall live with him

by the power of God toward you.

v 5 Examine yourselves, whether ye **be in the faith**;

for, for this end hath the law of Moses been given;

and all things which have been given of God from the beginning of the world, unto man, are the typifying of him.

v5 And also my soul delighteth in the covenants of the Lord

which he hath made to thisour fathers;

yea, my soul delighteth in his **grace**,

v31 But if they reject not my words,

which shall be established by the testimony which shall be given, blessed are they, and then shall ye have joy in the fruit of your labors.

v32 Verily, verily, I say unto you, as I said unto my disciples, where two or three are gathered together in my name, as touching one thing, behold, there will I be in the midst of them --

even as **I AM** in the midst of you.

v33 Fear not to do good, my sons,

and also his word,

of which **the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost** bear record--

and **all**

**this**

shall **stand**

written in the books, according to their works.

v8 Now, the nature of this ordinance consists in the **power of the priesthood**, by the **revelation of Jesus Christ**,

wherein it is granted that whatsoever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Or, in other words, taking a different view of the translation, whatsoever you record on earth shall be recorded in heaven,

and whatsoever you do not record on earth shall not be recorded in heaven;

for out of the books shall your dead be judged, according to their own works,

as he had **thought to have done** unto his brother:

v23 Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

v24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

v25 But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

v26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

v27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

**prove your own selves.** Know ye not your own selves, how that *Jesus Christ is in you,*

for whatsoever ye sow, that shall ye also reap;

as **a testimony against the world**

**w h e t h e r t h e y themselves** have attended to the ordinances in their own *propria persona,*

so shalt thou *put the evil away from among you.*

v28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

v29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

v30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

e x c e p t y e b e and in his **justice**, and **reprobates?** **power,**

Therefore, if ye sow good ye shall also reap good for your reward.

**at the last day.**

*or by the means of their own agents*, according to the ordinance which God has prepared for their salvation from before the foundation of the world, according to the records which they have kept concerning their dead.

v20 And those which remain shall hear, and fear,

v31 So when his *fellowservants* saw what was done, they were very sorry, and **came and told unto their lord** all that was done.

v6 But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates. and **mercy**

v34 Therefore, fear not, little flock;

v5 And if it so be that they repent

v9 It may seem to some to be a very bold doctrine that we talk of--a **power** which records or binds on earth and binds in heaven. Nevertheless, in all ages of the world, whenever the Lord has given a dispensation of the priesthood to any man *by actual revelation*, or any set of

and shall henceforth <u>commit no more any such evil</u> among you.	v32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou <u>wicked servant</u> ,	v7 Now I pray to God that ye <u>do no evil</u> ;	in the great and and <u>come unto the Father in the name of Jesus, eternal plan of deliverance from death.</u>	<u>do good</u> ;	and <u>come unto the Father in the name of Jesus</u> ,	men, <b>this power has always been given.</b>
v21 And thine <u>eye</u>	<b><i>I forgave thee all that debt</i></b> , because thou <u>desiredst</u> me:	not that we should <u>appear</u> approved, but that ye should <b><i>do that which is honest, though we be as reprobates.</i></b>	v6 And my soul delighteth in proving unto my people that <b><i>save Christ should come all men must perish.</i></b>	let earth and hell <b><i>combine against</i></b> you,	they <b><i>shall be received into the kingdom of God.</i></b>	Hence, whatsoever those men <u>did in authority, in the name of the Lord</u> , and <u>did it truly and faithfully</u> , and kept a proper and faithful record of the same,
shall <b><i>not pity</i></b> :	v33 <i>Shouldst not thou also have had <u>compassion</u></i>	• v8 For <b><i>we can do nothing against the truth</i></b> ,	a v7 For <u>if there be no Christ</u> b there be no God;	for <u>if ye are built upon my rock</u> ,	v6 And now, if I have no <u>authority</u>	it became <b><i>a law on earth and in heaven</i></b> , and <b><i>could not be annulled, according to the decrees of the great Jehovah. THIS IS A FAITHFUL SAYING. WHO CAN HEAR IT?</i></b>
• <sup>1</sup> but <u>life shall go for life</u> ,	on thy fellowservant,	• but for the truth.	b and if there be no God a we are not,	<u>they cannot prevail.</u>	for <b><i>these things</i></b> ,	v10 And again, for the precedent, Matthew 16:18, 19: And I say also unto thee, That <u>thou art Peter</u> , and upon <u>this rock I will build my church</u> ;
• <sup>2</sup> eye for eye,	even as <b><i>I had pity on thee?</i></b>	v9 For we are glad, when we are <b><i>weak</i></b> ,	for <i>there could have been no creation.</i>	v35 Behold, <b><i>I do not condemn you; go your ways and sin no more; perform with soberness the work which I have commanded you.</i></b>	<u>judge ye</u> ;	<u>and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.</u>
• <sup>3</sup> tooth for tooth,	v34 And <b><i>his lord was wroth</i></b> ,	and <b><i>ye are strong</i></b> :	• But <b><i>there is a God</i></b> , • and <b><i>he is Christ</i></b> ,	v36 <b><i>Look unto me in</i></b>	for <b><i>ye shall know that I have authority</i></b>	And <u>I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven</u> : and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
						v11 <b><i>Now the great and grand secret of the</i></b>

*every thought; doubt  
not, fear not.*

D&C 128:12 (cont.)

hence, this ordinance was instituted to form a relationship with the ordinance of baptism for the dead, being in likeness of the dead.

v13 Consequently, the baptismal font was instituted *as a similitude* of the grave, and was commanded to be in a place underneath where the living are wont to assemble, to show forth the living and the dead, and that all things may have their likeness, and that they may accord one with another--

*whole matter, and the  
summun bonum of the  
whole subject that is  
lying before us,  
consists in obtaining  
the powers of the Holy  
Priesthood. For him to  
whom these keys are  
given there is no  
difficulty in obtaining  
a knowledge of facts in  
relation to the  
salvation for the  
children of men, both  
as well for the dead as  
for the living.*

• <sup>4</sup>hand for hand,

and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should *pay all that was due unto him*.

and **this also we wish,**

and he cometh

v37 *Behold the wounds which pierced my side, and also the prints of the nails in my hands and feet;*

when ye shall see me,

v12 Herein is glory and honor, and *immortality and eternal life*--The ordinance of baptism by water, to be immersed therein in order to answer to the likeness of the dead, that one principle might accord with the other; to be immersed in the water and come forth out of the water is *in the likeness of the resurrection* of the dead in coming forth out of their graves;

• <sup>5</sup>foot for foot.

v35 So likewise shall my *heavenly Father* do also unto you, *if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses*.

**even your perfection.**

**in the fulness of his own time.**

be faithful, keep my commandments, and **ye shall inherit the kingdom of heaven.**

and **we shall stand before God at the last day.**

Amen.

that which is earthly conforming to that which is heavenly, as Paul hath declared, 1 Corinthians 15: 46, 47, and 48:

v14 *Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and*

*afterward that which is **spiritual**. The first man is of the earth, **earthy**; the second man is the Lord from **heaven**. As is the **earthy**, such are they also that are **earthy**; and as is the **heavenly**, such are they also that are **heavenly**. And as are the records on the earth in relation to your dead, which are truly made out, so also are the records in heaven. THIS, THEREFORE, IS THE SEALING AND BINDING POWER, and, in one sense of the word, **THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM**, WHICH CONSIST IN THE **KEY OF KNOWLEDGE**.*

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