

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Ten

Natural Creation

There is a scriptural association between the biblical use of the number ten and the subject of law or commandment. This association is first manifest in the first chapter of Genesis. In ten verses, we have the statement, "And God said," used in connection with the commandments of God in creation:

1. Gen 1:3 "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.
2. Gen 1:6 "And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters."
3. Gen 1:9 "And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so."
4. Gen 1:11 "And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so."
5. Gen 1:14 "And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:"
6. Gen 1:20 "And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven."
7. Gen 1:24 "And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so."
8. Gen 1:26 "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."
9. Gen 1:28 "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."

10. Gen 1:29 "And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat."

Not only do we notice the power and authority of God in the above verses of scripture, but we also notice the means by which that power and authority was manifest. God simply spoke and it was done. This shows us that God simply by speaking with his voice created the entire physical universe in which we live and all things contained therein. The elements came into existence through the commandment of God and then moved at his commandment in the way that he commanded. The only creatures that disobey his commandments are men and angels.

Next, we see the authority of men flowing from the authority of God: "God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." The only lawful authority that men have is the authority God delegated to him. Any other use of authority is unlawful.