

Numbers - Lesson 4

Chapter 29 - 3 great holidays are celebrated in the 7th month

1. Feast of Trumpets
2. Day of Atonement
3. Feast of Tabernacle

The **Feast of the Trumpets** was Israel's NEW YEAR'S DAY. It was a day of blowing trumpets as the people gave PRAISE to God.

How does this compare with the way most of our world spend New Year's Day?

When we think of the blowing of trumpets, it reminds us of the day, the Apostle Paul wrote about in **I Thessalonians 4:16**:

“For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the TRUMP of God:

and the _____ in Christ shall rise first: then, we which are alive and remain shall be CAUGHT UP with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

According to this scripture:

1. Christ will return visibly, with a commanding SHOUT
2. There will be an unmistakable call from an angel
3. There will be a TRUMPET fanfare such as has never been heard
4. Believers in Christ who are dead will rise from their graves
5. Believers who are alive will be caught up in the clouds to _____ the Lord

Are you “listening” for the trumpet to sound? With all of the “signs of the times” coming to pass right before our very eyes, it would behoove every one of us to be WATCHFUL, and keeping our spiritual lamps trimmed and burning brightly and listening for that last trumpet to sound.

The **Day of Atonement**, as we mentioned before, was the one day a year when the High Priest would enter the Holy Place and sprinkle the blood of the bull on the mercy seat for himself and then sprinkle the blood of a goat on the mercy seat as a _____ offering for the people.

Jesus Christ's redemptive work at the cross, completed OUR atonement for sin.

So that, no longer, do we offer the blood of bulls and goats, but HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD atoned for _____ our sin.

Hebrews 9:12 “He entered the _____ holy place - once - for all - by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption”

Are you safely hiding under the “atoning blood of the Lamb”?

The 3rd feast mentioned in this 29th chapter of Numbers is the **Feast of the Tabernacles**. Do you think you could live for a week in a tent?

The temporary shelters that the Israelites stayed in for this spiritual week was more like a booth made from the branches of trees. It was to remind them of their ancestors who lived in _____ when they were rescued from Egypt.

Have you ever thought about taking a “spiritual holiday”? A time of separating yourself from the daily routine and concentrating on renewing your relationship with God? Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

That’s what the _____ of the Old Testament feasts were. Putting aside their daily routines to worship God.

Chapter 30 - Laws concerning vows

God warned the Hebrews to honor their commitments, both to Him and to others.

He reminded them that _____ came out of their mouths was binding.

Have you ever thought about this? God probably hears more vows from desperate people than anyone else. “If only You’ll help me, God, I’ll do this or that”

It’s interesting to see how some people in the Bible ask God for something in exchange for their vow. For example:

1. Jacob promised to make the Lord his God and to tithe his possessions IF God would supply His _____
2. Hannah promised to dedicate her own _____ to God’s service IF He would give her one
3. Absalom promised that he would serve the Lord IF He would return from Jerusalem

These people promised LONG term promises in order to have SHORT term benefits.

Maybe that’s why the scripture tells us to watch what we say, because we are responsible for our _____. Hasty promises are described as the “sacrifice of fools” in **Ecclesiastes 5:1-7**

We should join the Psalmist David in praying: “Let the words of my _____ and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer” **Psalm 19:14**

Chapter 31

This chapter records the vengeance that is taken on the Midianites.

We might say, “These people were on God’s hit list” They were idolaters and idolatry is an offense against God.

So God told Moses to choose 1,000 men out of each of the 12 tribes, totaling 12,000 men, who would go to _____ against the Midianites. This was “God’s quarrel”, not their own, but they were to go to battle for the Lord.

Phinehas, the son of Eleazar (the High Priest) was to go along to accompany the ark, since his father was up in years. You see, God’s Presence dwelt between the cherubim over the ark, so it was _____ important that the ark be taken with them.

God gave them the victory. When God’s Presence is with us, and He calls us to do something for Him, He WILL give us the victory. He is the ALL - POWERFUL GOD of

Elijah and He's still the same today. He _____ changes.

Is He with you? Can you feel His Presence in your soul? If so, you can be sure of VICTORY. He knows no defeat.

Chapter 32

The Israelites had been camped in the plains of Moab, across from Jericho. From this position, they were ready to _____ the Promised land.

Three of the tribes (Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh) wanted to live east of the Jordan River on the land they had already conquered. (Map)

Moses assumed that they were trying to get out of fighting for the land across the Jordan River. Moses asked, "Do you mean you want to stay back here while your brothers go across and do all the fighting? Are you trying to discourage the rest of the people of Israel from going across to the land the Lord has given them? Moses even went so far as to remind them of the 10 negative spies, who discouraged the _____ from going over into their Promised land.

But they explained to Moses that they simply wanted to live on the _____ side of Jordan. They wanted to build houses for their families, and folds for their animals, to protect them. Then, they intended to go and fight with the others for the Promised Land. They told Moses that they would not return home until all the other tribes received their inheritance.

After Moses realized that their intentions were good, he said, "If you keep your word and arm yourselves for the Lord's battle, and if your troops cross the Jordan until the Lord has driven out His enemies, then you may return when the _____ is finally subdued".

But if you fail to keep your word, you may be sure your _____ will find you out. They replied to Moses, "Sir, we will do as the Lord has commanded! We will cross the Jordan into Canaan fully armed to fight for the Lord, but our inheritance of land will be here on this side of the Jordan.

Chapter 33 - Remembering Israel's Journey

The Lord directed Moses to keep a written record of their progress. I think it would be helpful if we as God's people would keep a record of our spiritual progress, listing the victories, and the miracles along the way. Even mistakes could be recorded, so we wouldn't make them _____.

This chapter lists all the places they traveled and places where they camped.

At the end of the chapter, God tells Moses to speak to the children of Israel and tell them: "When you cross the Jordan River into the land of Canaan, you must drive out all the people living there. You must destroy all their carved and molten images and demolish all their pagan shrines. (God wanted to remove all trace of pagan beliefs and practices from the land. He did not want his people to _____ or compromise with idolatry in any way) Take possession of the land and settle in it, because I have given it to you to occupy.

But if you fail to drive out the people who live in the land, those who remain will be like splinters in your eyes and thorns in your sides. They will harass you in the land where you live”.

The Israelites did not fully understand _____ reasons, and they did not carry out His command when they got over into the Promised Land. They were hesitant to clear out all the wicked people. This eventually led them to compromise and corruption.

In ALL areas of life, we should obey God’s Word without question, even if we cannot fully understand His overall purposes.

Hebrews 12:1 tells us to throw off the sin that so easily hinders our progress. God is very jealous and He will _____ tolerate any idols in our lives. He wants His children to get rid of any wickedness, not settle down and live with it. To possess the “new life in Christ” we must drive out any sinful thoughts and practices and spare none. God always knows best. We can trust Him.

Chapter 34 - Boundaries of the land

The Lord said to Moses, “When you come into the land of Canaan, which I am giving you as your special possession, these will be the boundaries.”

1. Southern boundary (verses 3-5)
2. Western boundary (verse 6)
3. Northern boundary (verses 7-9)
4. Eastern boundary (verses 10-12)

These boundaries declared by God was “more” than what the Hebrews occupied.

Have you found Him to be the God of “more than enough”?

He is Jehovah-Jireh, the Provider.

Psalm 23:1 The Lord is _____ Shepherd, I shall not want.

He gives us more than we could ask or think. He is a generous God.

The leaders were to divide the _____. Eleazar the priest, Joshua, and one leader from each of the 12 tribes. The Lord appointed these men to oversee the dividing of the land of Canaan among the Israelites.

Chapter 35 - Towns for the Levites

The Levites were ministers. The Lord said to Moses, “Instruct the people of Israel to give to the Levites from their property certain towns to live in, along with surrounding pasturelands. These towns will be their _____. The surrounding lands will provide pasture for their cattle, flocks, and other livestock.

Of the 48 cities given to the Levites, 6 of them were *cities of refuge*. (Map)

These cities were needed because the custom back then called for revenge in the event of the death of a relative or loved one. A person could flee to _____ of the cities, and the Levites would hold a preliminary hearing outside the gates while the accused person was kept in the city until the time of his trial. If the killing was judged accidental, the person would stay in the city until the death of the high priest. At that time, he would be allowed to go free, and he could start

a new life without worrying about avengers. If it was _____ accidental, the person would be delivered to the slain person's avengers. This system of justice shows how God's law and His mercy go hand in hand.

Chapter 36 - Women who inherit property

Zelophehad had 5 daughters but _____ sons. After he died, the daughters made an appeal to Moses. Because the inheritance normally passed only through the male line, the family of Zelophehad would have disappeared. So God told Moses that if a man died without sons, then the inheritance would go to his daughters.

The book of Numbers covers 39 years and closes with the Israelites poised near the banks of the Jordan River with the Promised Land in sight. The wanderings in the wilderness have come to an _____ and the people are preparing for their next move - *the conquest of the land.*

The Apostle Paul said that the events described in Numbers are examples that _____ us and help us avoid the Israelites mistakes (I Cor. 10:1-12)

From their experiences we learn:

1. Unbelief is disastrous
2. Not to long for the sinful pleasures of the _____
3. To avoid complaining
4. To stay away from _____ forms of compromise

What a message from the book of Numbers.