

## Elder Vernon Johnson

### Numbers

#### Noah's Ark – Three Hundred Cubits Long

The ark that God instructed Noah to build was a figure of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This we are told in 1 Pet. 3:18 "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; 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."

In the above passage, the ark is said to be a like figure with water baptism of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Armed with this knowledge, we can look at the ark knowing that it is a figure of Christ. A description of the ark is given to us in Gen. 6:13-16 "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. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. 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. 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."

Since the ark is a figure of Christ, the dimensions that God gives us of the ark testify to us of the nature and qualities of Christ. **The length of the ark is three hundred cubits. Three hundred** is associated in the scriptures with the subject of **faith**. In some ways it may seem difficult for us to think of Christ as having faith. Since Christ is the Son of God and created all things and since he knows all things even the end from the beginning, then how could Christ have faith? The scriptures plainly tell us that he did have faith:

1. Rom. 3:22 "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:"

2. 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."

3. Gal. 3:22 "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe."

4. Phil. 3:9 "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:"

5. Gal. 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Very plainly, the above scriptures tell us of the faith of Jesus Christ. Yet it is not a faith based on a lack of knowledge, but it is the faithfulness of the Lord to the covenant that he made with the Father before the foundation of the world. Jesus is the executor of the covenant of redemption.

The covenant of redemption is stated 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." That Jesus is the executor of this covenant is made known to us in Is. 46:9-11 "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it." Jesus is the man who executeth the counsel of God from a far country. He came down from heaven to do the Father's will.

Jesus calls us to spiritual life. Jesus justified us by his blood. Jesus will come again in the morning of the resurrection to raise us from the grave. The faith of Jesus is his faithfulness to execute the covenant he made with the Father before the foundation of the world.