

# **Elder Vernon Johnson**

## **Numbers**

### **Twelve and Seventy**

#### **Twelve Stones, Twelve Oxen, Twelve Foundations**

The number twelve is used in the scriptures as a representative number and it is also used to signify the Kingdom of heaven. In this regard, the above symbols of stones, oxen, and foundations point us to the government and foundation of the Kingdom of heaven:

1. Josh 4:3 "And command ye them, saying, Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night."

2. Josh 4:8 "And the children of Israel did so as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, as the LORD spake unto Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there."

3. Josh 4:9 "And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day."

4. Josh 4:20 "And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal. 21 And he spake unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones? 22 Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. 23 For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over: 24 That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God for ever."

5. 1 Kings 7:23 "And he made a molten sea, ten cubits from the one brim to the other: it was round all about, and his height was five cubits: and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about. 24 And under the brim of it round about

there were knops compassing it, ten in a cubit, compassing the sea round about: the knops were cast in two rows, when it was cast. 25 It stood upon twelve oxen, three looking toward the north, and three looking toward the west, and three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east: and the sea was set above upon them, and all their hinder parts were inward."

6. Rev 21:14 "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."

The twelve stones were stones taken from the river Jordan when the children of Israel passed over. They were stones designed to call attention to the mighty works of God when the children would ask in days to come "what meanest this?"

The twelve oxen pointed to the twelve apostles who served as the foundation of the gospel church. Likewise, the gospel church (city in Rev. 21:14) had twelve foundations in which the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb were written.

The Lord said, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." The church is built upon the rock of revealed truth. The Lord chose twelve apostles by which he would reveal his precious truths and lay the foundation for the church: Eph. 2:19 "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the **foundation of the apostles and prophets**, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."

The Lord told the twelve in Matthew 19, "Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." As we have previously shown, the twelve tribes are symbolic of the entire elect family of God. We are judged by the works of the twelve apostles which are the New Testament scriptures. Through the New Testament scriptures, our works and actions are judged.

The scriptures also serve as the foundation on which we build our worship and service to God and which govern us in the New Testament church. Thus, the actions of the twelve affect the whole of the church.

