

# Elder Vernon Johson

## Numbers

### Thirty-Redemption-House of God

We have previously shown the association in the scriptures between the number **thirty** and the subject of **redemption**. We will now examine how this association helps us to understand some things about the "house of God."

There are three Old Testament structures that are referred to as being the Lord's house or the house of God. These three structures are the tabernacle in the wilderness, the temple that Solomon and the children of Israel built, and the house in Ezekiel's vision. These three structures point us to the true "house of God" that is revealed to us in the New Testament: 1 Tim. 3:15 "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." Thus, the true house of God is the church of the living God. The three Old Testament structures are each a type of the church of the living God. The church of the living God is composed of the Lord's manifest people who worship him in Spirit and in truth.

There is a multitude of elements to these three Old Testament structures and far too much for this writing; I will limit my discussion to the use of the number **thirty** in connection with these three structures.

The tabernacle is described to us in the book of Exodus. There were four coverings at the top of the tabernacle, one of which consisted of eleven curtains coupled made up of goat's hair: Ex. 26:7 "And thou shalt make curtains of goats' hair to be a covering upon the tabernacle: eleven curtains shalt thou make. 8 The length of one curtain shall be **thirty cubits**, and the breadth of one curtain four cubits: and the eleven curtains shall be all of one measure." This use of goat's hair is linked to the scapegoat offering in the book of Leviticus: Lev. 16:9 "And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which the LORD'S lot fell, and offer him for a sin offering. 10 But the goat, on which the lot fell to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness."

The scapegoat was let go into the wilderness carrying our sins away from us forever. The use of the two goats was to show us the work of atonement by the Lord

Jesus Christ. Jesus is typified by the goat that was the sin offering and he is typified by the scapegoat. Through the offering of Jesus Christ for our sins, we are **redeemed** and the extent of this **redemption** is typified by the sending of the scapegoat into the wilderness forever removing our sins. Jesus did this work in the redemption of his people from their sins: Heb 10:12 "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. 14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

Through this, we see the significance of the curtains of goat's hair being **thirty cubits** long as signifying the **redemption** of God's people by the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. They were also four cubits broad, which speaks to us of the work of the Holy Spirit in applying the atoning blood unto them in the work of regeneration.

The second structure typifying the house of God is the temple. The following are verses describing some of the details of the temple:

1. 1 Kings 6:1 "And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD. 2 And the house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the **height thereof thirty cubits.**"

2. 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."

The height of the house was **thirty cubits**. Since **thirty** is associated with **redemption** we see that those who make up the church of the living God have been **redeemed by the blood of Jesus**.

The molten sea was **thirty cubits** in circumference. The molten sea was placed on the back of twelve oxen. These twelve oxen are typical of the twelve apostles and ultimately of the gospel ministry in general carrying the gospel of the grace of Christ. This gospel is carried to the **redeemed** people of God to comfort them and let them know that Christ has redeemed them by his blood.

The third Old Testament structure is the house of Ezekiel's vision. Some of the details of this house are given to us in Ez. 40:17: "Then brought he me into the outward court, and, lo, there were chambers, and a pavement made for the court round about: **thirty chambers** were upon the pavement." A chamber is a dwelling

place. This seems to parallel what we read in John 14:2 "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

The fact that Ezekiel tells us that there were **thirty** chambers suggests to us that the occupants of these chambers were to be the **redeemed** family of God.

God has shown us through the description of these three Old Testament structures that those who make up the house of God consist of those who have been **redeemed** by the blood of Jesus.