

# Psalms 89:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.

## Analysis

**It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.** The covenant promises culminate with a third cosmic witness—the moon—and the solemn pause "Selah." **It shall be established for ever as the moon** (kə-yā-rē-ah yik-kōn 'ô-lām, יְקַרְבָּן עַל־יְמִינָה) employs yārēah (יָרְאָה), the moon, which like the sun is a perpetual celestial witness. The verb kūn (כְּנָה), "to be established," means to be made firm, stable, enduring. The moon waxes and wanes but never fails to appear, marking seasons and times with unfailing regularity—a perfect symbol of covenant faithfulness through changing circumstances.

**And as a faithful witness in heaven** uses wə-'ēd baš-ša-ḥaq ne-'ē-mān (בְּשָׁׁלֵם וְעַד). The "witness" ('ēd, עֵד) is likely the moon itself, called "faithful" (ne'ēmān, מְמֻנָּן) from 'āman, giving us "amen")—trustworthy, reliable, steadfast. "In heaven" or "in the skies" (baššaḥaq, בְּשָׁׁמְמָה) positions this witness in the celestial realm, beyond human manipulation, visible to all. God calls upon creation itself to testify to His covenant fidelity.

**Selah** (הָלֹה) appears 71 times in Psalms, likely a musical or liturgical notation meaning pause, rest, or lift up. Here it invites meditation on these staggering promises: God has sworn by His holiness that David's seed and throne will endure as long as sun and moon exist, with the heavens themselves bearing faithful witness. This finds complete fulfillment in Christ, whose kingdom is established forever, witnessed by heavenly hosts (Luke 2:13-14, Revelation 5:11-14).

## Historical Context

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Throughout Israel's tumultuous history—monarchy, exile, foreign domination, dispersion—the moon continued its faithful witness in the heavens, testifying that God's covenant promise remained in effect despite appearances. When Jesus was born, the faithful witness in heaven announced Him: 'suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God' (Luke 2:13). At His resurrection, 'the angel of the Lord descended from heaven' (Matthew 28:2). Heaven bore faithful witness that God had kept His oath to David.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does the moon serve as a 'faithful witness' to God's covenant—what does its unchanging cycle testify about God's character?
2. What is the significance of God calling upon created order (sun, moon, heaven) to witness His covenant promises?
3. How does the word 'Selah' (pause and reflect) invite us to meditate on the enormity of God's covenant faithfulness fulfilled in Christ?

## Interlinear Text

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כָּלָם	אֵלֶּה	עוֹלָה	עִזִּים	שָׁמָן	תָּאַמְּנָה
as the moon	It shall be established	for ever	witness	in heaven	and as a faithful

H3394

H3559

H5769

H5707

H7834

H539

:לְה:

**Selah**

H5542

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 104:19** (Parallel theme): He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

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