

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Three and One Half

Prophecy of the Covenant Work of Christ

Dan. 12:6 "And one said to the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? 7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and sware by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished."

The only man that is righteous in himself is Jesus Christ, therefore, the man clothed in linen must be Jesus Christ. Since, the man clothed in linen is Jesus Christ, and he sware by him that liveth for ever, then the man that liveth for ever must be God the Father.

There were several things that were prophesied in the twelfth chapter of Daniel. These things come under the heading of the covenant work of Jesus Christ. Three and a half in the scriptures is associated with a covenant. While we may make covenants with one another and often those covenants are flawed, yet the God of glory has made a covenant with himself that we refer to as the covenant of redemption. The covenant of redemption is set forth 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."

Christ came into this world as the executor of the covenant of redemption. There are both an Old Testament passage of scripture and a New Testament passage of scripture that tell us plainly that Christ is the executor of God's covenant:

1. Is. 46:9 "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 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: 11 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."

2. John 6:37 "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to

me I will in no wise cast out. 38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."

Christ is the ravenous bird from the east, the man that executes the counsel of God from the far country of heaven. As we also read in John, he is the one who came to execute the will (covenant) of the Father. The use of the figurative "time, times, and a half" tells us that the accomplishment of the prophesied things in Daniel chapter 12 were according to the covenant work of Jesus Christ. In the covenant work of Christ as set forth for us in Rom. Chapter 8, verses 29 and 30, Christ came to deliver us from the bondage of sin by calling us to spiritual life. He also came to deliver us from the condemnation of sin by justifying us with his shed blood on the cross. Further, he came to deliver us from the corruption of sin by the resurrection in the last day that will render us glorified before God. This is all the covenant work of God that Christ came to execute and of which we are informed in figurative language in Daniel chapter 12.