

Dedicating Our Lives and Setting Our Hope...

1 Peter 1:13–19

¹³ Therefore, *preparing your minds for action*, and being sober-minded, *set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ*. ¹⁴ As *obedient* children, *do not be conformed* to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also *be holy in all your conduct*, ¹⁶ since it is written, “*You shall be holy*, for I am holy.” ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, *conduct yourselves with fear* throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ *knowing that you were ransomed* from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but *with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot*.

Key Idea:

We must forsake our sinful rebellion, dedicating our lives to God while setting our hope fully on the Grace provided by Jesus.

Sermon Review Questions

A TEST FOR ADULTERY (Numbers 5:11-31)

1. What does grain offering without the oil and incense (5:15) reveal about the proper heart attitude of the husband?
2. How does the Holy Water and Tabernacle Dust contribute to the symbolism of the ceremony?
3. What curse was promised to a guilty women?
4. What does this teach us about God?
5. Why does Jesus have to bring us (his bride) to the righteous Judge?
6. What surprising thing does Jesus do for His bride?
7. Does Jesus receive the curse or is He vindicated as innocent.

THE NAZIRITE VOW (Numbers 6:1-21)

1. Why was the Nazirite not to eat anything that came from the grape vine?
2. What did the hair of the Nazirite represent?
3. Why could the Nazirite not touch any dead bodies?
4. What does the provision for accidental defilement teach us about God?
5. What do the three sacrifices at the conclusion of the vow teach us?

ⁱ Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). *Numbers: God's presence in the wilderness* (p. 68). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

ⁱⁱ Ibid. (p. 68).

ⁱⁱⁱ Ashley, T. R. (1993). *The Book of Numbers* (p. 123). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

^{iv} Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). *Numbers: God's presence in the wilderness* (pp. 73–74). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

Getting Ready to Fight for the Promised Land: Part 4, God is Our Life... or Death – Numbers 1:1–10:36

Sermon Outline – May 3, 2015

Children’s Sermon/Introduction

❖ You cannot fool God!

Galatians 6:7–8 (NLT)

⁷ Don’t be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. ⁸ *Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death* from that sinful nature. **But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.**

❖ Grain...Wheat; Corn...Corn; Acorn...Oak Tree

Follow-up...

❖ God knows who you Serve & who you Trust

*Getting Israel Ready to Fight for the Promised Land...
God is Our Life... or Death*

BIG PICTURE: STORY & LAW

“Why is the story line of the journey through the wilderness constantly being interrupted by a sequence of laws?” ⁱ

ISRAEL NUMBERED AND ORDERED (1–2)

LEVITES NUMBERED AND ORDERED (3–4)

CONSECRATION OF ISRAEL’S CAMP (5:1–7:27)

1. UNCLEAN PEOPLE (5:1-4) – THE DEFILEMENT OF SIN
2. CONFESSION AND RESTITUTION (5:5-10) – SINS YOU REPENT FROM
3. A TEST FOR ADULTERY (5:11-31) – SINS YOU HIDE
4. THE NAZIRITE VOW (6:1-21) – A LIFE SET APART & ACCIDENTAL SIN

CONSECRATION OF THE TABERNACLE (6:22–8:4)

CONSECRATION OF THE LEVITES (8:5–26)

“These laws are the way to life and blessing, the wisdom of a sovereign God unfolded for the benefit of the people with whom he has entered a covenant relationship. Life in all its fullness means life lived in the presence of God, according to his Law. ...

God here gives his people some case studies in dealing with potential disorder, so that they may learn how to resolve the... issues that were bound to arise and threaten the presence of God in the midst of his people.” ⁱⁱ

Today's Key Idea:

Jesus is not fooled by our lies nor impressed with our achievements.

A TEST FOR ADULTERY (Numbers 5:11-31) – ***Hidden Sin***

Things that Make this Text More Challenging for Us

1. What about Unfaithful Husbands? (Deliberately Theological)
2. This is the only reference to this law.
3. Confusing Repetition.
4. Certain parts are hard to decipher:
(e.g. v. 18 "...unbind the hair of the woman's head")
5. The whole ritual sounds **primitive** to us: (e.g. other ancient ***Trials by Ordeal***)
"The most common ordeals in the ancient world seem to be by water (e.g., plunging into rivers), by heat (e.g., carrying a red-hot object or plunging the hand into boiling liquid), and by the action of some potion."ⁱⁱⁱ

The Test

✓ 20 verses given to this law; 21 – Vows (Cf. 5:1-10 – last 2 laws)

✓ A Spirit of Jealousy (Suspected Adultery)

"The word for grain offering (minḥâ) was elsewhere used of gifts given as a mark of submission to a superior. So to bring a grain offering was an act of submission to the Lord. This grain offering, however, was devoid of the usual markers of joy that would be offered with it—oil and incense (v. 15). There was no joy in this matter."^{iv}

"The man shall be free from iniquity, but the woman shall bear her iniquity." (verse 31)

- "¹⁸ ... place in her hands the grain offering of remembrance, which is the grain offering of jealousy."
- Vs. 25-26. Wave... memorial portion...

✓ "¹⁶ And the priest shall **bring her near** and **set her before the Lord.**" (2x)

✓ **The Water of Bitterness** "that brings the curse"

- Holy Water (LXX – Living water)
- Tabernacle Dust
- The Curse: (Written down...washed into the Water)
 - If no man has lain with you...

²⁸ **But if the woman has not defiled herself and is clean**, then she shall be free and shall **conceive children.**"

- But if you have gone astray...
- The woman shall say, 'Amen, Amen.'

✓ The Woman Drinks the Water of Bitterness (3x)

Nothing Can be Hidden from God

- ❖ Contrast with typical Trials by Ordeal at this time
- ❖ God will reveal the hidden sin (not the water)
Or
- ❖ God will vindicate the innocent
[Cf. Gal. 6:7-8 – God will not be mocked...]

We are the Unfaithful Wife!

Picture #1:

Jesus our righteous husband brings us to the Father (because this is right) but then He drinks the water of bitterness for us!
But... repentance is required.

THE NAZIRITE VOW (Numbers 6:1-21) – ***Sins Committed Accidentally***

The Nazirite Vow

- ❖ ***Eat Nothing from the Grape Vine***
- ❖ ***No Cutting their Hair***
- ❖ ***No Touching Dead Bodies***

The Accidental Sin "And if any man dies very suddenly beside him"

- ❖ **Purification Ritual** (Cf. Leviticus 15:25-31)
 - **7th Day Shave**
 - **8th Day** (2 pigeons; Lamb)
- ❖ **Start Over**

When they Finished their Vow Successfully

- ❖ **Burnt offering, Sin offering, and Peace offering**
- ❖ **A basket of unleavened bread, loaves of fine flour mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers smeared with oil, and their grain offering and their drink offerings.** (A submissive, dedicated life)
- ❖ **Shave his Consecrated Head** (His Life is the Lord's)
- ❖ And after that the Nazirite may **Drink Wine.**
- ❖ "...if he **vows an offering to the Lord above his Nazirite vow**, as he can afford..."

Picture #2:

Jesus pays for our best efforts, making them acceptable to God!

Further Meditation on these Gospel Pictures