

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

The Shields of Solomon

King Solomon and the children of Israel were blessed of God to build the temple and to build the King's house. David had admonished Solomon to build the houses according to the pattern that God had given him: 1 Chr. 28:11 "Then David gave to Solomon his son the pattern of the porch, and of the houses thereof, and of the treasuries thereof, and of the upper chambers thereof, and of the inner parlours thereof, and of the place of the mercy seat, 12 And the pattern of all that he had by the spirit, of the courts of the house of the LORD, and of all the chambers round about, of the treasuries of the house of God, and of the treasuries of the dedicated things:" Therefore, of all that Solomon and the children of Israel built in connection with the temple and the king's house was according to God's pattern.

Among the items that Solomon had for the King's house were the king's shields: 2 Chr. 9:15 "And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold: six hundred shekels of beaten gold went to one target. 16 And **three hundred shields** made he of beaten gold: **three hundred shekels of gold** went to one shield. And the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

Not only were there **three hundred** shields made, but they were each made of **three hundred shekels of gold**. Since the number **three hundred** is associated with the **subject of faith**, we see that faith is both a shield for the child of God and is also something very precious to the child of God.

Faith is a shield for the child of God. We are told in Ephesians chapter 5 to put on the whole armor of God. A part of the armor we are to put on is described in verse 16 "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." We are told to put this one on above all. How do we put on the shield of faith? The Lord illustrated that for us in Matthew chapter 4 when he was tempted of the devil after fasting for forty days and forty nights.

Matt. 4:3 "And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. 4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." While it is true that God cannot be tempted with sin, yet he showed us how to use the shield of faith. When Satan appealed to the hunger that would have resulted from fasting for forty days and forty nights, the Lord responded

by saying, "It is written..." In other words, the Lord used that which is written as a shield against the wiles of the devil. Three times in this chapter, the Lord used "It is written" as a shield against the wiles of the devil.

Likewise, by faith we are to take what is written to shield us against the enticements of Satan to sin. David said in Ps. 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." To hide God's word in our heart we should read it, study it, and meditate upon it, and ask God for wisdom to apply it. When we hide God's word in our heart, then when we are tempted to sin, we can react by faith, trusting in the word of God.

Faith is also very precious as we read in 1 Peter 1:6, 7 "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" In the midst of tribulations and trials our faith is put to the test. When we react to those tribulations and trials by trusting in God and his word, our faith is then found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ. We are made to rejoice in his timely deliverances and in seeing the end of our faith.