

Elder Vernon Johson

Numbers

Connection of Thirty with Redemption

There was a prophecy in the book of Zecharias that was fulfilled in the New Testament that ties together in the scriptures the connection between the number thirty and the subject of redemption. The scriptures are as follows:

1. Zec 11:12, 13 "And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prized at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD."

2. Mat 26:15 "And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver."

3. Mat 27:3 "Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,"

4. Mat 27:9 "Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value;"

It was prophesied by Jeremiah and written in Zachariah that Jesus would be sold for thirty pieces of silver. We see this fulfilled when the chief priests and elders covenanted with Judas to deliver Jesus unto them for thirty pieces of silver. Silver, like the number thirty is also associated with the subject of redemption. That Jesus was sold to be judged in the court of men for thirty pieces of silver and consequently to be crucified raises a question.

Why was the price thirty pieces of silver? The answer is found in the value of a servant. In the book of Leviticus a value was placed upon servants: Lev. 27:1 "And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When a man shall make a singular vow, the persons shall be for the LORD by

thy estimation. 3 And thy estimation shall be of the male from twenty years old even unto sixty years old, even thy estimation shall be fifty shekels of silver, after the shekel of the sanctuary. 4 And if it be a female, then thy estimation shall be thirty shekels. 5 And if it be from five years old even unto twenty years old, then thy estimation shall be of the male twenty shekels, and for the female ten shekels. 6 And if it be from a month old even unto five years old, then thy estimation shall be of the male five shekels of silver, and for the female thy estimation shall be three shekels of silver. 7 And if it be from sixty years old and above; if it be a male, then thy estimation shall be fifteen shekels, and for the female ten shekels."

Notice that the price of the service of a male from twenty years old to sixty years old was fifty pieces of silver. Since Jesus was about thirty-three years of age, this would seem to suggest that his value was fifty pieces of silver, yet he was sold for thirty pieces of silver. Does this mean that Judas just made a bad deal? No, it means that Jesus was not valued for himself. Zechariah wrote "a goodly price that I was prised at of them." The price for Jesus was a goodly price, but it was not a value for him, but for his bride. The value of the female is set forth above as follows: "And if it be a female, then thy estimation shall be thirty shekels." Jesus came not to redeem himself, but to redeem his people from their sins. His people are his bride and he was sold for the price of his bride.

We also notice that the age at which the Levites could enter into their service was thirty years of age:

1. Num 4:2, 3 "Take the sum of the sons of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, after their families, by the house of their fathers, From thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old, all that enter into the host, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation."

2. Num 4:22, 23 "Take also the sum of the sons of Gershon, throughout the houses of their fathers, by their families; From thirty years old and upward until fifty years old shalt thou number them; all that enter in to perform the service, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation."

3. Num 4:29, 30 "As for the sons of Merari, thou shalt number them after their families, by the house of their fathers; From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old shalt thou number them, every one that entereth into the service, to do the work of the tabernacle of the congregation."

Since, Aaron and his sons were of the tribe of Levi, they could not begin their work in the tabernacle until they were thirty years of age. While Jesus was not a high priest after the order of Aaron, yet as our High Priest the pattern holds as he came to

be baptized of John at 30 years of age and to enter into his High Priestly ministry of redeeming his people at that age.

Furthermore, Joseph who is perhaps the strongest type of Jesus in the Old Testament came to stand before Pharaoh at thirty years of age: Gen 41:46 "And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt." The end result of Joseph's work was to deliver his family from famine and destruction during the seven years of drought that came on all the earth. Jesus work was a higher work as he came to deliver his people from their sins through his blood atonement: Matt. 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."