

## Elder Vernon Johnson

### Numbers

#### The four hundred young virgins of Jabeshgilead

Judg. 21:12 "And they found among the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead **four hundred young virgins**, that had known no man by lying with any male: and they brought them unto the camp to Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan."

**Four hundred** is closely associated with the subject of **bondage** in the scriptures.

Because of gross wickedness that had been found among the tribe of Dan, the remainder of the children of Israel had war against the tribe of Benjamin. As six hundred men of the children of Benjamin had escaped the destruction of the war, yet they had no wives spared. The children of Israel of the other tribes had sworn that they would not give wives to any of Benjamin. Now it would appear that one tribe would disappear from the twelve tribes of Israel and the children of Israel wept because of the situation.

The children of Israel had made an oath that all would come up to the war: Judg. 21:5 "And the children of Israel said, Who is there among all the tribes of Israel that came not up with the congregation unto the LORD? For they had made a great oath concerning him that came not up to the LORD to Mizpeh, saying, He shall surely be put to death." It turned out that none of the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead had come up to the war and, therefore, came under the curse of the oath.

All of the inhabitants of Jabeshgilead were under the curse of the oath, yet the four hundred virgins were spared from destruction by the favor of the tribes of Israel. These **four hundred** were **bound** to be married to **four hundred men** that remained of the tribe of Benjamin. These **four hundred virgins** were under the **bond of one oath**, yet spared from destruction and placed under the **bond of another oath**.

This is similar to the elect family of God. All the descendents of Adam were under the curse of the law of sin and death. We were all worthy of being eternally punished in the lake of fire. We were under the curse of one covenant. Yet, through the grace and mercy of God, we were delivered from the curse of the covenant of the law of sin and death by the provisions of another covenant: the covenant of redemption. This principle is stated for us in Rom. 8:2: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Though we

have been delivered from the bonds of one covenant, we are now under the bonds of another covenant. Under the covenant of redemption, we have become the bondservants of Jesus Christ: 1 Cor. 6:19 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."