

God Is Government

Isaiah 33:22

**“For the LORD is our judge, the
LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is
our KING; he will save us.”**

**TEACHINGS OF YESHUA HAMASHIACH
BIBLICAL AND WORLD HISTORY MASTERCLASS**

A Study of The BOOK of NUMBERS

Chapters 15 – 20 “The Journey to the Plains of Moab”

April 21, 2024

Journey to Kadesh Barnea: “What Might Have Been” – Continued on the Journey to the Plains of Moab

Emerson was right: “Of all the words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these, ‘It might have been’”

- Faltering, Fumbling, & Fussing through the wilderness
- Wasted years without much recorded.
 - ❖ Did not circumcise Joshua 5
 - ❖ Did not offer Amos 5:25
 - ❖ Worshipped idols Amos 5:26; Acts 7:42-43
 - ❖ We, too, are strangers and pilgrims in a wilderness... Are you at your Kadesh-Barnea? Will it be a Waterloo for you, too?

Numbers 15

Num 15:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 15:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land of your habitations, which I give unto you,

Num 15:3 And will make an offering by fire unto the LORD, a burnt offering, or a sacrifice in performing a vow, or in a freewill offering, or in your solemn feasts, to make a sweet savour unto the LORD, of the herd, or of the flock:

God's purpose is not destroyed, only delayed. Thirty-eight (38) years later, the following generation would do what they neglected to do.

Numbers 15

Num 15:4 Then shall he that offereth his offering unto the LORD bring a meat offering of a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of oil.

Num 15:5 And the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering shalt thou prepare with the burnt offering or sacrifice, for one lamb.

Num 15:6 Or for a ram, thou shalt prepare for a meat offering two tenth deals of flour mingled with the third part of an hin of oil. :

A ¼ hin of oil: speaks of Holy Spirit. A ¼ hin of wone: speaks of joy.

Numbers 15

Num 15:7 And for a drink offering thou shalt offer the third part of an hin of wine, for a sweet savour unto the LORD.

Num 15:8 And when thou preparest a bullock for a burnt offering, or for a sacrifice in performing a vow, or peace offerings unto the LORD:

When thou ... “Prophetic” tense: the perfected tense, as if it were already done.

Numbers 15

Num 15:9 Then shall he bring with a bullock a meat offering of three tenth deals of flour mingled with half an hin of oil.

Num 15:10 And thou shalt bring for a drink offering half an hin of wine, for an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.

Num 15:11 Thus shall it be done for one bullock, or for one ram, or for a lamb, or a kid.

Num 15:12 According to the number that ye shall prepare, so shall ye do to every one according to their number.

Num 15:13 All that are born of the country shall do these things after this manner, in offering an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.

Num 15:14 And if a stranger sojourn with you, or whosoever be among you in your generations, and will offer an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD; as ye do, so he shall do.

Numbers 15

Num 15:15 One ordinance shall be both for you of the congregation, and also for the stranger that sojourneth with you, an ordinance for ever in your generations: as ye are, so shall the stranger be before the LORD.

Num 15:16 One law and one manner shall be for you, and for the stranger that sojourneth with you.

Num 15:17 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 15:18 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land whither I bring you,

Num 15:19 Then it shall be, that, when ye eat of the bread of the land, ye shall offer up an heave offering unto the LORD.

Num 15:20 Ye shall offer up a cake of the first of your dough for an heave offering: as ye do the heave offering of the threshingfloor, so shall ye heave it.

Numbers 15

Num 15:21 Of the first of your dough ye shall give unto the LORD an heave offering in your generations.

Num 15:22 And if ye have erred, and not observed all these commandments, which the LORD hath spoken unto Moses,

Num 15:23 Even all that the LORD hath commanded you by the hand of Moses, from the day that the LORD commanded Moses, and henceforward among your generations;

Num 15:24 Then it shall be, if ought be committed by ignorance without the knowledge of the congregation, that all the congregation shall offer one young bullock for a burnt offering, for a sweet savour unto the LORD, with his meat offering, and his drink offering, according to the manner, and one kid of the goats for a sin offering.

Numbers 15

Sins of ignorance: Men are not lost because they have not heard the Gospel: they are lost because they are sinners (today men don't go to hell for sin – they go to hell for unforgiven sin). Jesus Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost, and all men are lost. That is their natural state. Lost mankind is not sitting down in grief today because they have not heard the Gospel. They are not anxious to hear it.

Remember we are reviewing the time (dispensation of the law) that are for Jews only. Our Gospel is 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.

1Co 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

1Co 15:2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

1Co 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

1Co 15:4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Numbers 15

Num 15:25 And the priest shall make an atonement for all the congregation of the children of Israel, and it shall be forgiven them; for it is ignorance: and they shall bring their offering, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD, and their sin offering before the LORD, for their ignorance:

Num 15:26 And it shall be forgiven all the congregation of the children of Israel, and the stranger that sojourneth among them; seeing all the people were in ignorance.

Num 15:27 And if any soul sin through ignorance, then he shall bring a she goat of the first year for a sin offering.

Num 15:28 And the priest shall make an atonement for the soul that sinneth ignorantly, when he sinneth by ignorance before the LORD, to make an atonement for him; and it shall be forgiven him.

Num 15:29 Ye shall have one law for him that sinneth through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourneth among them.

Numbers 15

Num 15:30 But the soul that doeth ought presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Num 15:31 Because he hath despised the word of the LORD, and hath broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.

Num 15:32 And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day.

Num 15:33 And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation.

Numbers 15

Some have attempted to identify this severe judgment with the Sabbath ideas of the Pharisees, against whose misinterpretations Christ spoke. The two situations are not the same. The pharisees added to Jewish religious law Sabbath regulations not contained in the Old Testament, and so provided loopholes for themselves. The Lord of the Sabbath teaches that the Sabbath law is designed for man's spiritual enjoyment and to satisfy the deepest needs. The Bible nowhere takes a light attitude toward deliberate transgression of any of God's laws.

Again Remember! The Book of Numbers is written as part of the Law of Moses to the Jews. For Laws in the current period of dispensation of Grace (Church) should be reviewed from the Epistles of Paul in the New Testament.

Numbers 15

Num 15:34 And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him.

Num 15:35 And the LORD said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp.

Num 15:36 And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the LORD commanded Moses.

The death penalty was the penalty for breaking any of the Ten Commandments. We need to see this to understand what it means that the Lord Jesus Christ died our death for us.

Numbers 15

Num 15:37 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 15:38 Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue:

Num 15:39 And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:

Num 15:40 That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.

Num 15:41 I am the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD your God.

Numbers 15

That border of blue, which is a heavenly color, was to remind them of the fact that they were God's people, and they were to have a heavenly walk down here on this earth. There are many believers today who need to have that "border of blue" to remind them that as God's children they are set apart and are to live for the Lord Jesus Christ. This was Israel's "string around the finger."

HEMS

- Hebrew: shawl; Greek: hem, border, fringe, bottom edge of skirt or train. In ancient Mesopotamia, "to cut off the hem" was to strip one of his personality, authority, etc,
 - ❖ A husband could divorce his wife by cutting off the hem of her robe.
 - ❖ A nobleman would authenticate his name on a clay tablet by pressing his hem on the clay.
- God's Covenant with Israel: Israel 6:1; Ezekiel 16:8; Exodus 39:25-26.
- David's removal of Saul's hem. 1 Samuel 24.
- Ruth's request of Boaz: Ruth 3.
- Lord's hem sought for healing: Matthew 14:36; Mark 6:56; Luke 8:44.
- Goal of the woman with issue of blood: Matthew 9:20-21; Mark 5:31.
- Fringes on Levitical garments: Numbers 15:38-39; Deuteronomy 23:12; Exodus 28:33-34.

Numbers 15

THE PREISTHOOD

Although we have no detailed account of the children of Israel during these wasted years in the wilderness, there are isolated incidents recorded. In Chapters 16 through 19, we have four incidents which all concern the priesthood.

- The Gainsaying of Korah Chapter 16
- Aaron's Rod and Budded Chapter 17
- Confirmation of the Priesthood Chapter 18
- The Offering of the Red Heifer Chapter 19

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:1 Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men:

Num 16:2 And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:

The “gainsaying (saying against) of Korah” is mentioned in Jude 11 as one of the marks of the false teachers in the last days (today we see a united rebellion against authority of Moses and the priesthood of Aaron – God’s way of salvation by blood – the church at Laodicea [the Apostate Church]). Korah was eventually a cousin of Moses (Exodus 6:21), which makes the rebellion even more serious.

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:3 And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

False accusation: Moses did not want the job! Korah, a Levite, and Dathan and Abiram, of the tribe of Reuben, led, and recruited 250 top leaders of Israel as collaborators. The tribal affiliations of the two main conspirators indicate that this rebellion was against both the religious and political leadership of Moses.

Jealousy is the root problem.... (“Only by pride cometh contention..” Proverbs 13:10). [Izhar, brother of Amram (Exodus 6:18), was the second son of Kohath, and for some reason unrecorded he had been supplanted by a descendent of the fourth son of Kohath, who was appointed prince or chief of the Kohathites (Numbers 3:30). Discontent with the preferment over him of a younger relative was probably the originating cause of this seditious movement on the part of Korah.]

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:4 And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:

Num 16:5 And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.

Conversely, they are taking too much upon themselves! This murmuring is actually against God. He backs up His appointees. (“Touch not mine anointed and do my prophets no harm.” Psalms 105:15; 1 Corinthians 15:22. Serious problems require serious responses: “Watch out!”

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:6 This do; Take you censers, Korah, and all his company;

Num 16:7 And put fire therein, and put incense in them before the LORD to morrow: and it shall be that the man whom the LORD doth choose, he shall be holy: ye take too much upon you, ye sons of Levi.

Num 16:8 And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi:

These malcontents had been incited by the artful representations of Korah (Judges 1:1), with whom the position of their camp on the south side afforded them easy access.

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:9 Seemeth it but a small thing unto you, that the God of Israel hath separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself to do the service of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to minister unto them?

Num 16:10 And he hath brought thee near to him, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also?

Num 16:11 For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the LORD: and what is Aaron, that ye murmur against him?

Num 16:12 And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said, We will not come up:

Num 16:13 Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us?

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:14 Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? we will not come up.

False Charge: THEY ARE WHERE THEIR CHOICES HAD BROUGHT THEM; IF THEY HAD FOLLOWED Moses' leadership at Kadesh Barnea, they would be in the land that flowed with milk and honey!

Moses represent a type today of the Christ and the manor by which we follow Him. We are in the church of Laodicea today and Christ is on the outside looking into each of us. In the majority of cases today we are doing nothing but rejecting God and doing things ourselves with no care what that does to our inheritance while on this earth.

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:15 And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them.

Num 16:16 And Moses said unto Korah, Be thou and all thy company before the LORD, thou, and they, and Aaron, to morrow:

Num 16:17 And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the LORD every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each of you his censer.

Num 16:18 And they took every man his censer, and put fire in them, and laid incense thereon, and stood in the door of the tabernacle of the congregation with Moses and Aaron.

Num 16:19 And Korah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation.

Num 16:20 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:21 Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.

Num 16:22 And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?

Num 16:23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 16:24 Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

Num 16:25 And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him.

Num 16:26 And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:27 So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.

In Numbers 26:11 we learn that Korah's family was not destroyed. This explains why we have psalms titled "For the sons of Korah" in our Bible (Psalms 84 – 88). Apparently, Korah's descendants were content to be humble ministers and not priests, for they wrote in Psalms 84:10, "I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of God than dwell in the tents of wickedness."

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:28 And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.

Num 16:29 If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.

Num 16:30 But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.

They were sowing division; God would divide them. Watch what is going on today with you, your family and your society.

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:

Num 16:32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.

Num 16:33 They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

Galatians 6:7 “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” God judges the very same way today in which the man sins. That was true of Jacob; it was true of David; it was true of Paul, the apostle; and it is true of you and me today.

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

2Ti 2:14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Eph 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:34 And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up also.

Num 16:35 And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.

Read 2 Peter 2:10-22 for God's estimate of those who "despise authority" and rebel against God's truth. At this point, the Hebrew Bible begins a new chapter. Jewish scribes considered the rest of Chapter 16 and all of 17 a unit, on the theme of Aaron's sole right as priest.

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:36 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 16:37 Speak unto Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, that he take up the censers out of the burning, and scatter thou the fire yonder; for they are hallowed.

Num 16:38 The censers of these sinners against their own souls, let them make them broad plates for a covering of the altar: for they offered them before the LORD, therefore they are hallowed: and they shall be a sign unto the children of Israel.

Num 16:39 And Eleazar the priest took the brasen censers, wherewith they that were burnt had offered; and they were made broad plates for a covering of the altar:

Num 16:40 To be a memorial unto the children of Israel, that no stranger, which is not of the seed of Aaron, come near to offer incense before the LORD; that he be not as Korah, and as his company: as the LORD said to him by the hand of Moses.

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

The incense censers would become holy again to the Lord by being hammered into sheets which would overlay the altar. In this way they would serve as a continual reminder (a sign – Jews always had to have signs and wonders to believe in God) of what had happened that day. The people must forget that only a descendant of Aaron could stand before the Lord in the holy office of priest.

Challenge God's Authority Structure and you will get smacked down with God's judgment. Think about that a moment. Where are you in God's authority structure and what are you doing to go against it.

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:41 But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD.

Num 16:42 And it came to pass, when the congregation was gathered against Moses and against Aaron, that they looked toward the tabernacle of the congregation: and, behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared.

Num 16:43 And Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of the congregation.

The sixth murmuring. The very next day the entire congregation rebelled again! They are blaming Moses and Aaron for murdering the rebels!

At what point do we realize when God judges and you keep doing the same thing that each judgment moving forward is worse and worse. God treats you and I as we would our children if they continue disobedience.

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:44 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 16:45 Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment. And they fell upon their faces.

Num 16:46 And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the LORD; the plague is begun.

Incense was symbolic of prayer (Exodus 30:8; Psalms 141:2; Luke 1:10; Revelation 5:8; 8:3-4). Had Moses been a bitter spirit, he would have allowed the plague to destroy the people. Instead, he commanded his brother Aaron to go into the midst of the plague with his censer to stop the judgment.

Numbers 16 – The Rebellion of Korah

Num 16:47 And Aaron took as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the congregation; and, behold, the plague was begun among the people: and he put on incense, and made an atonement for the people.

Num 16:48 And he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed.

Num 16:49 Now they that died in the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred, beside them that died about the matter of Korah.

Num 16:50 And Aaron returned unto Moses unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the plague was stayed.

Look who is standing between the dead and living; the one accused. The very One whom humanity crucified saves us.

Numbers 17 – The Budding of Aaron’s Rod

Num 17:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 17:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and take of every one of them a rod according to the house of their fathers, of all their princes according to the house of their fathers twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod.

Num 17:3 And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi: for one rod shall be for the head of the house of their fathers.

God is going to confirm the priesthood of Aaron and establish the fact that he is the high priest. He will establish this by a resurrection!

Numbers 17 – The Budding of Aaron’s Rod

Num 17:4 And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony, where I will meet with you.

Num 17:5 And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you.

The children of Israel were murmuring (COMPLIANING) against Aaron saying that he was not the only one who could represent them before God. It was a rebellion against him (politics in the camp).

Numbers 17 – The Budding of Aaron’s Rod

Num 17:6 And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods.

Num 17:7 And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness.

Num 17:8 And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds.

Num 17:9 And Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod.

Numbers 17 – The Budding of Aaron’s Rod

“This bud’s for you!” Aaron’s rod brought forth buds, and blossoms, and fruit! Life out of death. [According to Josephus, it was a stick of an almond tree, bearing fruit in three different stages at once.] The priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ rests upon the fact of His resurrection. Hebrews 7; If He were here on earth, He would not be a priest. He did not come from the priestly tribe of Levi. His resurrection made Him our priest.

Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Numbers 17 – The Budding of Aaron’s Rod

Heb 7:24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

Heb 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Heb 7:26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Heb 7:27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

Numbers 17 – The Budding of Aaron’s Rod

Num 17:10 And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not.

Num 17:11 And Moses did so: as the LORD commanded him, so did he.

This rod, a pot of manna, and the Ten Commandments were kept with the Ark of the Covenant. The author of Hebrews wrote that the ark also contained Aaron’s rod and a pot of manna (Hebrews 9:8). This is nowhere attested in the Old Testament (Exodus 16:33-34 and Numbers 17:10 state that the rod and manna were placed in front of the tabernacle, not in the ark).

Numbers 17 – The Budding of Aaron’s Rod

Num 17:12 And the children of Israel spake unto Moses, saying, Behold, we die, we perish, we all perish.

Num 17:13 Whosoever cometh any thing near unto the tabernacle of the LORD shall die: shall we be consumed with dying?

Numbers 18 – Confirmation of the Priesthood

Num 18:1 And the LORD said unto Aaron, Thou and thy sons and thy father's house with thee shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary: and thou and thy sons with thee shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood.

Num 18:2 And thy brethren also of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of thy father, bring thou with thee, that they may be joined unto thee, and minister unto thee: but thou and thy sons with thee shall minister before the tabernacle of witness.

Aaron and the Levites confirmed. God is telling the Levites that they are responsible for what takes place. We need to remember that Korah was a Levite, the rebellion arose within the tribe of Levi.

Numbers 18 – Confirmation of the Priesthood

Num 18:3 And they shall keep thy charge, and the charge of all the tabernacle: only they shall not come nigh the vessels of the sanctuary and the altar, that neither they, nor ye also, die.

18:4 And they shall be joined unto thee, and keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, for all the service of the tabernacle: and a stranger shall not come nigh unto you.

Num 18:5 And ye shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar: that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel.

Num 18:6 And I, behold, I have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel: to you they are given as a gift for the LORD, to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Num 18:7 Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for every thing of the altar, and within the veil; and ye shall serve: I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

Numbers 18 – Confirmation of the Priesthood

Num 18:8 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Behold, I also have given thee the charge of mine heave offerings of all the hallowed things of the children of Israel; unto thee have I given them by reason of the anointing, and to thy sons, by an ordinance for ever.

Num 18:9 This shall be thine of the most holy things, reserved from the fire: every oblation of theirs, every meat offering of theirs, and every sin offering of theirs, and every trespass offering of theirs, which they shall render unto me, shall be most holy for thee and for thy sons.

Num 18:10 In the most holy place shalt thou eat it; every male shall eat it: it shall be holy unto thee.

Num 18:11 And this is thine; the heave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings of the children of Israel: I have given them unto thee, and to thy sons and to thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: every one that is clean in thy house shall eat of it.

Num 18:12 All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the firstfruits of them which they shall offer unto the LORD, them have I given thee.

Numbers 18 – Confirmation of the Priesthood

Num 18:13 And whatsoever is first ripe in the land, which they shall bring unto the LORD, shall be thine; every one that is clean in thine house shall eat of it.

Num 18:14 Every thing devoted in Israel shall be thine.

Num 18:15 Every thing that openeth the matrix in all flesh, which they bring unto the LORD, whether it be of men or beasts, shall be thine: nevertheless the firstborn of man shalt thou surely redeem, and the firstling of unclean beasts shalt thou redeem.

Num 18:16 And those that are to be redeemed from a month old shalt thou redeem, according to thine estimation, for the money of five shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs.

Num 18:17 But the firstling of a cow, or the firstling of a sheep, or the firstling of a goat, thou shalt not redeem; they are holy: thou shalt sprinkle their blood upon the altar, and shalt burn their fat for an offering made by fire, for a sweet savour unto the LORD.

Numbers 18 – Confirmation of the Priesthood

Num 18:18 And the flesh of them shall be thine, as the wave breast and as the right shoulder are thine.

Num 18:19 All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer unto the LORD, have I given thee, and thy sons and thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: it is a covenant of salt for ever before the LORD unto thee and to thy seed with thee.

Num 18:20 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel.

This was the way a covenant was sealed in that day. Salt was regarded as a necessary ingredient of the daily food and was issued in the sacrifices to the Lord. A covenant of salt became a covenant of permanent obligation.

Numbers 18 – Confirmation of the Priesthood

Num 18:21 And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Num 18:22 Neither must the children of Israel henceforth come nigh the tabernacle of the congregation, lest they bear sin, and die.

Num 18:23 But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they have no inheritance.

Num 18:24 But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.

Num 18:25 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Numbers 18 – Confirmation of the Priesthood

Num 18:26 Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe.

Num 18:27 And this your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress.

Num 18:28 Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest.

Num 18:29 Out of all your gifts ye shall offer every heave offering of the LORD, of all the best thereof, even the hallowed part thereof out of it.

Num 18:30 Therefore thou shalt say unto them, When ye have heaved the best thereof from it, then it shall be counted unto the Levites as the increase of the threshingfloor, and as the increase of the winepress.

Numbers 18 – Confirmation of the Priesthood

Num 18:31 And ye shall eat it in every place, ye and your households: for it is your reward for your service in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Num 18:32 And ye shall bear no sin by reason of it, when ye have heaved from it the best of it: neither shall ye pollute the holy things of the children of Israel, lest ye die.

Numbers 19 – The Red Heifer

Num 19:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

Num 19:2 This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD hath commanded, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer without spot, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke:

Num 19:3 And ye shall give her unto Eleazar the priest, that he may bring her forth without the camp, and one shall slay her before his face:

This is the first time an offering is to be a female animal.

Numbers 19 – The Red Heifer

Num 19:4 And Eleazar the priest shall take of her blood with his finger, and sprinkle of her blood directly before the tabernacle of the congregation seven times:

Num 19:5 And one shall burn the heifer in his sight; her skin, and her flesh, and her blood, with her dung, shall he burn:

Num 19:6 And the priest shall take cedar wood, and hyssop, and scarlet, and cast it into the midst of the burning of the heifer.

Num 19:7 Then the priest shall wash his clothes, and he shall bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp, and the priest shall be unclean until the even.

Num 19:8 And he that burneth her shall wash his clothes in water, and bathe his flesh in water, and shall be unclean until the even.

Numbers 19 – The Red Heifer

Num 19:9 And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: it is a purification for sin.

Num 19:10 And he that gathereth the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: and it shall be unto the children of Israel, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among them, for a statute for ever.

Num 19:11 He that toucheth the dead body of any man shall be unclean seven days.

Num 19:12 He shall purify himself with it on the third day, and on the seventh day he shall be clean: but if he purify not himself the third day, then the seventh day he shall not be clean.

Num 19:13 Whosoever toucheth the dead body of any man that is dead, and purifieth not himself, defileth the tabernacle of the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from Israel: because the water of separation was not sprinkled upon him, he shall be unclean; his uncleanness is yet upon him.

Numbers 19 – The Red Heifer

Num 19:14 This is the law, when a man dieth in a tent: all that come into the tent, and all that is in the tent, shall be unclean seven days.

Num 19:15 And every open vessel, which hath no covering bound upon it, is unclean.

Num 19:16 And whosoever toucheth one that is slain with a sword in the open fields, or a dead body, or a bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days.

Num 19:17 And for an unclean person they shall take of the ashes of the burnt heifer of purification for sin, and running water shall be put thereto in a vessel:

Num 19:18 And a clean person shall take hyssop, and dip it in the water, and sprinkle it upon the tent, and upon all the vessels, and upon the persons that were there, and upon him that touched a bone, or one slain, or one dead, or a grave:

Numbers 19 – The Red Heifer

Num 19:19 And the clean person shall sprinkle upon the unclean on the third day, and on the seventh day: and on the seventh day he shall purify himself, and wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and shall be clean at even.

Num 19:20 But the man that shall be unclean, and shall not purify himself, that soul shall be cut off from among the congregation, because he hath defiled the sanctuary of the LORD: the water of separation hath not been sprinkled upon him; he is unclean.

Num 19:21 And it shall be a perpetual statute unto them, that he that sprinkleth the water of separation shall wash his clothes; and he that toucheth the water of separation shall be unclean until even.

Num 19:22 And whatsoever the unclean person toucheth shall be unclean; and the soul that toucheth it shall be unclean until even.

Numbers 19 – The Red Heifer

Parallels: The ram in the thicket (Genesis 22); The water of purification at Cana (John 2).

Joh 2:1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

Joh 2:2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

Joh 2:3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

Joh 2:6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

Joh 2:7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

Chapters 14-20 are the only chapters covering the 38 years of Wilderness Wonderings. A few incidents glossing over the wasted years.

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

- At Kadesh again (after 37 years)
- The 7th murmuring – these guys never shut up
- Water from the Rock – The disobedience of Moses
- Edom refuses Israel passage
- Death of Aaron

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

Num 20:1 Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there.

Num 20:2 And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

Num 20:3 And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!

The seventh murmuring!!!!!!

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

Num 20:4 And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there?

Num 20:5 And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.

Num 20:6 And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.

Num 20:7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 20:8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

Num 20:9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

Exodus 17: smitten. Here, “speak to....” (1 Corinthians 10:1-4). (Aaron’s rod; “before the Lord” ...)

1Co 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

1Co 10:2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

1Co 10:3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

1Co 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

Num 20:10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

Num 20:11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

“We” fetch you?? Smote the rock! God expects you and I to follow His specifications!

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

Num 20:12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Num 20:13 This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the LORD, and he was sanctified in them.

The word Kadesh is added to it (Deuteronomy 32:51) to distinguish it from the other Meribah (Exodus 17:7).

WATER FROM ROCKS TWICE

- Rephidim: Exodus 17 – Strikes the Rock; water flows
- Meribah: Numbers 20
 - ❖ Direct to “speak to” the Rock
 - ❖ Strikes the Rock
 - ❖ Denied entry into Promised Land

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

THE DISTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

Who are these people who desire such terrible things to happen to their neighbors? They are brethren to the Jews: The Edomites were the descendants of Esau, Jacob's older brother (Genesis 25:21-26).

Gen 25:19 And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham begat Isaac:

Gen 25:20 And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister to Laban the Syrian.

Gen 25:21 And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Gen 25:22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD.

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

THE DISTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

Who are these people who desire such terrible things to happen to their neighbors? They are brethren to the Jews: The Edomites were the descendants of Esau, Jacob's older brother (Genesis 25:21-26).

Gen 25:23 And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

Gen 25:24 And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.

Gen 25:25 And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

Gen 25:26 And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

THE DISTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

This account of the births of Esau and Jacob highlights that their struggle for supremacy manifested itself even before their births (Hosea 12:3). Two nations, that is, twin progenitors of two nations, were struggling in her womb and the younger would triumph (v. 23).

Indeed, the Israelites (Jacob's descendants) and the Edomites (Esau's descendants) fought continuously. [Under David, Edomites served Israel: 2 Samuel 8:14] NOTE: Isaac knew God's will in the matter (Genesis 25:23). God's election of Jacob the younger over Esau the older was against the natural order.

Gen 25:25 And the first came out red, all over like an hairy garment; and they called his name Esau.

Gen 25:26 And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them.

Gen 25:27 And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.

Gen 25:28 And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

THE DISTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

The parents observed the strange situation, and in view of God's oracle they commemorated the event by giving them appropriate names. The first of the twins was red and hairy, like a little animal., so they named him Esau. The mention of "red" anticipated the future rugged nature of Esau [Esau (and Nimrod) were men of the field ("world" in Matthew 13).]

Fascinating wordplays were used to describe the first twin The name Esau has a loose connection with the word "Seir," the early name for Edom to the southeast of the Dead Sea, where Esau later lived.

The Hebrew word "red" (admoni) is related to the word "Edom" and "hairy" is similar to "Seir." Those words were carefully chosen to portray in the lad the nature of Edom, a later archrival of Israel.

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

JACOB

The second twin was born grasping Esau's heel (v.26). In view of the oracle the parents had received (v.23) it seemed appropriate to give this child a name that would preserve the memory of this event. Thus, "one who grabs the heel" or "one who trips up." But as with Esau, so Jacob's name would take on a different sense later in life as his deceptive nature became evident. So, the twins' births had great significance for later events in their lives.

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

Num 20:14 And Moses sent messengers from Kadesh unto the king of Edom, Thus saith thy brother Israel, Thou knowest all the travail that hath befallen us:

Num 20:15 How our fathers went down into Egypt, and we have dwelt in Egypt a long time; and the Egyptians vexed us, and our fathers:

He requested permission from the king of Edom to take the famous king's highway, a route that passed from the Red Sea (Gulf of Aqabah) north to Damascus via the Edomite city of Sela (Later known as Pena). Moses appealed to Edom as a brother [Edomites were descendants of Esau, Jacob's brother (Genesis 36:6-8)]. Moses then reviewed Israel's history from the time of Jacob's descent to Egypt to the present moment. (Obadiah's prophecies on Edom's destiny.)

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

Num 20:16 And when we cried unto the LORD, he heard our voice, and sent an angel, and hath brought us forth out of Egypt: and, behold, we are in Kadesh, a city in the uttermost of thy border:

Num 20:17 Let us pass, I pray thee, through thy country: we will not pass through the fields, or through the vineyards, neither will we drink of the water of the wells: we will go by the king's high way, we will not turn to the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy borders.

Num 20:18 And Edom said unto him, Thou shalt not pass by me, lest I come out against thee with the sword.

Num 20:19 And the children of Israel said unto him, We will go by the high way: and if I and my cattle drink of thy water, then I will pay for it: I will only, without doing any thing else, go through on my feet.

Num 20:20 And he said, Thou shalt not go through. And Edom came out against him with much people, and with a strong hand.

Num 20:21 Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him.

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

(see Number 21:4; Deuteronomy 2:4; and Judges 11:18; see also 1 Samuel 14:47 and 2 Samuel 8:14, which describe the retribution that was taken.)

EDOM

- Refused Israel passage by the King's Highway; Numbers 20:14-21: 21:4; Judges 11:17-18
- Israel forbidden to abhor his Edomite brother (Deuteronomy 23:7-8)
- Balaam predicted the conquest of Edom (Numbers 24:18)
- Assyrian inscriptions show that Edom became a vassal-state of Assyria after 736 BC
- After the fall of Judah, Edom rejoiced (Psalms 137:7)
- The prophets foretold judgment on Edom for her bitter hatred (Jeremiah 49:7-22; Lamentations 4:21-22; Ezekiel 23:12-14; 35:15; Joel 3:19; Amos 9:12; Obadiah)

At the time of the Exodus, Israel sought permission to travel by the King's Highway, but was refused. Notwithstanding this discourtesy, Israel was forbidden to abhor his Edomite brother. In those days Balaam predicted the conquest of Edom. [The strange tale of Balaam will be in next session.]

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

Num 20:22 And the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh, and came unto mount Hor.

Num 20:23 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in mount Hor, by the coast of the land of Edom, saying,

Num 20:24 Aaron shall be gathered unto his people: for he shall not enter into the land which I have given unto the children of Israel, because ye rebelled against my word at the water of Meribah.

Num 20:25 Take Aaron and Eleazar his son, and bring them up unto mount Hor:

Num 20:26 And strip Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son: and Aaron shall be gathered unto his people, and shall die there.

Num 20:27 And Moses did as the LORD commanded: and they went up into mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation.

Numbers 20 – Water from the Rock

Num 20:28 And Moses stripped Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there in the top of the mount: and Moses and Eleazar came down from the mount.

Num 20:29 And when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, they mourned for Aaron thirty days, even all the house of Israel.

NEXT SESSION

The Journey to the Plains of Moab/The Brazen Serpent/The Prophet Balaam

Read Chapters 21-25