

Elder Vernon Johnson

Numbers

Joseph's Gift to Benjamin

Gen. 45:21 "And the children of Israel did so: and Joseph gave them wagons, according to the commandment of Pharaoh, and gave them provision for the way. 22 To all of them he gave each man changes of raiment; but to Benjamin he gave **three hundred pieces of silver**, and five changes of raiment."

Joseph was the next to the youngest child of Jacob. He was the oldest son of Rachel. Jacob had ten sons and they envied Joseph, as he was his father's favorite. Because of their envy, they sold Joseph into Egyptian bondage. Joseph is a very strong type of Christ. There are over one hundred parallels in the life of Joseph with the life of Jesus Christ.

While in Egyptian bondage, God blessed Joseph and eventually he became second only to Pharaoh in the Egyptian kingdom. As his name was changed, his brethren knew not that it was Joseph who was second only to Pharaoh. There came a famine in the land and Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy food that the descendants of Jacob die not. The brethren of Joseph knew not that it was Joseph who was selling them food, but Joseph knew whom they were.

In the process of time, Joseph made himself known to his brethren and at first, they were very afraid, but Joseph comforted them. It was at this time that Joseph gave the gifts unto his brethren. To each of the ten older brothers he gave a change of raiment, but to the younger brother, Benjamin, Joseph gave **five changes of raiment and three hundred pieces of silver**.

Since Joseph is a type of Christ, we see that the gifts given to the eleven brothers of Joseph parallel the gifts that Christ has given to his brethren (the elect family of God). To each of the brethren there is given a change of raiment. All of the elect were clothed in unrighteousness because of the sin of Adam. Through the atoning blood of Christ, all of the elect are now clothed in the righteousness of Christ: 2 Cor. 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Thus, all of the elect have a change of raiment from the unrighteousness of their fleshly nature to being clothed with the imputed righteousness of Christ. As a result, they will all be housed in heaven's glory world.

Benjamin, however, received more than the other brethren. He received **five changes of raiment and three hundred pieces of silver**. Likewise, the disciples of Christ in his true church receive more than other children of God. They receive an understanding of the covenant of redemption. The covenant of redemption is a five part covenant. In this covenant, the disciples of Christ learn that they have "five changes of raiment." The covenant of redemption is set forth for us in Rom. 8:29, 30: "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." God foreknew, predestinated, called, justified, and glorified the elect in covenant before the foundation of the world. This knowledge and understanding of the covenant of redemption sets the true church of Christ apart from all other belief systems. Those adherents in the primitive church, therefore, have these five changes of raiment: foreknew, predestinated, called, justified, glorified in their belief system.

Furthermore, to the true church there is delivered "the faith that was once delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3). The faith that was once delivered to the saints is the true system of doctrine, practice, and government of the true New Testament church. In this faith, there is only one gospel: Gal. 1:6 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." The true gospel is the "gospel of the grace of Christ." Any other gospel is a perverted gospel and Paul said let such as preach a perverted gospel be accursed. There are many so-called gospels in the world today, but only one true gospel.

This faith that was once delivered to the saints is clearly spelled out in the New Testament. Since the scriptures are a thorough furnisher unto all good works (2 Tim. 3:16, 17), the doctrine, practice, and government of the New Testament church will be thoroughly spelled out for us in the New Testament. If a group of people have unscriptural practices, or have doctrines not taught in the bible, or have a government that is anti-scriptural then it is because it is not the true church. No where in the scriptures do you find a Sunday school, schools of Theology, salaried ministry, instrumental music in the New Testament church, hierarchal government, women preachers or deacons, church choirs, tithing in the New Testament church, or church auxiliaries.

The three hundred pieces of silver speaks to us of the preciousness of the "faith that was once delivered to the saints. We should desire to keep the "faith that was once delivered to the saints" and not change it in any way.