

*What testimony consists in.*

(chap. vii. 15-25.)

The passage we have read is a reply to the question : In what does the testimony of God consist, and what does it do in a day of ruin? Full of joy and confidence, Gideon returned to the camp of Israel. "Arise," said he, "for Jehovah hath delivered into your hand the host of Midian." Then, dividing the three hundred men into three companies, "he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers." These three things represent the principles of God's testimony in the struggle with Satan and the world.

We find the use of the trumpets detailed in Numbers x. 1-10. They were the voice of God to communicate His mind to the people on four important occasions : they gave the signal for gathering the people together ; for the journeying of the camps ; for battle ; and also for the solemn feasts or worship. That which the sound of the trumpets formerly represented for Israel, we find in the present day, in another and very precious way, in the word of God. By it God speaks to us ; it is that which regulates and directs the gathering together, the walk, the warfare, and the worship, of the children of God. How much these things are forgotten in our day ! It seems to the majority of God's children that Christianity consists only in taking the gospel to the unconverted. It was