

# **Elder Vernon Johnson**

## **Numbers**

### **Twelve and Seventy**

#### **Twelve Stones on the Breastplate of Judgment**

Ex. 28:15 "And thou shalt make the breastplate of judgment with cunning work; after the work of the ephod thou shalt make it; of gold, of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, and of fine twined linen, shalt thou make it. 16 Foursquare it shall be being doubled; a span shall be the length thereof, and a span shall be the breadth thereof. 17 And thou shalt set in it settings of stones, even four rows of stones: the first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this shall be the first row. 18 And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond. 19 And the third row a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst. 20 And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be set in gold in their enclosings. 21 And the stones shall be with the names of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet; every one with his name shall they be according to the twelve tribes."

As the above shows, the breastplate of judgment worn by the High Priest had twelve stones engraved with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. While the above passage is full of a lot of symbolism, we will limit our discussion to the twelve stones and the work of the High Priest in connection with the twelve stones. The work of the High Priest in connection with the twelve stones is set forth in the following passage of scripture: Ex. 28 29 "And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the LORD continually. 30 And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually."

As can be seen, the High Priest was to bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually. He was to bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart when he went into the holy place, for a memorial before the LORD continually. The totality of the children of Israel was represented by the names of the twelve tribes in the twelve stones that were in the breastplate of judgment. Thus, the twelve represented the whole.

The Levitical priesthood after the order of Aaron was a type of the High Priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ who was after the order of Melchisedec. When the Lord Jesus Christ went before God in judgment, he had the totality of the elect family of God upon his heart when he went into the Holy Place of Heaven. He literally bore the judgment of the elect children of God upon his heart continually. He bore their judgment upon his heart as the angel declared to Joseph, "fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." He bore their judgment upon his heart when he said, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 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."

He was bearing their judgment upon his heart when he was tempted by the devil in the wilderness. He was bearing their judgment upon his heart when he was in a great agony in the garden. He was bearing their judgment upon his heart when he was mockingly tried by the Sanhedrin counsel, by King Herod and his minions, by Pilate the governor, and by the multitude who mocked him. He bore their judgment upon his heart when they crucified him. Furthermore, he bore their judgment upon his heart when for three hours there was darkness over all the earth and he cried out, "My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me." He bore their judgment upon his heart when he gave up the ghost. He bore their judgment upon his heart when he, after three days, arose a victor over death, hell, and the grave. He bore their judgment upon his heart as he ascended into heaven and appeared before the Father with his own blood as an offering that was accepted on behalf of the elect children of God.

He bears their judgment upon his heart as he stands by the right hand of the throne of the majesty on high to make intercession for his elect children. He will bear their judgment upon his heart in the morning of the resurrection as the elect arise and their dead bodies are changed and fashioned like the uncorruptible body of Christ.

Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift.