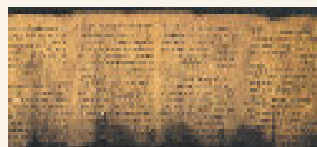


Witnesses Under Hebrew Law

NUMBER REQUIRED TO CONVICT – Under Hebrew law (both Mosaic and Talmudic), at least two witnesses were required to convict an accused person. If the prosecuting witness being included, three were necessary.



AGREEMENT OF WITNESSES – It was required of all witnesses that they agree in all essential details; else, their testimony was deemed invalid and had to be rejected.



NO OATH REQUIRED – An oath, in the modern sense, was not administered to a Hebrew witness. Testimony was given under the sanction of the ninth of the Ten Commandments, “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor” (Exodus 20:16). It was felt that this was a sufficient safeguard.



SEPARATION OF WITNESSES – It was required that the witnesses give their testimony separately and always in the presence of the accused.

