

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

One Man among a Thousand

Eccl. 7:27 "Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account: 28 Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found. 29 Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions."

Solomon by the inspiration of God was blessed to be able to survey mankind for a righteous individual. He, by inspiration, took count of all of mankind. Among women, he found none that was righteous. Among men, he found one of a thousand that was righteous. The use of the term thousand is not to be taken literally, but only to show that of the indefinite multitude there is only one.

When God created man from the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, Adam was upright. There was no sin in him. He was innocent or righteous before God. He had fellowship with God. He communed with God. He rejoiced in his interaction with God. However, God gave unto Adam a law, saying, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and of evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die." In the process of time, the serpent beguiled Eve, who in turn, gave unto Adam and he ate of the tree of knowledge of good and of evil.

Adam immediately died in trespasses and sins. He became unrighteous before God. Further, all of his posterity died in trespasses and sins with him. Thus, we read of all of mankind in Romans chapter three: "There is none righteous, no not one."

God, in his infinite wisdom and knowledge knew that Adam would sin and that all of his posterity would die in him. God made provision to redeem a very great number of Adam's descendants through the covenant of redemption that he made with himself before the foundation of the world. This covenant of redemption we find worded for us in Rom. 8:29, 30: "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

In order for the elect of God to be redeemed from their sins, it was necessary that a righteous man die in their place. This righteous man was Jesus Christ. He was born of a virgin: he was born without sin. He committed no sins during his life on earth. He

fulfilled the law and the prophets to a jot and a tittle. He is the one that Solomon, by the inspiration of the Spirit of God, identified as the one that he found who was upright. Christ died to redeem us from our sins. Because of his death, we read in 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."