

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

The four hundred discontented men who came to David

1 Sam. 22:2 "And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men."

Four hundred is very closely associated with the subject of bondage in the scriptures. Because of the jealousy of King Saul, David had to flee from the presence of Saul to escape death. Further, King Saul sought after David that he might put him to death. David was innocent of any guilt against King Saul, yet Saul sought his life. David had been appointed by God to be the next king over Israel. David knew this, but he also knew that God would bring it to pass, and that he, David, need not try to establish himself as king.

In any kingdom or nation there will be people who are discontented, or distressed, or in debt. However, these who came to David sought David to be their captain and not Saul. They recognized that David was a far better captain than Saul was. They pledged their allegiance to David and were his servants. David and these men did not rebel against Saul, but continued to fight against the enemies of Israel, even though they were outcasts in their own country and, for a while, exiled into the land of the Philistines.

We all are the servants of some kingdom or nation or group. As the four hundred men who sought after David, those who seek the kingdom of God are choosing to put the service to the Kingdom of God priority over the service to the kingdom or nation or group that they are citizens of naturally. Isaiah recognized this in his own experiences: Is. 6:1 "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple." Isaiah knew that Uzziah had been king over Israel for a long time, but now he recognized a greater kingdom when he saw the Lord sitting upon a throne. The Lord is king of this kingdom. This kingdom is higher than the kingdoms of this world. This kingdom is the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven. There is no reason for any discontent, distress, or debt in the Kingdom of Heaven.

The four hundred had sought after David as their captain. We should seek after King Jesus as our captain and King. He rules and reigns over us in the Kingdom of God. He

is a just King and does good to his servants. We should recognize ourselves as being bondservants to this greater King in this greater Kingdom.