

## “80”

As for the verses in question, let's talk briefly about Lk. 16:7 first. There are two ways to interpret the "80." One way is to break it down to 2 X 40. Since the parable seems to teach that the second debtor is a type of all those under the Old Covenant, that which he is to "write," that is his message, is that which is a TEST (40) for the Corporate Church (2). The other approach is more complex. The number 8 is the number of salvation, typified by the ceremonial action circumcision:

Genesis 17:12 And he that is EIGHT days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.

Genesis 21:4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being EIGHT days old, as God had commanded him.

Acts 7:8 And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the EIGHTH day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs.

Thus 8 also points to holiness, or cleansing:

2 Chronicles 29:17 Now they began on the first day of the first month to sanctify, and on the EIGHT day of the month came they to the porch of the LORD: so they sanctified the house of the LORD in EIGHT days; and in the sixteenth day of the first month they made an end.

Judges 3:30 teaches that the Land had "rest" 80 years, after Ehud the left-handed deliverer assassinates Eglon the king of Moab. The word for rest here clearly points to salvation, as taught in Jer. 30:10, 11a:

Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will SAVE thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in REST, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid. For I am with thee, saith the LORD, to SAVE thee....

It is of much import that the last righteous king of Judah Josiah began not only to reign when he was EIGHT, but also we read of the following:

2 Chronicles 34:1 Josiah was EIGHT years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years.

2 Chronicles 34:3 For in the EIGHTH year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to

purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.

Please remember that the two spiritual lines run also through the kings of the OT. Thus the counterpart to those such as Josiah ALSO begin the reign at EIGHT years of age:

2 Chronicles 36:9 Jehoiachin was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem: and he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD.

This is akin to the tremendous fact that BOTH the visible church as well as the eternal church have their "beginning" at the cross, the epitome of 8, or spiritual circumcision.

Going on, we should note that Moses was 80 years old when he and Aaron began to speak to Pharaoh (Ex. 7:7). Also, it was 480 years after the exodus that the temple began to be built (1 Kings 6:1). This indicates the work (6) of salvation (80) completed by the Lord, which precedes the temporal building of the body of believers.

Turning to the NT, the evidence is likewise. The name of the Lord Jesus, which is the power of salvation itself, is identified with His circumcision:

Luke 2:21 And when EIGHT days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

It was after EIGHT days that Jesus appeared again to His disciples, with the words, "Peace be unto you":

John 20:26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

It was at the EIGHTH year of his suffering from palsy that Aeneas was healed:

Acts 9:33 And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed EIGHT years, and was sick of the palsy.

But perhaps most significantly, the number 8 is the totality of those SAVED on the ark:

1 Peter 3:20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, EIGHT souls were saved by water.

2 Peter 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the EIGHTH person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

As we saw earlier, number 8 points BOTH to the birth of the corporate church as well the eternal church. This also applies to the individual. Circumcision, likewise, has both the physical as well as the spiritual aspects. The Jews, that is, those under the OC, fell into the trap of believing that their physical circumcision was a SEAL - that is, a guarantee of salvation. Notice that Paul also mentions his EIGHTH day circumcision, as a part of the long list of the FLESHLY riches of his past:

Philippians 3:5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

Thus, from this angle, the message of the second debtor is that which proclaims COMPLETENESS (10) of SALVATION for those who engage in FLESHLY WORKS (8) which are only shadows of the true.