

## WEEK 5, DAY 1: TODAY'S READING: EXODUS 25–28

### OVERVIEW:

God details His plans for the Tabernacle; God details His plans for the High Priest's coverings.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

In John 4, Jesus lets us know that there is something our Father in heaven is seeking: He is seeking WORSHIP! But He is not just seeking "any kind" of worship—He is seeking the worship that only comes from "true worshippers!" (John 4:23) Obviously, by qualifying them as "true worshippers," there must be a type of unacceptable worship that God recognizes as coming from "false worshippers!" We can conclude then, that not everything that goes on in the name of "worship" is actually recognized by God and received of God as "true worship!" In the section we enter into in our reading today, our God is providing a detailed description and prescription for the "true worship" He desired from the nation of Israel in the days following their exodus from Egypt. It all surrounds what was basically a "tent" that was approximately 45 feet long, 15 feet wide and 15 feet high—the Outer Court surrounding the tent measuring approximately 150 feet by 75 feet. The whole thing is what is most commonly referred to biblically as the "Tabernacle," and served the nation of Israel as what might be referred to as a "mobile worship center."

The Tabernacle was actually comprised of three sections: the Outer Court—in which the common people could come; the Holy Place—in which only the priests could come; and the Holy of Holies, or the Holiest of All—in which only the High Priest could come (and that, only once a year, on the Day of Atonement). This "mobile worship center" represented God's presence with His people Israel for over 400 years—from the exodus to the building of the permanent structure known as the Temple.

As we begin to discuss some of the details of the Tabernacle, it is important to note that the Divine Architect (the Designer and Builder of the universe!) is now taking on His second "building project" through man. The first, of course, was Noah's Ark, which was a vessel by which God SAVED man—carrying him through the FLOOD. The second, the Tabernacle, (and specifically the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle) was a vessel through which God MET with man—as MAN carried GOD through the WILDERNESS. In both building projects, note that the instructions for the construction of the ARK were very detailed and specific—and were given to man by supernatural revelation. God left nothing to man's self-styled imagination or invention.

It is worth noting that God begins this second building project by instructing Moses to take up an offering from the people for the construction of the Tabernacle. Obviously, God could have simply spoken the Tabernacle into existence just as He did the entire universe—so it begs the question, why didn't He? While there are certainly other reasons, there are at least two very simple—and yet, very significant ones:

#### **1. A PRACTICAL Reason.**

This tent would serve as the place where God would "dwell" with man... be His "meeting place" with man... and be the place where He would "inhabit the praises of His people." For those very important reasons, God chose to allow the people to enjoy a sense of ownership in the project by allowing them to provide both the funding and the craftsmanship (sewing, carving, goldsmithing, baking, dying, etc.) for its completion. As has been noted

through the centuries, "People regard that which cost them nothing as having little or no value." Obviously, God wanted to be sure that never happened with the Tabernacle, but wanted to insure that the people of Israel always maintained a keen appreciation for this special "meeting place" with God! Note also that the offering God specified was not in any way to be connected to LAW—but rather to GRACE! Verse 2 of chapter 25 says that the offering was to be given "WILLINGLY"—and with their "HEART!"

## **2. An INSTRUCTIONAL Reason.**

God gave very explicit details concerning the Tabernacle's construction for a very monumental reason: this was no ordinary tent! This tent was actually the EARTHLY representation of another tabernacle... a HEAVENLY tabernacle—that Hebrews 8:2 refers to as "the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched and not man!" In the specifications for the Tabernacle's construction, God used the pattern of the HEAVENLY tabernacle to reveal to Moses and the children of Israel the desired details concerning His EARTHLY dwelling place. (Exo. 25:9; Heb. 8:5) One day we will understand that the details provided in Exodus 25–30 and Exodus 35–39 actually reveal more information about the universe than the most powerful and sophisticated 21st century telescope—as well as reveal to us the information about the universe that God didn't see fit to include in Genesis 1 and Job 38! But I must say, comprehending the details of how the EARTHLY TABERNACLE actually mirrored the HEAVENLY TABERNACLE now, will take someone much more spiritually and biblically astute than me—not to mention someone way more intelligent!

But one thing I do understand, is that just as there were three parts of the Tabernacle on the earth, there are three heavens. (2 Cor. 12:2; Psalm 148) And just as God's presence was beyond the veil in the third part of the Tabernacle (the Holy Holies)—God's actual presence in the universe is beyond the veil identified as the frozen waters of "the deep" northward in the third heaven. (Job 38:30; Isa. 14:13; Psa. 48:2)

Other "tidbits" concerning the tabernacle:

- The Tabernacle is referred to in scripture by such names as the tent, the tent of testimony, the tent of the congregation, the tabernacle of witness, the tabernacle of testimony, the tabernacle of the congregation and the place of dwelling.
- In Exodus 25–39, God provides for us a verbal diagram of the Tabernacle, the details concerning the materials that were to be used in its construction, the furniture to be placed in it, the utensils to be used in it, as well as a description of those who were to minister in it.
- Exodus 25–27, where the prominent vessel of the Tabernacle that is detailed is the Ark of the Covenant, reveal to us GOD's approach to MAN.
- Exodus 28–30, where the prominent "vessel" of the Tabernacle that is detailed is the High Priest, reveal to us MAN'S approach to GOD.
- Historically, God designed this Tabernacle because He wanted to dwell and commune with His people, the JEWS. (Ex. 25:8,22) Practically, God designed the record of it so that all of the people through the annals of history would likewise know that through Christ (which is what is actually being pictured throughout the

Tabernacle), that same God wants to dwell in and commune with US—His CHURCH! (2 Cor. 6:14–16; 1 John 4:12–13; Hebrews 9:1–14)

- Entire books have been written about the numerous pictures and types drawn by God in the whole layout, design and contents of the Tabernacle. Like any great art, the more you look at it, the more you see!

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

In the ARK of the COVENANT... wood overlaid by pure gold (wood representing His humanity and gold representing His deity) – Exodus 25:10–11 (Phil. 2:6–8).

In the MERCY SEAT – Exodus 25:17 (Rom. 3:24–25 – Note that the word “propitiation” in Romans 3:25 is translated “mercy seat” in Hebrews 9:5, and 1 John 2:2 says that Christ “is the propitiation for our sins.”)

In the TABLE of SHEWBREAD – Exodus 25:23–30 (Jesus is the Bread of Life: John 6:33,35,48,51).

In the CANDLESTICK – Exodus 25:31 (Jesus is the Light: John 1:4–9; 8:12; 9:5; 12:35–36,46)

In the VEIL – Exodus 26:30–37 (Representing the physical body of Christ which was “torn” to bring us to God: Mark 15:38; Hebrews 10:20)

Through the HIGH PRIEST and all of his CLOTHING – Exodus 28:1–43 (Jesus is our High Priest: Hebrews 2:17; 3:1)

## WEEK 5, DAY 2: TODAY'S READING: EXODUS 29–32

### OVERVIEW:

God gives instruction on the consecration of the priests; God explains how the tabernacle is to operate; God appoints specific men to oversee the building of the tabernacle; God emphasizes the Sabbath day; Israel sins against God; Moses intercedes for Israel.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

For 40 days (since the end of Exodus 24), Moses has been back up on Mount Sinai receiving explicit instruction from God. And do you remember the incredible initial response the people had to "the words of the Lord" when Moses came down from the mountain the first time? With complete unity ("one voice") they had declared to Moses with their mouth, "All the words which the Lord hath said will we do!" (24:3) Moses then wrote the words the Lord had spoken to him up on the mountain and read them to the children of Israel, and once again, the people declared with their mouths, "All that the Lord hath said will we do, and be obedient!" (Exo. 24:7) Wow! That, my friend, is the simple essence of the Christian life! "Whatever Your Word tells us, Lord, that's what we'll do!" Oh, that that were not only the DECLARATION from the MOUTH of every believer in Christ—but that it were the DETERMINATION in each of our HEARTS! But you see, just as it was for the children of Israel in the Old Testament, it's easy for those of us in Christ's church to BELIEVE every word of the Bible... and it's easy for us to SAY that we will OBEY every word of the Bible... but it's quite another thing to actually DO it! As we've mentioned before, "talk is cheap." God had called Moses to come back up to the mountain, and just 40 days after making these incredible declarations, Exodus 32:1 says, "And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him."

And sadly enough, Aaron, the High Priest, concerning whom God had just spent four chapters giving Moses detailed instructions (even referring to Aaron by name 39 times in His dialogue with Moses from chapters 28–31!) because Aaron would picture our High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ—and here we find Aaron in chapter 32, verses 1–6, bowing to the pressures of the people, making a false god and leading Israel in the worship of it! They actually even commence to dancing about it naked—praising "IT" for delivering them from Egypt! Absolutely unbelievable! I mean, how in the world could they possibly be so fickle... so weak... and so downright sinful?! Especially when you consider God's words to Moses concerning Aaron and the children of Israel in chapter 29, verses 44 and 45! God said to Moses, "And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar: I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to me in the priest's office. And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God." Oh, had they only known the incredible future God had designed for them!

And yet, don't forget, the children of Israel in the Old Testament are a picture of the individual believer in the New Testament! We might do well to stop to consider how many times, like Israel, we have exercised our sinful flesh despite God's supernatural working in our lives... and when God hasn't worked according to our timetable—how often we have redirected the glory for victories God had wrought to someone or something other than the One to whom it was due!

And then, notice Aaron's lame cover-up when confronted with his sin! (Ex. 32:24) Aaron actually has the audacity to say to Moses (with a straight face, mind you!), that he simply threw the gold into the fire and out popped a golden calf! That "miracle" having taken place, the only natural thing to do according to Aaron's whacked out rationalization

and justification was to set it in front of the people, so they could dance around it and party the day away in sensual lust! Though Aaron's "explanation" sounds totally absurd to us, I wonder how absurd the rationalizations and justifications we sometimes try to use to "explain" away our carnal behavior sounds to God!

Sadly, the wonderful things that God had planned for His people that He was detailing to Moses up on the mountain—were at that very moment being polluted by Aaron and the children of Israel down at the base of the mountain. (Make note that this great sin committed by the children of Israel in Exodus 32 became a sinful "marker" or "milestone" in Israel's history that Stephen even referenced when recounting Israel's history to their leaders in Acts 7:41–43!) The tragic fact is, while God was painting a beautiful picture to Moses of how His people could exemplify His holiness and mercy, Israel was simultaneously painting the dreadful portrait of how God's people so often misrepresent and adulterate His love and His Word. (1 Cor. 10:1–11)

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

Through God's plan for Aaron the High Priest – Exodus 29 (Heb. 7:26–8:1)

Through the Once-a-year sacrifice for Atonement – Exodus 30:10 (Rom. 6:10; Heb. 7:27; 9:7,12; 10:10)

## WEEK 5, DAY 3: TODAY'S READING: EXODUS 33–36

### OVERVIEW:

God commands the people to go to Canaan; Moses asks God to reestablish His presence with Israel; God rewrites the tables of stone that Moses had broken; God reaffirms His special relationship with Israel; Moses reveals the Tabernacle plans and the people respond obediently.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

As we begin today's reading, God has very simply had "ENOUGH!" He reiterates His promise to give the children of Israel the land of Canaan—but lets them know they'd be making the journey to get there without Him. He informs them, however, that though His personal presence would not be with them, He would see to it that "an angel" would provide the strength and guidance He knew they would need to overcome the enemies that would attempt to keep them from taking the land. (33:2) Notice though, that the angel that is promised here ("*an angel*,") is different than the angel ("*mine angel*") mentioned in Exodus 23:23 and 32:34—which was the "*Angel of the Lord*." (See the "Highlights & Insights" section of Week 5, Day 4.) God also informs them that His decision to not go with them was actually for their own good—saying, "lest I consume thee in the way." (33:3) God tells them, "for thou art a STIFFNECKED people." Wow! What an indictment!

The word "stiffnecked" appears six times in the Old Testament and one time in the New Testament. It is used to refer to the children of Israel all seven times. By observing my own spiritual journey, as well as the journey of others—something tells me that the last of the "stiffnecked people" God has had to put up with didn't end with the children of Israel in the wilderness! When God's plan for our lives doesn't line up with our own plans... or when God is trying to use the circumstances of our lives (trials) to conform us into the image of His Son (Rom. 8:29), our reaction is often much like that of our spiritual forefathers in the Book of Exodus—we tend to resist... to become stubborn and obstinate... or to "stiffen" our "neck."

Notice in today's reading that there is an interesting contrast found between those God describes as having a "STIFFENED NECK," (33:3,5; 34:9) and those who have a "WILLING HEART" (35:5, 21, 29)... a "STIRRED HEART" (35:21, 26; 36:2)... and a "WILLING SPIRIT." (35:21) Based on your spiritual walk in the last six months, which term do you think God would use to describe you? Very simply, have you had a "STIRRED" and "WILLING HEART/ SPIRIT"—or have you had a "STIFFENED NECK." Obviously, the two are mutually exclusive.

It is interesting, however, that even though the children of Israel were a "stiffnecked people," the thought of not having the Lord's presence with them was extremely disturbing to them. Verse 4 of chapter 33 says that when they heard that the Lord wouldn't be going with them, "they MOURNED." Their reaction made me wonder what our reaction would be if the Lord were to tell us that He would still take us to heaven when we die, but rather than having His presence in and on our lives, "an angel" would be guiding us in the remainder of our journey. Would we be content, or satisfied with the angel—simply being in proximity to the things of God... or would we mourn because we are passionate for GOD HIMSELF, and having HIS HOLY PRESENCE with us? Would our reaction be like Moses' in 33:15... "If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence"?

Other practical gleanings to note in today's reading...

- Let us rejoice in the fact that, like Moses, the Lord knows each of us by name—and that we have found grace in His sight! (33:12,17)
- Notice that Moses' passion quickly takes him from begging God to "show me thy WAY" (33:13)—to begging God for Him to "show me thy GLORY! (33:18) Oh, may the passion that guides our hearts be a passion for God Himself—that He would receive "the glory due unto His name!" (Psa. 29:2; 96:8)
- May the testimony of Moses' relationship with God be ours: "And the Lord spoke unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend." (33:11)
- Exodus 33:20 teaches us a vital and far-reaching lesson: No living flesh can see God! If we will truly see God in the fulness of His majesty, splendor and glory—it requires DEATH! Very simply, we must DIE to ourselves... our FLESH must be CRUCIFIED! (Gal. 5:24; Col. 3:5)
- We would do well to follow the admonition God gave to Moses in 34:2–3: "And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount. And no man shall come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount." Practically speaking, may our lives be characterized by the fact that each day we "READY" ourselves for the day by reserving the first part of it ("THE MORNING") to get ALONE with God (34:3a) before we are DISTRACTED BY OUR DAILY RESPONSIBILITIES (34:36)... and "COME UP" into the mountain of the Lord's presence (Psa. 24:3), to "PRESENT" ourselves to the Lord a living sacrifice. (Rom. 12:1)
- "The name of the Lord" is a key phrase in the Bible. Chapter 34, verses 5–7 defines "the name of the Lord" as the sum total of all of His attributes. Notice, that He is GOD (!!!), and as such, is merciful, gracious, longsuffering, abundantly good and abundantly truth!
- Check out Moses' prayer in 34:9: "If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance." Notice that it is a prayer for:
  - The Lord's PRESENCE.
  - The Lord's PARDON.
  - The Lord's POSSESSION.
- Notice in 34:28 that it was said of Moses, "And he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights." This "forty day" thing begins to show up quite a bit throughout the Bible. It would appear that it is connected to a time of testing and/or trial.
  1. Noah's flood lasted 40 days and 40 nights. (Gen. 7:12)
  2. Noah waited another 40 days after the rain stopped before opening the window in the Ark. (Gen. 8:6)
  3. Moses was on Mt. Sinai with God 40 days and 40 nights—twice! (Exo. 24:18; 34:28–29)
  4. Twelve spies searched out the Promised land for 40 days. (Num. 13:25)
  5. Goliath defied God and His armies for 40 days before being defeated by David. (1 Sam. 17:16)

6. Elijah fasted for 40 days on Mt. Horeb. (1 Kings 19:8)
7. Ezekiel laid on his right side for 40 days to bear the iniquity of Judah. (Ezek. 4:6)
8. Jonah warned that Ninevah would be overthrown in 40 days. (Jonah 3:4)
9. Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness. (Matt. 4:1–2; Luke 4:2; Mark 1:13)
10. Jesus was on the earth 40 days after His resurrection. (Acts 1:3)

After the 40 days with him on the mountain, God begins to talk to Moses about His plans for the second building project: the Tabernacle. Obviously, the Divine Architect, the Designer and Builder of the universe could have simply spoken the Tabernacle into existence, but in His sovereignty, chose to permit the people to enjoy a sense of ownership in the project by allowing them to provide both the funding and the craftsmanship for the project. As the old saying goes, "People regard that which costs them nothing as having little or no value." Obviously, God knows that about we humans, and certainly wanted to be sure that the people of Israel never felt that way about the Tabernacle, because it would serve as "God's mobile worship center" as they made their way through the wilderness and into the Promised Land. It was virtually a tent that was used as a sanctuary to house the Ark of the covenant by the Israelites after the exodus and until the construction of the Temple (approximately 400 years!). The reason God was so explicit about how the Tabernacle was to be constructed is because it was to be the earthly representation of the true Tabernacle in Heaven. (Exo. 25:9; Heb. 8:5) Just as there were three parts of the Tabernacle, there are three Heavens. Just as God's presence was beyond the veil in the third part of the Tabernacle, the Holy of Holies—God's presence is beyond the veil identified as "the deep" in the third Heaven. And perhaps most importantly, the instructions concerning the Tabernacle were so explicit because it was also a picture of Christ.

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

In the TABERNACLE – Exodus 35 (Heb. 9:1-14).

The SINGLE DOOR into the Tabernacle – Exodus 35:15 (John 10:1–2,7,9).

The HOLY OF HOLIES into which only the High Priest could enter – Exodus 35:19 (Hebrews 9:12).

## WEEK 5, DAY 4: TODAY'S READING: EXODUS 37–40

### OVERVIEW:

The tabernacle is completed and an inventory is taken; God commands Moses to set up the tabernacle; God's presence fills the tabernacle.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

In chapters 37 and 38, the Spirit of God inspires Moses to once again list and describe the seven pieces of furniture to be placed in the tabernacle.

1. The Brazen Altar
2. The Brazen Laver
3. The Table of Shewbread
4. The Candlestick
5. The Altar of Incense
6. The Ark
7. The Mercy Seat.

And it's very interesting as we make our way into the Gospel of John to note the word the Apostle John uses to refer to the eternal Word of God becoming a human being and "dwelling" among us! John says of the Lord Jesus Christ, "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt (literally, "TABERNACLED") among us." And once we observe that biblical connection between our Lord Jesus Christ and the Old Testament Tabernacle—and start examining the way the Holy Spirit of God inspired John to lay out the contents of his Gospel, it's amazing to observe that the order of the furniture found in the Tabernacle in Exodus 37 and 38 is the exact order of what unfolds in the ministry of Jesus throughout John's Gospel!

He begins by leading us to the Brazen Altar of Sacrifice, as twice in John chapter one He urges us to "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." (John 1:29,46)

We are then taken to the Laver in John 3:5, where the Spirit of God records, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Moving further into the Gospel of John (and into the Tabernacle), the Spirit leads us in chapters 4–6 to what is pictured in the food and drink of the Table of Shewbread, as John presents Christ as "Living Water" and "Living Bread." (And keep in mind, the Tabernacle and its furniture in the Book of Exodus is the PICTURE—and Christ and the Tabernacle in Heaven is the REALITY! It's easy to get those reversed!)

In John 8 and 9 we are taken to what is pictured in the Golden Candlestick, as twice John records our Lord Jesus Christ as He proclaims, "I am the Light of the world," (John 8:12a) and "he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12b)

In John 14–16, the Spirit of God brings us, as it were, to the Altar of Incense, as Jesus teaches us to pray in His name—the name of the One that is to the Father a sweetsmelling savor.(Eph. 5:2)

Then in John 17, we are taken beyond the veil into the Holy of Holies to behold our Great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, making intercession for us in the presence of God. Here, Christ is seen, not only as our High Priest, but as the Ark and the Mercy Seat through whom we have found access and acceptance with His Father and God. Jesus said in John 20:17, "I ascend unto MY Father, and YOUR Father; and to MY God, and YOUR God."

Finally in Exodus 39–40, everything having been made according to the Divine Pattern—it was then ready to be filled with the Divine Glory. And in perfect fulfillment of the Old Testament picture, the Gospel of John closes with Jesus breathing on His disciples saying, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." (John 20:22)

Wow! What a supernatural Book God has entrusted to our stewardship!

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

In the HIGH PRIEST and his BREASTPLATE, who bears the names of God's people before the presence of God – Exodus 39:8–21 (Heb. 9:11; 10:19–22)

In the FOUR COLORS that represent the FOUR GOSPELS – Exodus 38:18,23; 39:2,3,5,8,24,29.

## WEEK 5, DAY 5: TODAY'S READING: LEVITICUS 1–5

### OVERVIEW:

The Burnt Offering (Chapter 1); the Meat (meal, grain) Offering (Chapter 2); the Peace Offering (Chapter 3); the Sin Offering (Chapter 4); the Trespass Offering (Chapter 5).

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

We have now come to what is for many people one of the most challenging sections of the entire Bible. And it's challenging, not because the language is difficult to understand, or because the information is difficult to process. It's difficult because all of the intricate details regarding the sacrifices and feasts seem to be so irrelevant—and therefore, reading through chapter after chapter of them just inevitably becomes boring and monotonous. But the reason most Church Age believers think it's irrelevant is simply because they have mistakenly assumed that Leviticus has no application to us—since because of Christ's once-for-all offering of Himself we no longer offer animal sacrifices or celebrate the Jewish feasts. But, keep in mind that God tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16 that “ALL scripture is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,” and Romans 15:4 tells us that the things written in the Old Testament “were written for our learning!” So then—just what do the teachings in the Book of Leviticus have to do with our lives today? Well, consider the following:

- Leviticus contains more words spoken directly by God Himself than any other book in the Bible. (Lev 1:1)
- Leviticus is quoted more than 40 times in the New Testament. Apparently, there is something very important that God wants to communicate to us in the Book of Leviticus!
- Without Leviticus we could never understand the New Testament Book of Hebrews, or much of the terminology used in other New Testament Books. Leviticus foreshadows and pictures many New Testament truths regarding the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- David continuously and emphatically declared that he delighted in God's “statutes.” (Psa. 119:16,54,80) Many of God's “statutes” are recorded in the Book of Leviticus. (Lev. 3:17) Apparently then, David, the man after God's own heart, actually DELIGHTED in the Book of Leviticus!
- The Book of Leviticus reveals that God, through Jesus Christ, has prepared three things for us...
  1. A **SACRIFICE**. (Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God—John 1:29)
  2. A **PRIEST**. (Jesus Christ, the great High Priest—Hebrews 3:1)
  3. A **PLACE**. (Heaven, where Jesus Christ is enthroned—1 Peter 3:22)
- But not only has God prepared these three things for us, He has also made each of us who are “in Christ”...
  1. A **SACRIFICE**. (Rom 12:1–2)
  2. A **PRIEST**. (1 Pet. 2:5)
  3. A **PLACE**. (Eph 2:22)

The purpose of the Book of Leviticus is twofold: first, to show us that we must worship the Lord in holiness (the word "holy" or some form of the word appears 94 times in Leviticus!); and second, to show us that worship is the only pathway to peace, rest and fruitfulness. God will not give us peace, rest or fruitfulness until we are worshiping Him in holiness.

Historically, the events recorded in Leviticus occur at the door of the Tabernacle over a period of one month. (Lev. 1:1; Exo. 40:17; Num. 1:1) Having delivered His children by the blood of the lamb (the Book of Exodus), God plans to take them to a place of peace, rest and fruitfulness—but before they embark on their journey, they must first establish worship. The Book of Leviticus is Israel's instruction Book on worship. The word "Leviticus" means "that which pertains to the Levites" and is so called because the tribe of Levi was chosen by God to be Israel's "worship leaders." The word "Levi" means "joined to God," and because the Levites were "joined to God"—they had no inheritance in the promised land—God was their inheritance.

Leviticus chapters 1 through 5 describe five types of sacrifices, all of which are an incredible prophetic picture, both of the Lord Jesus Christ and New Testament believers.

### **Chapter 1 – The Burnt Offering.**

This offering represents the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ. As believers, this offering points us to the New Testament reality that we are to offer our bodies as "living sacrifices, holy, acceptable unto God." (Rom. 12:1) Note that the head and fat of the animal is laid upon the wood (1:8), a picture of you and me laying our plans, our wills, our treasures and all that we are upon the cross of Christ. (Luk. 9:23) Notice also, that the "inwards and the legs" were to be washed in water (1:9,13), representing our "inner man" (Eph. 3:16) and our "walk" (Col. 1:10) being washed with the water of the word of God! (Eph. 5:26–27)

### **Chapter 2 – The Meat (Or, the Meal or Grain) Offering.**

This is the only bloodless sacrifice. It represents the sinless life of Jesus Christ. The remnant of this offering was given to Aaron's sons (2:10), picturing Christ's righteousness given to believers. (2 Cor. 5:21)

### **Chapter 3 – The Peace Offering.**

This offering represents the peace which Jesus Christ purchased for us with His own precious blood. (Col. 1:20; Eph; 2:14) Note that the kidney, caul and liver—the organs used to filter out poisonous toxins—were taken away. Through this sacrifice, God teaches us that we have permanent genuine peace with Him through our Savior Jesus Christ, who has taken away the poison of our sin.

### **Chapter 4 – The Sin Offering.**

This offering reveals how Jesus Christ has given believers victory over our sinful nature—the flesh. The sin talked about in this chapter is "ignorant sin," referring to sin that mysteriously permeates our flesh—sin that is so deeply rooted in us that we are sometimes even unaware of it. (See Psa.19:12; 90:8; 139:23–24; Jer.17:9; Rom. 7). Note that the whole body of the bullock (an ox or horned cow) was to be taken outside of the camp and burned, picturing the

fact that our flesh is of no value or use to God—and must therefore, be “mortified” and “put off.” (Col. 3:5-17; Rom. 6:1-23)

### **Chapter 5 – The Trespass Offering.**

This offering represents Christ’s victory over specific individual sins, also called trespasses. This is the only sacrifice associated with money. (5:15) Truly, “the wages of sin is death.” (Rom. 6:23) Thanks be to God, Jesus Christ has paid the price for our sins with His own precious blood! (Acts 20:28)

In today's reading it will become obvious that the Book of Leviticus is a Book of violence and blood. In fact, the word “offering” occurs 387 times, and the word “blood” appears 88 times. Why would a loving God require such horrible violence? For several reasons:

1. "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission" for sin. (Heb. 9:22)
2. God never wants us to forget the horrific consequences of sin. (Jam. 1:15)
3. God wants us to know that He loved us so much that He voluntarily subjected His Son to the bloody violence of the cross to pay the price of our sin. (Lev. 1:3; Rom. 5:8)
4. We are in a violent war with our flesh. (Rom. 7:23)
5. God desires to have every part of us, severally and wholly, and that can be very excruciating! (Col. 3:5; Rom. 8:13)

### **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

As our VOLUNTARY SUBSTITUTIONARY SACRIFICE – Leviticus 1 (The Burnt Offering)

Who lived a SINLESS LIFE – Leviticus 2 (The Meat Offering)

And purchased PEACE WITH GOD – Leviticus 3 (The Peace Offering)

By PAYING the PRICE for our SINS – Leviticus 4 (The Sin Offering)

And giving us VICTORY over our FLESH – Leviticus 5 (The Trespass Offering)

## WEEK 6, DAY 1: TODAY'S READING: LEVITICUS 6–9

### OVERVIEW:

Restating of the sacrifices in a new order and with an additional offering; Aaron and his sons consecrated for and instituted in service to God.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

We can be certain that our omniscient God doesn't suffer from short-term memory loss! When God repeats Himself, start digging because you're standing on buried treasure! In chapters 6 and 7, God repeats the discussion concerning the sacrifices/offerings that He just talked about in chapters 1–5. But notice something interesting—in chapters 1–5, the offerings/sacrifices are listed in the following order: burnt, meat, peace, sin and trespass. This order shows God's transcendence toward man through the person of Jesus Christ—because Jesus voluntarily offered (burnt offering) His sinless life (meat offering) to reconcile (peace offering) God and man by atoning for man's sin (sin and trespass offerings). As the sacrifices are listed again in chapters 6 and 7, notice that this time they're listed in a new order—and with the addition of another sacrifice: burnt, meat, priest's (new), sin, trespass and peace. The addition of this new sacrifice—and in this new order reveals that man's ascension toward God is only through Jesus Christ, the great High Priest. It's no accident that the priest's offering serves as a bridge between the burnt and meat offerings—and the sin and trespass offerings, because the Bible teaches us that "there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all!" (1 Tim. 2:5-6a) Our Lord Jesus Christ is the only bridge to God!

Notice also that the last offering listed in this new order is the peace offering—teaching us that peace is the result of our Lord Jesus Christ standing in the gap between God and man. Romans 5:1 teaches us that "we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," and Ephesians 2:14 says "For he (Christ) is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition (sin!) between us."

Notice also that the fire of the altar was forbidden to go out. Chapter 6 and verse 13 says: "The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out." This signifies that because of Christ's sacrifice for us, our God is always ready, willing and waiting for us to enter into His presence. Psalm 86:5 declares, "For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee." I join Paul in 2 Corinthians 9:15 in declaring, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift!"

Once the path to God has been established and clearly marked (chapters 1–7), God prepares His children for consecration to His service and to experience His glorious presence. Chapters 8 and 9 show us the consecration of the priests in preparation for God's glorious presence.

Be aware of several other key things we glean from the Book of Leviticus...

First, note that "all priests are Levites,—but not all Levites are priests." You may need to read that again to get your head wrapped around it! But only Aaron's sons could become priests. In other words, you had to be born a priest. This pictures the New Testament truth that only those who have been born-again into the family of the great High Priest, our Lord Jesus Christ, can serve and worship God as priests. (2 Peter 2:5; Rev. 1:6)

Secondly, notice that only the High Priest wears the “holy crown” (Lev. 8:9)—teaching us that there is only one High Priest who is also a King, our Lord Jesus Christ, and only He holds the place of preeminence, both in the universe and in our lives. (Col. 1:18)

Thirdly, notice that when Aaron and his sons were consecrated for service to God, blood was placed upon their right ear lobes, right thumbs and right toes—symbolizing that all of their strength (denoted by the right side) was devoted to hearing and obeying God’s HOLY WORD, carrying out God’s HOLY WORK and continuing in a HOLY WALK. That threefold devotion is what our Lord also desires of us as New Testament priests! (Col. 1:10)

And finally, notice in chapter 9, verses 6 and 7, that Aaron makes atonement for himself and the people as a prerequisite to God’s glory descending upon the Tabernacle—picturing the fact that atonement necessarily precedes God’s presence. Unless we are in a right relationship with God—completely consecrated to Him, we will never experience the glory of His presence in our lives. (Lev. 9:24)

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

As our MEDIATOR and HIGH PRIEST who intercedes before God on our behalf – Leviticus 9:7–24  
(1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 7:22–26)

## WEEK 6, DAY 2: TODAY'S READING: LEVITICUS 10–13

### OVERVIEW:

Nadab and Abihu are judged by God; the first kosher menu is created; instruction regarding postpartum purification; leprosy is identified and addressed.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

As we pick up in our reading today in Leviticus 10, we learn something tremendously significant about our holy, loving, gracious, merciful, tenderhearted, compassionate, forbearing and forgiving God—and that is... HE TAKES HIS WORD VERY SERIOUSLY!

And though all of the qualities I just listed are wonderfully true of our God, even when our sincere hearts, good intentions and pure motives don't align themselves to God's will and purposes as they are REVEALED in His WORD... oh, buddy, watch out! And if you doubt whether that's true—just ask the two men to whom we are introduced in chapter 10—Nadab and Abihu! These men (Aaron's sons) allowed themselves to be so caught up in the emotional excitement of experiencing God's presence at the end of chapter 9 (9:23–24), they "invented," as it were, their own self-styled way to worship God in chapter 10 and verse 1.

Now, without understanding the God of the Bible, someone might think, "Well, isn't that admirable! These two men didn't want to be limited in the expression of their worship of God only from what they learned in a Book—they wanted to be free to express themselves from their hearts and minds in a way that reflected their own ideas and personality!" And as "cool," and as "organic" as that might sound to our 21st century way of thinking—suffice it to say, God was not impressed! Not in the slightest! Nadab and Abihu did what they thought was right in their own eyes out of the sincerity and goodness of their heart, by offering fire of their own creativity and invention to the Lord. God immediately let Nadab and Abihu, the children of Israel, and us(!!!) know exactly how He felt about it by answering with fire out of heaven that "zap-fried" them right on the spot! Leviticus 10:2 says, "And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord!" And again, don't miss WHY God responded the way He did! Verse 1 says, "And Nadab and Abihu... offered STRANGE FIRE before the Lord, WHICH HE COMMANDED THEM NOT!"

Listen, the fire of God's judgment devoured them because they refused to worship God in accordance with His Word! This is such an important lesson for us to learn! Jesus reiterated this principle in John 4:23 when He said, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."

Yes, God is certainly seeking WORSHIP—but not just any kind of worship! He is only interested in "true worship" that arises out of the spirit of a "true worshipper." But do recognize that biblically, worship will not only always be "in spirit," but it will always be "in Truth!" That is—it will always be GENERATED by the Truth of His Word, and it will also always be GOVERNED by the Truth of His Word. In response to the Word of God, it then arises from deep within our innermost being (our spirits), and then runs straight through our hearts, our minds, our emotions and, ultimately, out of our mouths in honor, praise and worship of God!

The practical lesson we must learn from Nadab and Abihu is that with any activity we are witnessing or being influenced to participate in—we must train our brain to constantly be asking: What is the biblical precedence for

this? Does the Bible give an example of this? Does the Bible specifically command me to do this? And, if there is a biblical example and/or command, does it actually apply to me, as one who is living in the dispensation of the Church Age?

In the 21st-century, though God may not be "zap-frying" people who violate His Truth in worship, we must make certain we understand that "strange fire" is being offered to the Lord at literally every turn in "Christianity," and in almost every "Christian" denomination.

Nadab and Abihu are a graphic illustration of the principle God taught us in Proverbs 14:12: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Oh, my brothers and sisters, we must LEARN the Truth of the Word of God and respond/worship accordingly—and not LEAN upon our own understanding, or our own natural instincts or inclinations!

After laying down Israel's dietary laws in chapter 11 and instruction regarding postpartum purification in chapter 12, in chapter 13, God paints an incredible picture of the working and consequences of sin—through His teaching concerning leprosy. Make a mental note that leprosy will always be a picture of sin throughout the remainder of the Bible. Notice, that just like leprosy, SIN...

- Is a disease that spreads throughout the body.
- Often remains undetected by others.
- Defiles everyone it's near.
- Isolates the one(s) infected.
- Is fit only for destruction by fire.

However, if we choose to separate ourselves from the sin—"putting off" the garment of the flesh (Col. 3:5–9), allowing our High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, to apply the blood of the sacrifice (1John 1:7) and anoint us with "oil" (a type of the Holy Spirit), through the picture of Leviticus 13, God lets us know that through Christ, our faithful High Priest, we can be restored to the joy of our fellowship with God—and man.

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

As our HIGH PRIEST who identifies and cleanses the disease of our sin – Leviticus 13 (Heb. 4:14,15).

## WEEK 6, DAY 3: TODAY'S READING: LEVITICUS 14–16

### OVERVIEW:

The purification of lepers; purification of those with unclean issues; instructions regarding the Day of Atonement.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

God is invisible and many of His truths relate to the unseen realm—and thus, the need for faith! Hebrews 11:1 tells us that “faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of THINGS NOT SEEN!” Though the spiritual realm is invisible, God is an expert at teaching spiritual truths through physical realities. Leviticus chapter 15 is a perfect example of God exercising this method of teaching.

One of the beautiful things about this section of scripture is the fact that God recognizes that we all have “issues.” God provides instructions here regarding “unclean issues,” for the obvious reason of preventing the spread of infectious illnesses among the Israelites. However, God’s stringent physical rules regarding “unclean issues” also teach us spiritual truths about “unclean” thoughts, attitudes and words that “issue” out of our hearts. Jesus reminded us that “those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man.” (Matt. 15:16-18) No wonder David prayed, “Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.” (Ps. 141:3)

In Leviticus chapter 16, God introduces a special holiday into the Jewish calendar: the Day of Atonement. On this day, both the sin nature and the individual sins of the entire nation of Israel were atoned for, or covered. A simple way to remember the significance of this holy day is by breaking the word “atonement” into three hyphenated words: “at-one-ment.” This is the day when Israel’s sin was covered, making them “at-one-ment” with God. The Day of Atonement detailed in Leviticus 16 is a very descriptive picture of the person and work of our High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ. In this chapter, the high priest enters the Holy of Holies with the blood of a sin offering—picturing the fact that our High Priest, Jesus Christ, would one day pour out His own blood as the ultimate atonement for sin upon the true altar in the third heaven! Hebrews 9:24 states it like this: “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.”

Once the high priest in the Old Testament had completed this offering, he laid his hands upon the head of the scapegoat and confessed the sins of the children of Israel (16:21)—symbolizing that the scapegoat had carried away their iniquities. Isaiah prophetically described this portion of Christ’s work saying, “the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isa. 53:6) Praise God, our Lord Jesus Christ has carried our sins to a place that is as far as the east is from the west! (Ps. 103:12) In other words, Jesus permanently eliminated the record of our sins—God remembers them no more!

Note through what is being pictured through the record of the Day of Atonement, that God is teaching us that our Lord Jesus Christ has effectually dealt with both our sinful NATURE—and our sinful ACTIONS. Praise the Lord!

Though there are many parallels of the high priest of the Old Testament to the person and work of our High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, two monumental differences must be recognized. First, the Old Testament high priest had to provide a sin offering for himself because he was as guilty of sin as the rest of the children of Israel. Jesus Christ, our High Priest, however, never offered a sin sacrifice for Himself because He was completely free and void of sin! (Heb. 9:14; 7:22–28) Secondly, the Day of Atonement was celebrated every year because “it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man [Jesus Christ], after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.” (Heb 10:4,11-13) Because of Christ's offering for sin—no other sacrifice will ever be necessary!

For those of us who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we can glory today in the fact that our Savior offered Himself ONE TIME to PERMANENTLY and FOREVER pay the price for our sin—and sins! Hallelujah!

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

As our SIN OFFERING which effectually crucified our sin nature – Leviticus 14:19–32 (Rom. 5:8)

As our SCAPEGOAT which carried away our sins – Leviticus 16:5–34 (2 Cor. 5:21)

As our eternal HIGH PRIEST who intercedes for us – Leviticus 14:20 (Heb. 7:24–25)

## WEEK 6, DAY 4: TODAY'S READING: LEVITICUS 17–20

### OVERVIEW:

God forbids Israel from worshipping other gods and eating blood; laws protecting the sanctity of sex; the declaration of civil laws.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

The first thing God made clear to Moses in Leviticus 17 was the ACCEPTABLE PLACE the sacrifice was to be offered. That PLACE was “the door of the Tabernacle of the congregation.” (17:4) Notice that not bringing the sacrifice to the ACCEPTABLE PLACE was a crime worthy of DEATH! (17:9) The next thing God emphasized to Moses in Leviticus 17 was the ACCEPTABLE PRICE that was to be offered in the sacrifice. That PRICE was BLOOD!

These two key things picture perfectly what God likewise emphasizes to us in the New Testament! The fact that there is only one ACCEPTABLE PRICE that can be paid for sin—and it is “nothing but the BLOOD of Jesus!” (1 John 1:7; Heb. 9:22; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14) And that blood was the blood that was shed from the one ACCEPTABLE PLACE: the cross of Calvary! (Gal. 3:13) Anyone who goes to anything other than the PRICE that was paid through the BLOOD of Christ—and/or anyone who goes to any PLACE other than the CROSS of Christ to find the forgiveness of sin will become the recipient of ETERNAL DEATH! And just as the BLOOD was to be offered at the “DOOR of the Tabernacle,” in perfect fulfillment of the type, Jesus said, “I am the DOOR” (John 10:9), and “He that entereth not by the DOOR into the sheepfold, but climbeth up SOME OTHER WAY, the same is a thief and a robber.” (John 10:1)

As we make our way further into Leviticus 17, God continues to teach the children of Israel and us about the sanctity of BLOOD. Several hundred years ago, people used to think that one of the ways a sick person could be healed was by draining out a good portion of their blood. Had they simply read and believed Leviticus 17:11, they would have known what science had not yet discovered—“the life of the flesh is in the blood!” That is a principle science now knows is true PHYSICALLY (sick people today are often given blood transfusions!)—but this is also a principle believers in Christ know is true SPIRITUALLY: the only way we can have spiritual life inside of our fleshly bodies is through the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ! The life of the flesh is truly—IN THE BLOOD!

Because of the sanctity of blood, God also forbids in this passage the eating or drinking of it. (17:10) That, too, was an offense worthy of death! (17:10) Note also that this forbiddance is likewise repeated in the New Testament in an epistle addressed to those of us in the Church Age! (Acts 15:20) Apparently, God never wanted us to lose sight of what a special substance blood actually is, and wanted to be sure that we kept ourselves completely distanced from anything even remotely connected to devil worship (17:7), or the way the Egyptians worshipped their pagan gods. (18:3) May this admonition serve as a reminder to us today to distance ourselves from any of the “idolatry” (see Col. 3:5) we may have been involved in when we were slaves in the bondage of Egypt (Egypt picturing our bondage to sin, satan, and self)!

Over and over in today's reading, God calls us to holiness against the backdrop of a tremendously powerful spiritual reality:

- 18:2- "I am the Lord your God."
- 18:4- "I am the Lord your God."
- 18:30- "I am the Lord your God."
- 19:3- "I am the Lord your God."
- 19:4- "I am the Lord your God."
- 19:10- "I am the Lord your God."
- 19:25- "I am the Lord your God."
- 19:31- "I am the Lord your God."
- 19:34- "I am the Lord your God."
- 19:36- "I am the Lord your God."
- 20:7- "I am the Lord your God."
- 20:24- "I am the Lord your God."

Oh, my brothers and sisters, may we realize today that there was a time when we were separated from the one true God—the God of the Bible. We walked, rather, according to "the god of this world." (2 Cor. 4:4) But the light of the glorious gospel shined past the blinders Satan sought to use to keep us bound to him and his worldly domain, and God now says to us: "I am the Lord your God!"

Against the backdrop of that glorious reality, may we heed what "THE LORD OUR GOD" says to us today from 2 Corinthians 6:14-18...

*14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

As the HOLY WORD OF GOD that protects our private and public lives from rampant wickedness – Leviticus 20:8 (Jn. 1:1,2,14; Rev. 19:13)

## WEEK 6, DAY 5: TODAY'S READING: LEVITICUS 21–24

### OVERVIEW:

The qualifications of priests; God sets the dates of the Jewish feasts; the death penalty instituted and carried out.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

As was mentioned when we began making our way through the Book of Leviticus, most Christians have a hard time actually getting through this Book for the simple fact that they don't see how it has application to those of us living in the Church Age. But, as we've seen, the Book of Leviticus is the Book of the PRIESTHOOD. That alone should perk up our spiritual eyes, ears and minds—because God tells us in 1 Peter 2:5 that He has set you and me apart as “an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ!” Wow! The connection is obvious! The priesthood of the Old Testament, provides us graphic pictures of our New Testament priesthood!

You see, the reality is, every born-again believer is a priest. (Rev. 1:6) No, not in the same sense as an Old Testament priest, and certainly not in a Roman Catholic sense—but in a very BIBLICAL sense! As New Testament priests, we have been entrusted with the responsibility of teaching unbelievers to worship God properly—we call that teaching “evangelism.” We have been commissioned to “go... and TEACH all nations.” (Matt. 28:19) But, as New Testament priests, we have also been entrusted with the responsibility of offering up “spiritual sacrifices” that are pleasing to God. Biblically, some of the “spiritual sacrifices” we are to offer to God is our FAITH (Phil. 2:17), our FINANCES (Phil. 4:18), our PRAISE (Heb. 13:15–16), our WITNESS (Rom. 15:16) and most importantly—obviously, our LIVES! (Rom. 12:1–2; 2 Cor. 2:15) Note that all of these “spiritual sacrifices” are symbolically represented by the physical offerings presented by the Old Testament priests.

As we acquaint ourselves with this spiritual/biblical concept, keep in mind that as priests, we are ambassadors, or representatives of God, and as such, have been called by God to represent Him on the earth in HOLINESS! Peter said, “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” (1 Pet. 1:15-16)

In Leviticus 21, God presents a list of physical blemishes that prevented a potential priest in the Old Testament from offering “the bread of God.” (Lev. 21:16–17) Keep in mind that these “physical blemishes” that were certainly binding upon the Old Testament priesthood, are simply representative of the “spiritual blemishes” that limit our ability to function in our New Testament priesthood. Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:27 that we “should be holy and without blemish!” When our holiness is “blemished” by sinful attitudes and actions, we are hindered in our effectiveness to offer the Word of God (the bread of God) to the lost world, and are unable to offer up acceptable “spiritual sacrifices!” Let's briefly examine some of the “blemishes” that are pictured for us in Leviticus 21...

#### 1. BLINDNESS. (21:18)

In the New Testament, a blind man is one who is not adding to his faith the seven things God specifically intended for our spiritual growth and development. (2 Pet. 1:5-9) It is someone who is not SPIRITUALLY MATURE.

2. A BLEMISHED EYE. (21:20)  
An Old Testament priest with a blemished eye was unable to see his reflection in the bronze laver where he was to wash/cleanse himself in preparation for service. (Ex. 30:18) In the New Testament, we allow our eyes to be blemished when we hear the Word of God, and choose not to obey it. (James 1:22-25)
3. A FLAT NOSE. (21:18)  
A flat-nosed Old Testament would not be able to smell the incense on the golden altar, picturing prayer, of course. A flat-nosed New Testament priest is a believer who neglects prayer, and therefore, experiences no power in his walk with God.
4. LAMENESS. (21:18)  
Obviously, a lame Old Testament priest was very simply one who could not WALK. It is a picture of New Testament priests who because of spiritual blemishes in their lives are no longer walking in obedience to the Word of God, and no longer walking in the Spirit. (Gal. 5:16–17, 22–23)
5. A SUPERFLUOUS (or extra) BODY PART. (21:18)  
An extra body part has no feeling, no place, no function and interferes with the service to be offered by the priest. A New Testament priest is one who has allowed superfluous things to be attached to us that were never intended to be a part of our lives. Namely, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking and malice. (Eph. 4:31-32) These superfluous things have no place in the life of a believer—and will cause us to be unable to function properly in our responsibility to offer up spiritual sacrifices.
6. A BROKEN FOOT or BROKEN HAND. (21:19)  
An Old Testament priest with a broken foot would not be able to keep his balance, walk or run. A New Testament priest with a broken foot would likewise be unable to balance his spiritual responsibilities (Col. 3:1-17), "walk in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:16) or "run with patience the race that is set before us." (Heb. 12:1; Gal. 5:7)
7. BROKEN "STONES." (21:20)  
Obviously, "broken stones" would have caused an Old Testament priest to be unable to reproduce. It is a picture of New Testament believers (priests) who have broken God's revealed will through His Word, causing them to be unable to reproduce spiritual offspring. (2 Pet. 1:8)

Some of us may find ourselves "blemished" in one of these areas pictured in Leviticus 21. May I remind you today that our Lord Jesus Christ has proven through His earthly ministry that He has the power to open the eyes of the blind, cause the lame to walk, and heal any deformity or abnormality in our lives. May we humble ourselves before Him today that we might receive His spiritual healing.

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

As our PERFECTLY SPOTLESS HIGH PRIEST – Leviticus 21:16–23 (Heb. 8:1)

As the UNREVEALED REALITY of the eternal feasts of Israel – Leviticus 23:2,21,42 (Col. 2:16–17)

## WEEK 7, DAY 1: TODAY'S READING: LEVITICUS 25–27

### OVERVIEW:

Laws concerning personal property; the sevens of rest and liberty; the blessing of obedience and the cursing of disobedience; vows and tithes explained.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

From a strictly practical standpoint, the weekly sabbath (the seventh day of the week) was intended by God to give "REST" to both MAN and BEAST. Also from a strictly practical standpoint, the sabbatical year (the seventh year in a week of years) was intended by God to give "REST" to the LAND. (Lev. 25:1–7) From a prophetic (futuristic) standpoint, whether it be God's system of working according to a pattern of seven DAYS, seven WEEKS, seven MONTHS, seven YEARS, seven WEEKS of YEARS, or seven DECADES—it all points to the fact that after six millenniums (6000 years) the seventh MILLENNIUM will be 1000 years of "REST" on this planet (Rev. 20:1–6) when our Lord Jesus Christ rules and reigns on the earth, finally receiving "the glory due unto his name." (1 Chron. 16:29; Psa. 29:2; 96:8)

The Year of Jubilee at the end of seven weeks of years ( $7 \times 7 = 49$  – Lev. 25:8), the 50th year, was intended by God to allow any of the children of Israel who, because of their debts, had been forced to sell their land and/or sell themselves into servanthood, to RETURN to their FAMILY and REGAIN the POSSESSION of their PROPERTY. Note that this JUBILANT RELEASE and PROCLAMATION of LIBERTY just happened to be enacted by the sounding of a trumpet—and on, of all days, the Day of Atonement! (Lev. 25:9)

Because of the atoning death of our Lord Jesus Christ (obviously, pictured in the Day of Atonement), Paul talks in 1 Corinthians 15:52 about the trumpet sounding in the very near future, proclaiming the release from our corruptible bodies—when we are finally "delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God!" (Rom. 8:21) Paul likewise tells us in Ephesians 1:14, that we're given the indwelling Holy Spirit inside of our mortal bodies as the downpayment guaranteeing "our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession," when we will receive, as he goes on to tell us in Philippians 3:21, a body "like unto his (Christ's) glorious body!" This is the "Jubilee" for which every child of God is presently "groaning" (Rom. 8:23), and the "Jubilee" being pictured in Leviticus 25.

Chapter 26 is very clear and direct. The simple reality is, obeying God's Word brings BLESSING—and disobeying God's Word brings CURSING (conflict). The New Testament equivalent is Galatians 6:7–8: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Not understanding this inviolable biblical principle, many believers in the 21st century don't seem to connect the circumstances of their lives to the choices they have made in terms of the Word of God. For God's glory's sake, may we always choose OBEDIENCE!

Looking back through the Book of Leviticus we can see two clear divisions:

- 1) Chapters 1–10 describe our POSITIONAL STANDING before God. (SALVATION)

2) Chapters 11-27 describe our PRACTICAL STANDING before God. (SANCTIFICATION)

As we close today, let's remind ourselves of the high points of Leviticus...

First, REMEMBER that the path to peace and fruitfulness starts with WORSHIP.

Next, REJOICE that through Jesus Christ's finished work, God has made us a SACRIFICE (Rom. 12:1–2), a PRIEST (1 Pet. 2:5) and a PLACE. (Eph. 2:22)

Finally, REALIZE that God's calling on our lives is that we be holy, for He is holy! (Lev. 11:45; 1 Pet. 1:15–16)

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

As the REDEEMER of the kingdom of heaven – Leviticus 25 (Acts 3:20–21; Rev 11:15)

## WEEK 7, DAY 2: TODAY'S READING: NUMBERS 1–4

### OVERVIEW:

The first numbering (census) of the Israelites; the encampment location of each tribe in relation to the Tabernacle; the census and duties of the Levites: the Kohathites, the Gersonites, and the Merarites.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

The Book of Numbers was written by Moses in approximately 1445 to 1405 B.C. (Num. 33:2; 36:13) The Book gets its name from the ancient Greek title of this book, ARITHMOI, from which we obviously get our English word ARITHMETIC. Later, Latin translators of the Old Testament gave the Book the title NUMERI, from which we get our English word NUMBERS. Interestingly, the word "NUMBERS" (or some form of it) is found 127 times in this Book, but it actually gets its name from the two "numberings" (censuses) of the men of war in chapters 1–4 and chapters 26–27. The first "numbering" (or census) took place the second year after the Jews' exodus from Egypt—and the second "numbering" was made 38 years later, just as the nation of Israel was about to enter into Canaan.

The Book of Numbers actually picks up the history of the Israelites where the Book of Exodus left off. Just one month had passed between the completion of the Tabernacle in Exodus 40:17 and God's command to number the people in Numbers 1:1–2. During that one month period, the instruction in the Book of Leviticus was given. Whereas the Book of Leviticus deals primarily with the believer's WORSHIP, the Book of Numbers deals primarily with the believer's WALK. Whereas PURITY is the central theme of Leviticus, PILGRIMAGE is the central theme of Numbers.

The Book of Numbers has incredible implications and applications for believers today. God makes that abundantly clear in 1 Corinthians 10:1–12 and Hebrews 3 and 4. In this Book, we will see the nation of Israel after being gloriously delivered from the bondage of Egypt by the blood of the lamb—failing to take God at His Word, and thus, wandering in the wilderness of unbelief rather than entering into their inheritance in Canaan.

As has been mentioned repeatedly in the 52 Weeks of Pursuit, don't ever lose sight of the fact that Israel of the Old Testament is a picture of the individual believer in the New Testament. Just like Israel, after being gloriously delivered out of the bondage of Egypt (sin/Satan/self... the world!) by the blood of the Lamb—failing to take God at His Word, we too, wander in the wilderness of unbelief rather than entering into the fullness of our inheritance in Christ. (Eph. 1:18; Col. 1:12) The lessons to be learned in Numbers are "numerous!"

Note that the census that God commanded Israel to make was not of the entire nation, but only the men age 20 and above who were able to go to war. The total was 603,550. (Num. 1:46) One of the saddest realities in the entire Bible is that of these 603,550 men, 603,548 of them would die in the wilderness, having never experienced God's purpose for their exodus! As God made abundantly clear from the beginning, the purpose for the exodus wasn't just to bring them OUT of EGYPT—it was to bring them IN to CANAAN! (Exodus 3:8; Deut. 6:23) As God warns us to learn from Israel's failure in the wilderness in 1 Corinthians 10:5–6, it makes one wonder whether out of every 603,550 believers today, would there be more than two who actually fulfill God's purposes for their exodus by allowing God to bring them into their "Canaan"—the fullness of life in Christ? What an incredibly sobering reality! If those statistics are right, will you be one of the two? Will you trust God, not only to save you from the PENALTY of sin, but from the POWER of sin? Will you rise above the spiritual discouragement, disillusionment, defeat, and death of the wilderness, and live in the spiritual peace, productivity, and power of Canaan?

Note also, that if there were 603,550 men at the time of the census, it would strongly suggest that Israel's' total population would have been somewhere around 2 million to 2.5 million people! It has been estimated that it would have required nearly 50 railroad box cars full of manna per day just to feed the people on a daily basis! The land mass needed to accommodate this multitude when they camped at night would have exceeded 100 square miles!

As we come through the first four chapters of Numbers, one of the things that is very apparent is that God always does things "decently and in order." (1 Cor. 14:40) God gave specific instruction for Israel to arrange itself into an orderly camp with its "mobile worship center" (the Tabernacle) at the very center. God did not want Israel to be a chaotic mob in the midst of their journeys, but rather, intended Israel's orderliness, organization, and structure to be one of the key ways His people stood out from the rest of the world, so they would have the opportunity to tell them of their God! (See Num. 1:52; 24:2,5)

As we journey through the midst of the chaotic world of the 21st century with the lives of its people in such disarray, God wants the orderliness of the lives of His people, as we arrange them according to the instruction of His Word with worship at the very center, to be one of the key ways our lives stand out from the rest of the world, so we have the opportunity to tell them of our God! (1 Pet. 3:15)

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

Through MOSES as he led the people – Numbers 1:54 (John 10:14,27)

Through AARON, the high priest, who was served by the Levites – Numbers 3:6 (As a holy and "royal priesthood," we serve Christ, our great High Priest – John 12:26; 1 Pet. 2:5–9; Heb. 4:14)

## WEEK 7, DAY 3: TODAY'S READING: NUMBERS 5–7

### OVERVIEW:

Laws concerning cleansing; laws concerning confession and restitution; laws concerning suspected immorality (jealousy); the princes' offerings for the dedication of the Tabernacle.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

The Bible tells us very specifically and distinctly that we are to "rightly divide the word of truth." (2 Tim.2:15) This verse also tells us that in order to make those "right divisions," we must see ourselves as "workmen," employing one of the most difficult tasks known to man: "STUDY!" Through diligent "study" and hard "work," God reveals to us the "divisions" HE has made in His Word. In each Book of the Bible, there are certain keys that help us to unlock the "divisions" that GOD has specifically set—what God likes to call the "RIGHT DIVISIONS!"

As we study Numbers, what becomes the key to unlocking the divisions God has set in this Book is understanding that there are two very distinct generations of people to whom He is referring. The first group of people is the generation of people that came up out of Egypt, but because of their unbelief, were forbidden to enter the Promised Land and died in the wilderness. The other generation is the group of people who grew up in the wilderness, but were permitted to enter into Canaan because they were under their parent's authority at the time of Israel's failure to trust God. (Deut. 1:35–39) Quite simply, they were too young to make an intelligent decision about trusting God, and so God did not hold them "accountable."

Identifying these two generations neatly divides the Book of Numbers into 3 sections:

- The "OLD" generation is covered in chapters 1–14.
- The "NEW" generation is covered in chapters 21–36.
- The chapters in between (15–20), record the period of transition during which the "OLD" generation DIED OFF, and the "NEW" generation GREW UP.

Whereas the first four chapters of the Book of Numbers dealt with the OUTWARD FORMATION of Israel's camp, the next five chapters deal with the INWARD CONDITION of it. God capsulizes the central theme of this section in chapter 5 and verse 3, saying, ". . . that they defile not their camps, in the midst whereof I dwell." Because God was in their camp, it was to be HOLY—completely free from defilement! The New Testament equivalent is 2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1. Because God now "DWELLS IN US," we are to "CLEANSE OURSELVES" (7:1) and "SEPARATE OURSELVES" (6:17) "from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God!" (7:1b)

In Numbers 5, God gives the children of Israel several vital pieces of instruction...

- Lepers were to be quarantined outside of the camp. (5:1–4)

- Anything acquired through dishonesty must be confessed and recompensed. (5:5–10)
- Any suspected immorality must be tested before God. (5:11–31)

In short, God was showing THEM—and is picturing for US the absolute necessity for purity, honesty, and truth.

Chapter 6 deals with God’s instruction concerning the Nazarite vow. The implications are this...

When a man or a woman in the Old Testament wanted to be used in God’s service but did not qualify because they were not a Levite or priest, they could voluntarily take the "Nazarite Vow." The word "Nazarite" is a Hebrew transliteration that means "dedication by separation." The Nazarite separated himself from certain hindrances to holiness in order to be wholly devoted to the service of the Lord. Although the outward characteristics of the Old Testament "Nazarite Vow" no longer apply, they point to the priority God places in the New Testament on our personal surrender and consecration in order to be used to carry out His will and mission.

Chapter 7 records the "free-will offering" of the princes of Israel—who were the representative heads of each of the tribes of Israel. Several things to note here are that the gifts were totally voluntary, and although the gifts were identical, God took an enormous amount of space to specifically and separately record each one! The New Testament equivalent is the fact that, "God loveth a cheerful giver!" (2 Cor. 9.7), and that though He doesn’t NEED our treasure, He TREASURES the fact that our heart of love for Him prompts us to give to Him! (Matt. 6:21)

### **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

In the NAZARITE who "dedicated" himself "by separation" – Numbers 6:1–8 (Jesus willingly dedicated Himself to serve the will of the Father, separating Himself from sin, even to death – John 6:38; Matt. 26:39,42)

## WEEK 7, DAY 4: TODAY'S READING: NUMBERS 8–10

### OVERVIEW:

Consecration of the Levites; observance of the second Passover; the Lord's guiding presence in the cloud and fire; the two silver trumpets; the children of Israel leave Sinai.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

As we move into Numbers 8, God unfolds for us the consecration of the Levites. God reveals that before these priests were to render their service to God, they were first to be cleansed! (8:7)

There were actually three different aspects of the cleansing of the Old Testament priests that were certainly binding upon them:

1. The sprinkling of water upon them.
2. The shaving of all hair from their flesh.
3. The washing of their clothes.

These three aspects of their PHYSICAL cleansing, however, serve to picture our SPIRITUAL cleansing as New Testament priests—which as we have previously seen, is inclusive of every born-again believer in Christ! (1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6) Before offering God our deeds of service, just like the Levites of Numbers 8, we too, are to be cleansed! And in perfect fulfillment of the type, the New Testament teaches that our cleansing is likewise...

1. By the sprinkling of water upon us.  
Hebrews 10:22 says, "Having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water!"
2. By the cleansing (shaving) of "all filthiness of the flesh."  
2 Corinthians 7:1... those deeds of the flesh that are as much a part of us as the very hair on our body!
3. By the washing of our clothes.  
Ephesians 5:26 talks about "the washing of water by the word!"

Just as the Levites' acceptance with God was on the basis of the SIN offering and the BURNT offering (8:8–12), so our acceptance with God is based solely on the atoning offering for sin provided by our Lord Jesus Christ! (Eph. 1:6)

Just as the Levites were to be presented before the Lord and completely surrendered to Him (8:13–16), we too, are commanded to "present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God!" (Rom. 12:1)

In Numbers 9, God deals with the issue of FELLOWSHIP and GUIDANCE. In 9:1–14, God details the celebration of the first anniversary of the Passover, which speaks of FELLOWSHIP. In 9:15–23, God explains the pillar of cloud and

of fire—both of which speak of His GUIDANCE. The Passover, of course, relates to the New Testament believer in the Lord's Supper, where we, like Israel, are put in remembrance of God's work of redemption, and thus, FELLOWSHIP through the blood of the Passover Lamb. (1 Cor. 5:7) The pillar of cloud and of fire which provided GUIDANCE to the Old Testament saints, is representative of the indwelling Spirit in the New Testament believer in Christ. Just as the children of Israel were to be totally surrendered and dependent upon God's GUIDANCE for their every move—making absolutely no plans of their own accord, so we are to be completely surrendered to the supernatural GUIDANCE of the Spirit of God in us as He directs us through the pages of His Word!

In chapter 10, Moses is told to make two trumpets. These trumpets, like the pillar of cloud and fire, were also for GUIDANCE. Whereas the cloud and fire gave guidance for the EYES, the trumpets provided guidance through the EARS. The trumpets were used for four specific purposes:

1. To be a summoning call to ASSEMBLE the people.
2. To be a signal to ADVANCE the people.
3. To be a sounding blast at a time of war to ALARM the people.
4. To be a melodious song to provide a continued AWARENESS (memorial) to the people of the sacrifices of God.

The sounding of these trumpets point prophetically to:

1. The summoning call to ASSEMBLE the church of Jesus Christ at the rapture! (1 Thess. 4:16)
2. The signal of ADVANCE, as our corruptible, mortal bodies put on incorruption and immortality! (1 Cor. 15:52)
3. The sounding ALARM in Zion (Joel 2:1) as God declares war in the Tribulation Period! (Rev. 8–9)
4. The melodious song that will be ever-sounding in our ears throughout eternity as a memorial of God's glorious sacrifice on our behalf through His Son!

### **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

In the PASSOVER – Numbers 9:2 (1 Cor. 5:7; John 1:29)

## WEEK 7, DAY 5: TODAY'S READING: NUMBERS 11–12

### OVERVIEW:

The complaint of the people; the lust of the people; the complaint of Moses; the 70 elders chosen; the plague of the quail; Aaron and Miriam speak against Moses; Miriam is stricken with leprosy; Moses prays on her behalf.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

As the blessed observance of the Passover ended in chapter 9, the guiding cloud lifted off of the Tabernacle in chapter 10, sending the entire camp of Israel in motion. What an exciting time it must have been as “the ark of the covenant of the Lord went before them in the three days journey, to search out a resting place from them,” (Num. 10:33) moving them ever-closer to Canaan! Surely this was a time when the children of Israel were filled with praise—lifting their voices with triumphant singing and rejoicing! One would certainly think that would be the case! But sadly, the opening words of chapter 11 begin this way... “And when the people COMPLAINED.” In fact, complaining and murmuring becomes one of Israel’s favorite pastimes! Check this out...

- *“And when the people complained...” – Num. 11:1*
- *“And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses...” – Num. 12:1*
- *“And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron...” – Num. 14:2*
- *“Now Korah... took men: And they rose up before Moses... and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron...” – Num. 16:1-3*
- *“But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron...” – Numbers 16:41*
- *“And the men, which Moses sent to search the land...made all the congregation to murmur against him...” – Num. 14:36*

There is so much complaining in this Book, some have even suggested that rather than being called the Book of Numbers, perhaps the fourth Book of Moses might more aptly be called, “The Book of Murmurs!”

But not only did the people fall into the trap of murmuring and complaining, they also fell into the trap of lusting. It seems unthinkable, especially coming off of the heels of the glorious reminder of their deliverance from the AFFLICTION of their flesh in Egypt that they had just celebrated in the Passover, that only a few days later they would be lusting for the ways their flesh was GRATIFIED in Egypt! (Num. 11:4–9) And once again, we may need to remind ourselves of what Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:6! “Now these things were our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.” Sometimes it’s easy for believers to forget that this world’s system (Egypt) was the snare Satan used to hold us captive at his will! (2 Tim 2:26) Forgetting that it was that very system of evil that almost sent us to Hell, we begin to lust for the ways our flesh was gratified when we were in it. Oh my, may God help us!

Note the disastrous results of the complaining and carnality of the people upon their leader. Moses himself is thrust into great discouragement, and begins to voice his complaint to the Lord. (11:10–15) He basically cries out, “I can’t do this, God! The burden is too heavy. Just kill me!”

In the remainder of chapter 11, God answers the complaints of both Moses and the people. He gives Moses 70 elders to assist him in his work, and he gives the Jews the meat for which they lusted. Note, however, that in both cases, **THEY GOT WHAT THEY WANTED, BUT LOST WHAT THEY HAD!** The Spirit of God anointing Moses to lead the people was divided among the 70 elders, and the meat the Children of Israel lusted after was a curse that led to their death. (“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.” – James 1:14–15) Perhaps the key lesson here is—be careful what you ask God for!

In chapter 12, the murmuring has ascended to yet another level. Now it flows from Moses’ own brother and sister—Aaron, the high priest, and Miriam, Israel’s prophetess. (Exo. 15:20) They state that their complaint against Moses was the Ethiopian wife he had selected, but note that it is only the smokescreen to mask their own jealousy and pride. Their complaint wasn’t really against Moses’ selection of a wife—it was against Moses’ **AUTHORITY!** What they really wanted was the authority of Moses’ position. Verse 2 makes their motive abundantly clear. Once again, don’t miss the fact that the more things change, the more they stay the same! Human nature still employs the same tactics in the 21st century.

Note that in his meekness (12:3), Moses doesn't seek to vindicate himself—but rather trusts God to handle the situation. God was well able to do His job!

### **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

In **MOSES** who “was very meek above all the men which were upon the face of the earth” – Numbers 12:3 (Matt. 11:29 – Jesus said, “I am meek and lowly in heart.”)

## WEEK 8, DAY 1: TODAY'S READING: NUMBERS 13–15

### OVERVIEW:

The 12 spies sent into Canaan; their report; Moses' intercessory prayer for the children of Israel; God's pardon, but refusal to allow Israel to enter the Promised Land; laws concerning offerings, sins, and the Sabbath.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

Leaving the wilderness of Sinai, the children of Israel were led northward until they reached Kadesh-Barnea, the southern tip of the land of Canaan. For the first time, they were actually able to see the land God had promised to them. Before going into possess the land, a leader from each of the 12 tribes was chosen to spy out the land for 40 days.

As the 12 spies brought back their report, there was complete agreement that Canaan was, indeed, "a land that flowed with milk and honey" (13:27), but 10 said that overcoming the obstacles in the land was an utter impossibility. Only Joshua and Caleb said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it for we are able to overcome it." (13:30) As someone so aptly put it, "The 10 put the DIFFICULTY between themselves and God. The two put GOD between themselves and the difficulty. The 10 saw with the eye of the FLESH. The two saw with the eye of the FAITH."

The outcome is history. Israel first refused to believe, then rebelled, even suggesting that Joshua and Caleb be stoned, and that a new leader be appointed to lead them all back to Egypt. The result? 38 years of wandering in the wilderness. (Note: A total of 40 years, one year for each day the spies were in Canaan – Num. 14:33-34.) And what a tragedy! The entire generation of people who were age 20 and above at the time of their glorious exodus from Egypt was condemned to die in the wilderness, having never experienced God's purpose in bringing them out. They picture many (shall we go as far as to say most?) believers today, who like Israel, refuse to trust God's promise to grant them victory over their enemies (the world, the flesh, and the Devil), and refuse to trust God to grant them entrance into the fullness of life, rest, fruit, and blessing in Christ (Canaan).

As we enter into chapter 15, God begins the transitional part of the Book of Numbers (chapters 15-20), which covers the 38 years of wilderness wanderings where the old generation died off. To help us understand just how much "dying" actually took place, Dr. Leon Wood (A Survey of Israel's History) notes:

"Figuring 1,200,000 (600,000 of both men and women) as having to die in 14,508 days (38½ years), gives 85 per day. Figuring 12 hours per day maximum for funerals, gives an average of seven funerals per hour for all 38½ years, a continuous foreboding reminder of God's punishment upon them."

### CHRIST IS REVEALED:

As the GLORY OF GOD – Numbers 14:22 (Heb. 1:3; John 1:14; 2 Cor. 4:6)

## WEEK 8, DAY 2: TODAY'S READING: NUMBERS 16–19

### OVERVIEW:

Korah leads a rebellion against Moses and Aaron; the plague of judgment sent by God; duties for the priests; the tithe offering; the sacrifice of the red heifer.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

The complaints that were hurled against Moses in chapter 12 came from his own brother and sister. The uprising against him in chapter 16 comes from his own cousins, Korah, Dathan, and Abram. The sad thing is that Korah, the ringleader of the rebellion, was able to negatively influence 250 of the leaders of Israel against Moses and Aaron.

Their accusations against Moses and Aaron, the God-ordained authorities in Israel, was that they assumed too much authority, and that there were others, namely THEM(!), who were deserving of an equal voice in the decisions that were made for the nation. They, no doubt, were assured that they were right, and that they were only seeking to champion the “Lord’s cause,” and a cause that was for the “good of the people.” The only problem was—they were wrong. Dead wrong! In fact, verse 11 reveals that their actual rebellion wasn’t against the authority of Moses and Aaron—but against the authority of the Lord Himself! In chapter 16 and verse 11, Moses says to Korah, “... both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the Lord.” (16:11) As the Lord recounts this story in Numbers 26:9, He also says that, “they strove against the Lord.”

It is interesting to note in this whole rebellious debacle that Moses and Aaron did not seek to defend themselves. They, rather, let God be their defense. (Psa. 59:9) Moses instructs Korah and his 250 rebels to bring censers (the pots used for burning incense) to the Tabernacle so that God could reveal who was right in the dispute. The object lesson was incredible. The ground opened up and swallowed Korah, Dathan, Abram, and as the 250 princes offered their incense, God breathed out fire and they also went up in smoke!

One would think that the supernatural intervention of God confirming the authority of Moses and Aaron would have certainly caused the people to willfully and joyfully submit. Rather, they murmured once again, actually blaming Moses and Aaron for killing Korah and all of his cohorts! Wow! Needless to say, God was not pleased. He instructs Moses and Aaron to back away so He could consume every last one of the murmurers. Moses (what a guy!), rather than relish in God’s judgment upon the people, he instructs Aaron to offer atonement for them so that the people would be spared. Before Aaron can offer the atonement, however, 14,700 people were killed!!!

Evidently, even the events of chapter 16 weren’t enough to convince the people of Aaron’s authority in the priesthood. In chapter 17, God wants to settle the issue once and for all. God instructs Moses to tell each tribe to present a rod (a dead stick) to be placed in front of the Ark in the Tabernacle. The rod that blossomed would indicate the one He had chosen for the priesthood. Obviously, Aaron’s rod was the only one that budded. But not only did it bud, in a single day, it also blossomed and bore fruit! The other rods were still as dead as a door nail. While each of the princes took back his lifeless rod, the rod of Aaron was placed in the Tabernacle before the Ark to be a constant reminder to these rebels and all of the children of Israel—who the high priest of Israel actually was!

Aaron’s rod, of course, is a beautiful picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many religious leaders and teachers have arisen throughout the course of time. They all had one thing in common: they died! Today, they are nothing but a

"dead stick," as it were. Only One rose from the dead! He alone is the Source and Giver of life—our Great High Priest!

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

In AARON'S BUDDING ROD – Numbers 17:1–8 (1 Cor. 15:20; Acts 17:3: 26:23)

In AARON AND HIS SONS who were responsible to bear the iniquity of the people in the sanctuary – Numbers 18:1 (Isa. 53:4–7; Titus 2:14)

In the RED HEIFER which was to be offered as a cleansing from defilement.

- It was to be without spot or blemish. (Num. 19:2)  
(Christ was "without blemish and without spot" – 1 Pet. 1:19)
- It was to have never born a yoke. (Num. 19:2)  
(A yoke is put on an animal to subdue its wild nature and compel subjection. Christ needed no yoke, but came saying, "Lo, I come to do thy will, O God" – Heb. 10:7)
- It was to be red. (Num. 19:2)  
(A picture of the blood of Christ – Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:2,19)
- It was to be slain without (outside) the camp. (Num. 19:3)  
(Christ was crucified on Golgotha, a place outside of the city of Jerusalem – John 19:17)
- It's blood was to be sprinkled seven times before the Tabernacle. (Num. 19:4)  
(Seven is the number of completion and perfection in the Bible. Christ offered one complete and perfect sacrifice for sin – Heb. 10:12, 14)

## WEEK 8, DAY 3: TODAY'S READING: NUMBERS 20–24

### OVERVIEW:

Miriam's death; Moses strikes the rock twice; Edom refuses to allow Israel passage on their land; Aaron's death; the judgment of the fiery serpents; the serpent of brass; Israel defeats King Arad, the Amorites, and the Moabites; Balaam is hired to curse the Israelites; the prophecies of Balaam.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

Chapter 20 marks the end of Israel's wandering in the wilderness. The death of Aaron, which takes place in this chapter, happened in the fortieth year after the children of Israel came up out of Egypt (see Num. 3:38), and from this point, Israel either marched or halted, but did not wander.

It is significant that this chapter groups together three significant events: 1) Miriam's death; 2) Moses sin (striking the rock twice); 3) Aaron's death. These three events point to the fact that Aaron—representative of the priesthood, could not successfully lead Israel into the land of promise and rest; nor could Miriam—representative of the Prophets; nor could Moses—representative of the Law. The way into the Promised Land was to be led by Joshua, whom we will see as we study the Book that bears his name, is an incredible type of the Lord Jesus Christ! (Note: "Joshua" is the Hebrew rendering of the name "Jesus," and is actually translated "Jesus" in Acts 7:45!)

The reason God was so stern with Moses about disobeying His command to speak to the rock is revealed in 1 Corinthians 10:4. You see, that wasn't just any rock. That Rock was Christ! The Rock had already been smitten once (Exo. 17:5), and God didn't want it smitten again. Striking it again would imply that Christ's one sacrifice on the Cross wasn't sufficient to pay for man's sin. Because of Moses' defilement of the type, he was not permitted to enter the Promised Land. Husbands, take note, God does not take kindly when someone spoils the picture of His Son! You, too, are a picture of Christ in your relationship to your wife! (Eph. 5:22–32) Unless your relationship with your wife is right, it will be as impossible for you to enter Canaan (the fullness of life in Christ) as it was for Moses!

Chapter 21 presents another incredible picture of Christ. The people had been bitten with the fiery serpents because of two sins: 1) They spoke against God; and 2) They spoke against Moses. Because of their sin, they were dying. (Num. 21:5–6) In like fashion, we are sinners because we have sinned against God, and because we have sinned against our fellow man. (Mark 12:30–31) Because of our sin, we have been bitten by the fiery serpent of sin, and are destined to die. (Rom. 6:23a – "the wages of sin is death!")

God's remedy in Israel was a serpent of brass that was to be lifted up on a pole among the people, and all who looked to it were delivered from death to life. In John 3:14, Jesus said, "And AS Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him (i.e. looks to Him in faith) should not perish, but have eternal life."

Note several things comparing the physical salvation provided through the serpent of brass lifted up on the pole, to the spiritual salvation provided through the Lord Jesus Christ, lifted up on the cross:

1. Their salvation was BY FAITH.  
It wasn't by anything they did, the command was simply to "LOOK and LIVE!"
2. It was BY FAITH ALONE.  
Israel was not saved by looking at the serpent AND keeping the Law... or bringing a sacrifice... or by promising reform. They were saved by faith alone. Likewise, our salvation is not Christ PLUS anything! If anything needs to be ADDED to Christ, it is to say that Christ is not sufficient in Himself to provide our salvation. God forbid!
3. Their was only ONE REMEDY.  
We have all heard countless times that, "There are many road to heaven." There was only ONE REMEDY in the camp of Israel, and there is only ONE REMEDY today! Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am THE WAY (not "a" way)... no man cometh unto the Father but my me." Unless a person looks to Christ by faith, the sting of death (1 Cor. 15:56) is inevitable and eternal.
4. Their salvation was IMMEDIATE.  
Just as their was an immediate miracle when the bitten victim in Israel looked to the serpent of brass, so every sinner bitten by the fiery serpent of sin receives the immediate miracle of eternal life when He looks to Christ by faith.

Chapters 22–24 record the strange story of Balaam and Balak. Balak tried to hire Balaam to curse the Children of Israel, but every time he opened his mouth to do so, much to Balaam's surprise... and Balak's anger, out came blessing!

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

In the ROCK which Moses struck – Numbers 20:8–11; Exodus 17:6 (Christ, the Rock was struck once through His death on the cross and does not need to be struck again – 1 Cor. 10:4. Rom. 6:10 – "For in that he died, he died unto sin once.")

In the SERPENT OF BRASS – Numbers 21:8–9 (John 3:14).

In the prophesied STAR and SCEPTER – Numbers 24:17 (Heb. 1:8 – scepter; Rev. 22:16 – star)

## WEEK 8, DAY 4: TODAY'S READING: NUMBERS 25–27

### OVERVIEW:

Israel's sin of fornication; God's judgment in the plague of death; the plague halted because of the zeal of Phinehas; the second numbering (census) of Israel; the law of inheritance; Moses views the Promised Land; Moses installs Joshua as Israel's leader.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

As we saw in yesterday's reading, Balak was bound and determined to get Balaam to curse Israel. Because Balaam wanted the money and honor that Balak promised him for doing so, he repeatedly tried to curse them, but God would only allow him to speak blessing.

Since Balaam couldn't curse them, he suggests a way to put the children of Israel in a situation where God Himself would curse them. God outlines Balaam's simple plan in His commentary on Numbers 25:1–8 found in Revelation 2:14 that He calls "the doctrine of Balaam."

1. He taught Balak how to cause the children of Israel "to eat things sacrificed to idols."
2. He taught Balak how to cause the children of Israel "to commit fornication."

Though Balaam wasn't successful in getting GOD to turn away from ISRAEL, he was successful in getting ISRAEL to turn away from GOD. He wickedly suggests to Balak, king of Moab, that the Moabite women make friends with the men of Israel. (Keep James 4:4 in mind—"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that friendship with the world is enmity with God?") The "friendliness" of the Moabite women quickly led the Israelite men "as an ox goeth to the slaughter" (Prov. 7:22)—right into sexual immorality and idol worship. Israel's disobedience resulted in a plague of death that swept through the camp of Israel. When it was all said and done, 24,000 people had been killed! (25:9)

The hero of this whole tragedy was Phinehas, the grandson of Aaron. One Israelite was as so bold in his sin and lust, he actually brought one of the Midianite women into Israel's camp to have a sexual relationship with her right in Moses' face, as it were. Phinehas came into the tent and thrust both of them through with a javelin while in the very act. God honors the zeal of Phinehas by turning away the plague of death before any others were killed, and by giving him a "covenant of peace" and an "everlasting priesthood." Phinehas gives new meaning to "Blessed are the peacemakers!"

In chapter 26, God calls for the second "numbering," or census, of the children of Israel in the Book of Numbers. At this point, all of the 603,550 men included in the first census were dead, with the exception of Joshua, Caleb, and Moses—and at this point, Moses wasn't long for this world either! The total of the second census was 601,730... 1820 fewer than the first census taken some 38 years previous. Catch the pitifulness of Numbers 26:63–65: "These are they that were numbered by Moses and Eleazar the priest, who numbered the children of Israel in the plains of Moab by Jordan near Jericho. But among these there was not a man of them whom Moses and Aaron the priest

numbered, when they numbered the children of Israel in the wilderness of Sinai. For the Lord had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun."

Another significant event was to take place before Israel was to enter the Promised Land. God wanted Moses to do two things:

1. To go up to Mount Abarim so that he could view the land he had been forbidden to enter. (27:12–14) Just imagine what must have been going through Moses' heart at that moment!
2. To install Joshua as the new leader. (26:15–23)

Chapter 27 ends with Moses blessing Joshua, and laying his hands upon him—symbolically transferring the leadership that God had entrusted to him.

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

In JOSHUA, who would lead people likened to sheep which have no shepherd – Numbers 27:17 (Mark 6:34; 1 Pet. 2:25)

## WEEK 8, DAY 5: TODAY'S READING: NUMBERS 28–32

### OVERVIEW:

The daily and weekly offerings; the Sabbath and monthly offerings, and the offerings to be given at the appointed feasts; God's instruction concerning vows; God's judgment upon the Midianites; the division of the booty obtained from the Midianites; the officers and captains bring an offering to the Lord; Reuben, Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh settle east of the Jordan.

### HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:

Chapters 28 and 29 deal with the subject of the Lord's offerings, and are actually an amplification of the instructions already given in Leviticus 23. Keep in mind that all of the offerings speak of Christ and find their fulfillment in Him. (Matt. 5:17) Understanding that makes Numbers 28:2 beautifully significant as God speaks of these offerings as "My bread." Christ is the One in whom the Father has found His delight and perfect satisfaction. (Matt. 3:17)

In chapter 30, God talks about the seriousness of making vows to Him. He wants to make certain that His people did not take ENTERING into a vow with Him lightly—or take the BREAKING of a vow lightly. Though we are not instructed to make vows, as such, as New Testament believers, wasn't our very salvation a sacred "vow" of sorts, as we recognized that our lives were not our own because of the price Christ paid to redeem us—and so we exchanged our life for His? (1 Cor. 6:19–20; Matt. 16:24)

The purpose of God's command to go to war against Midian in chapter 31 was two-fold:

- 1) To "avenge the children of Israel of the Midianites." (31:2)
- 2) To "avenge the Lord of Midian." (31:3)

And it served that two-fold purpose because the Midianites had devastated Israel—not as "ENEMIES" in a PHYSICAL war, but as "FRIENDS" in a SPIRITUAL war. The idol-worshipping Midianites seduced the Children of Israel into committing "SPIRITUAL ADULTERY" against the Lord, and became involved in "PHYSICAL ADULTERY" with their women. It had resulted in the death of 24,000 Israelites! (Num. 25:9)

In this war that God designed to provide HUMAN RETALIATION and DIVINE RETRIBUTION, three significant things stand out:

- 1) The easiness of the victory.
- 2) The enormity of the spoil.
- 3) The absence of the loss of life. (Not one of the Israelites was killed!)

Keep in mind that like Israel, we, too, have been called to war against our PHYSICAL enemy—the flesh (Gal. 5:17), and to war against our SPIRITUAL enemy—the devil and his principalities and powers. (Eph. 6:10-17) When we walk

in obedience to the Word of God and appropriate the victory that Christ has already won, we can expect the same result as the children of Israel in Numbers 31!

In chapter 32, the tribes of Reuben and Gad approach Moses for permission to settle in a piece of property recently acquired on the east of Jordan. They had set their affection on what they could see with their “physical eyes” (note in 32:1 – “and when they saw”), rather than what God had in store for them in the Promised Land that required the “eyes of faith.” From a human/financial standpoint, their request was very reasonable and made all the sense in the world—but spiritually, it was an act of selfishness, compromise and lack of faith. Israel’s place was INSIDE Canaan—not OUTSIDE! That was the whole purpose for the exodus—to bring them into a new land. (Deut. 6:23) God wanted the entire nation to enter the land as one, and for all of Israel to desire to be near the Tabernacle, and thus, constantly living in His presence. We see the result of their choice in 1 Chronicles 5:18–26 and 2 Kings 15:29. It wasn’t long before they bowed themselves to the gods of the people around them—and they were the first to go into captivity.

Obviously, these tribes are a graphic picture of self-indulgent, worldly Christians who foolishly set their affection on things on earth rather than on the things above (Col. 3:1–2), allowing physical or financial advantages to be their first consideration, and the key factor in making the decisions of life. Like Israel, our place is in CANAAN—not in this WORLD! We are to be living in this world, but all the while, our affection driving us to seek the things which are above, lest we, like Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh, be overtaken by the world, the flesh, and the devil.

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

In the OFFERINGS of the FEAST of TABERNACLES – Numbers 29:12–39 (Compare Num. 29:12 with Lev. 23:24) – John 1:14 (“The Word was made flesh and DWELT among us...” Note that the word “dwelt” is the word “tabernacle,” meaning “to temporarily live in a tent.”)

In MOSES, the RIGHTEOUS JUDGE of the wicked – Numbers 31:1–17 (Rev. 16:5; 19:11; 2 Thess. 1:7–9; Jude 14–15)