

## **Elder Vernon Johnson**

### **Numbers**

#### **Three and One Half**

##### **Elijah Prays for Drought**

Luke 4:25 "But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;"

James 5:17 "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

1 Kings 17:1 "And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word."

Ahab was a very wicked king over Israel and he caused Israel to sin above all that were before him. Because of his wickedness and the sins and rebellion of the children of Israel, God brought the drought upon Israel for three years and six months. At the end of this period, Elijah prayed again and God sent a great rain upon the land. Now all of this actually happened in the land of Israel during the days of Ahab the King and Elijah the Tishbite. However, the use of the period "three years and six months" indicates that these happenings were a type of a covenant. The number three and a half is associated in several places with the subject of a covenant or covenant age.

The covenant these events are a type of is the law covenant that God made with the children of Israel on Mt. Sinai. The law brought sin unto remembrance, but it did not do away with sin:

1. Rom. 3:19 "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."
2. Heb. 7:19 "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God."
3. Gal. 2:16 "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified

by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."

4. Gal 3:10 "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them."

5. Heb. 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."

It is plain to see that throughout the age of the law covenant there was no spiritual food or water for the children of God under the covenant of the law. There was only famine. Yet at the end of the law covenant, just as at the end of the three and a half years of drought during Elijah's day, there was a great rain that brought forth much fruit. Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law to a jot and a tittle and to bring in everlasting righteousness to the elect family of God:

1. Mat. 5:17 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

2. Gal. 3:13 "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:"

3. Rom. 10:4 "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."

4. Rom. 3:21 "But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"

5. 2 Cor. 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

We conclude that that Jesus Christ fulfilling the law to a jot and a tittle and bringing in everlasting righteousness to the elect family of God is the anti-type of the rain ending the drought and the famine in Elijah's day.