

Elder Vernon Johson

Numbers

The Ark, the Number 30, and a Picture of Christ

We are told in 1 Peter chapter three that the ark and baptism are both figures of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ: 20 "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

Armed with the knowledge that the ark is a figure of Christ we examine the word picture given to us of the ark so as to see how it represents Christ. We are given the dimensions and material out of which the ark was built in Genesis chapter six: 13 "And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. 15 And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. 16 A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it."

First, the ark was made of gopher wood. This was a unique material and this is the only time that it is mentioned in the scriptures. It was one of a kind. Certainly, this is true of Jesus Christ as well. There is none other like him. He is the God-man. He was and is without sin and perfect in every detail.

Second, there were rooms in the ark for accommodation and feeding of the inhabitants that were to be in the ark. The animals and people that were to be in the ark were chosen beforehand and ultimately placed by God in the ark. This is parallel to God's people that were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world: Eph. 1:4 "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:" Notice in Ephesians

chapters 1-3 how many times there were blessings to God's elect because they are "in Christ."

Third, the ark had lower, second, and third stories. It was just one ark, yet there were three parts to it. This sounds similar to the Godhead mentioned in 1 John 5:7 "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." We also read of Christ in Col. 2:9 "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

Fourth, the ark was pitched within and without with pitch. Pitch is made from the sap or blood of a fallen tree which is burned to a certain consistency. This gives us a picture of the atoning blood of Christ as he died for our sins and secured our eternal salvation for us.

Fifth, the length of the ark was to be three hundred cubits. In future essays, we will examine the relationship between the number three hundred and the subject of faith. Suffice it to say, the faith of Christ to fulfill the covenant of redemption is essential in our eternal salvation. Christ is faithful to execute the covenant of redemption and to call us into spiritual life, to justify us by his shed blood, and to glorify us in the resurrection by his mighty power.

Sixth, the breadth of the ark was fifty cubits. As we have already examined the number eight and the number fifty are associated with new beginnings in the scriptures. Christ is the new beginning of the elect family of God. He gave us a new beginning when he caused us to be born of the Spirit of God. He gave us a new beginning, judicially, when he died on the cross to redeem us from our sins. He will also give us a new beginning in the resurrection.

Seventh, the height of the ark was thirty cubits. As we have shown, the number thirty is associated with the redemptive work of Christ. It is Christ who has redeemed us and not we ourselves. This was not a shared work. It was all of Christ and no work was performed by the elect for them to be redeemed: Heb. 1:3 "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had **by himself purged our sins**, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"

Eighth, there was only one source of light in the ark. There was a window in the top of the ark and it was finished one cubit above. The fact that the window was one cubit indicates the unity of the Godhead. The light to those inside the ark was the light of God of which Christ is that light: John 1:4 "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 The same came for

a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

Ninth, the door of the ark was in the side. This points out to us that our judicial standing and subsequently our entrance in Christ was through his pierced side out of which came blood and water. If we were not redeemed by the blood of Christ, then we would have no standing in Christ.

Surely, much more could be said about the ark being a type of Christ, but this will suffice for our current study.