

## Elder Vernon Johnson

### Numbers

#### David's Army of Six Hundred

When David was forced to flee from the presence of King Saul, there came out to David **six hundred men** to serve under him and to fight for him against the enemies of Israel:

1. 1 Sam. 23:13 "Then David and his men, which were about **six hundred**, arose and departed out of Keilah, and went whithersoever they could go. And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Keilah; and he forbore to go forth."
2. 1 Sam. 27:2 "And David arose, and he passed over with the **six hundred men** that were with him unto Achish, the son of Maoch, king of Gath."
3. 1 Sam. 30:9 "So David went, he and the **six hundred men** that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed."
4. 2 Sam. 15:18 "And all his servants passed on beside him; and all the Cherethites, and all the Pelethites, and all the Gittites, **six hundred men** which came after him from Gath, passed on before the king."

As an army, these men were faithful to David and proved themselves to be worthy soldiers both before David became King over Israel and after David became King over Israel. They also had to endure hardness as they both were sought to be destroyed by King Saul while at the same time fighting the enemies of Israel. Later, they became leaders in the army of Israel under David. In later life, they made up the special forces and honor guard of King David as the Cherethites, the Pelethites, and the Gittites. They increased in responsibility the more that they served King David and were faithful to him. All of this is an example for us today as the disciples of our King Jesus Christ.

**The six hundred** under David came out to David and enlisted in his army to fight the enemies of Israel and to assist David whenever he desired and wherever he appointed them. Likewise, we are to press into the Kingdom of God and to be the servants of God and to fight the good fight of faith: 1 Tim 6:12 "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

Furthermore, the **six hundred** under David endured hardness in their circumstances in which they found themselves. Likewise, we are to endure hardness as the disciples of the Lord and as a part of his army here on earth: 2 Tim 2:3 "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

As the **six hundred** proved themselves faithful, David increased their responsibility in the army of Israel. Likewise, when we prove ourselves faithful, the Lord increases our responsibility in his army: Matt. 25:14 "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. 16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. 20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. 21 His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. 23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Both the servant who had been given five talents and the one who was given two talents dealt faithfully in their service to their master. Their reward was that they had the commendation of their master, they entered into the joy of their master, and they received additional responsibility from their master. Such is it today for us in the Lord's church kingdom here on earth.

We should reckon ourselves to be a part of the army of King Jesus and fight the enemies that our master has taught us to fight: Eph. 6:11 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

When we have done the above, we will be good soldiers of Jesus Christ and will be able to say as Paul said in his later days: 2 Tim. 4:6 "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."