

John 1:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light,
that all men through him might believe.

Analysis

John's purpose is defined: 'for a witness, to bear witness of the Light' (eis martyrian, hina martyrese peri tou photos). The noun 'martyrs' (witness) and verb 'martyreo' (testify) emphasize legal testimony—reliable, verifiable attestation. John's entire ministry exists to testify about Christ, the Light. The purpose clause 'that all men through him might believe' shows the evangelistic goal—faith comes through witness. John is not the Light but reflects it, directing others to Christ. This establishes the pattern for all Christian witness: pointing beyond ourselves to Jesus.

Historical Context

In Jewish legal tradition, testimony required two or three witnesses. John provides crucial testimony to Christ's identity. His witness continues to function through the Gospel record—we still read and believe through John's testimony. Early Christians understood their role as witnesses (Acts 1:8), following the Baptist's model of testifying to Christ.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How effectively does your life serve as witness pointing others to Christ the Light?
2. What does John's role teach about the purpose of Christian ministry?

Interlinear Text

οὗτος	ἦλθεν	εἰς	μαρτυρίαν	ἵνα	μαρτυρήσῃ	περὶ	τοῦ
The same	came	for	a witness	that	bear witness	of	G3588
G3778	G2064	G1519	G3141	G2443	G3140	G4012	
φωτός	ἵνα	πάντες	πιστεύσωσιν	δι'	αὐτοῦ		
the Light	that	all	might believe	men through	him		
G5457	G2443	G3956	G4100	G1223	G846		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 19:4 (Faith): Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

John 1:36 (Parallel theme): And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

John 1:9 (Light): That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

John 1:15 (Witness): John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

John 1:12 (Faith): But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Titus 2:11 (Parallel theme): For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

2 Peter 3:9 (Parallel theme): The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Ephesians 3:9 (Parallel theme): And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

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