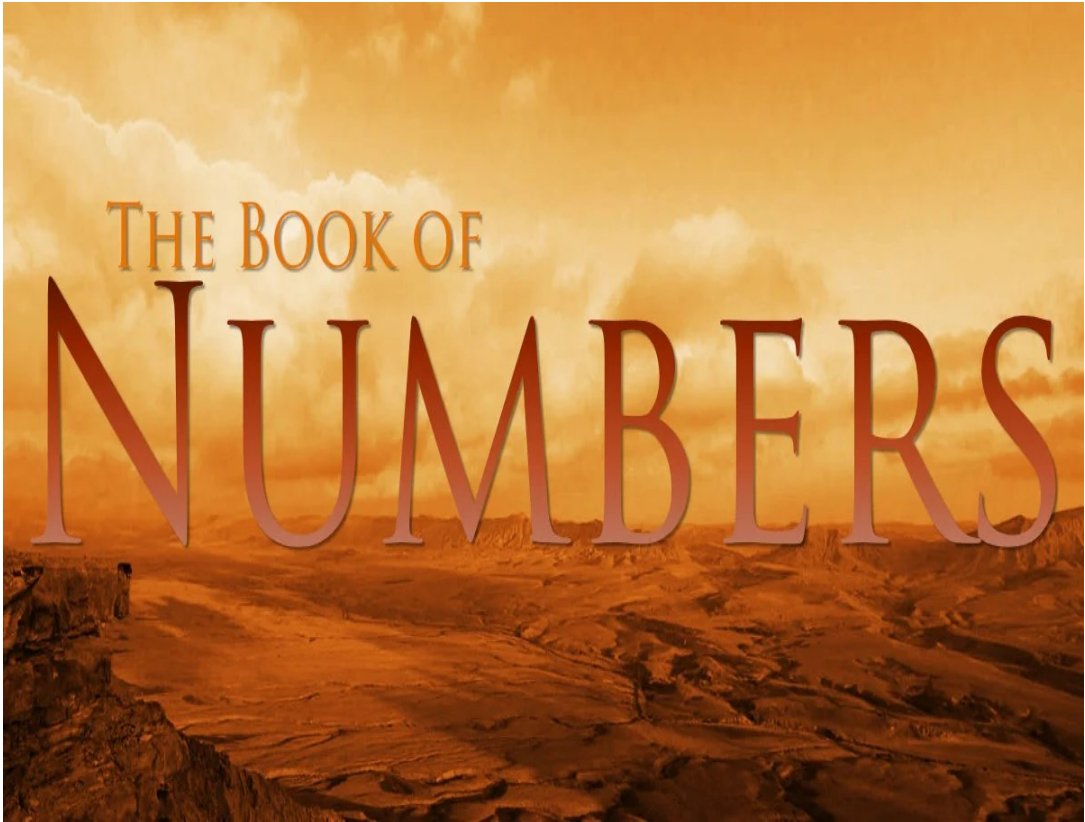


Let's Worship God

18th-23rd September 2023
Numbers

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS



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Monday - Numbers 29:12-40 - Sacrifices

Soon after the day of atonement, that day in which men are to be sorry for their sin, follows the feast of tabernacles, in which they are to rejoice before the Lord; for those that sow in tears shall soon reap in joy. Notice that their days of rejoicing are to be days of sacrifices. Our worship should be joyful. All the days of their dwelling in booths they must offer sacrifices. The unsettledness of our lives does not excuse us from worshipping God. The sacrifices for each of the seven days, are specifically described by God. This teaches them to be very exact and faithful in their worship. The number of bulls (which are the most costly part of the sacrifice) decreases every day. Perhaps this points to many sacrifices ending in one great sacrifice, infinitely more worthy than all of them. It is on the last day of this feast, after all these sacrifices have been given, that our Lord Jesus stands and cries to those who still thirst after righteousness to come to Him and drink, John 7:37. The meat-offerings and drink-offerings always go along with all the sacrifices. Doing much in service of God will not be accepted if we do not do it well, and in the way God has appointed. Every day there must be a sin-offering presented. Our burnt-offerings of praise cannot be accepted of God unless we remember the great sacrifice which Christ offered when He made Himself a sin-offering. Even when all these sacrifices are offered, yet the continual burnt-offering must not be forgotten. No extraordinary work for God should jostle out our regular worship and devotion to Him. Though all these sacrifices must be made by the congregation, they are to continue to glorify God with their vows and their free-will offerings. Our worship and prayer as a congregation cannot replace our private worship and prayer.

Question

1. What do these sacrifices teach us about our worship of God?
2. Who is the greatest sacrifice?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that we can worship God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Psalm 90:15

Praise: Psalm 11 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Tuesday - Numbers 30:1-16 - Vows

If a person vows a vow unto the Lord, he is making God a party to the promise, and God's honour and glory is tied up in it. Obviously you're not to make a vow to do something that's sinful, and neither are you to make a vow to do something you should be doing anyway. Vows might be made in a moment of holy zeal, in humiliation for some sin committed or for the prevention of sin, in the pursuit of some mercy desired or in gratitude for some mercy received. It is useful to make such vows as these, provided they are made in sincerity with due caution. A promise to God is a bond upon the soul. These vows must be conscientiously performed.

If the person vowing is under the rule of another, the case is different. If a man vows, he must pay. But for a daughter, her vow is conditional on her father knowing it, and it is in his power either to ratify or nullify it. As long as he says nothing against her vow, she is bound by it. But, if he disallows it, she is not to keep it, and the Lord shall forgive her, she shall not be charged with the guilt of violating her vow. This shows how great a respect children owe to their parents, and how much they ought to honour them and be obedient to them. It is in the public interest that parental authority be supported; for, when children are allowed to be disobedient to their parents, they soon wreak havoc in society. The case of a wife is much the same. But it is added (v. 15) that, if the husband make void the vows of his wife, he shall bear her iniquity; that is, if the thing she has vowed is really good, for the honour of God and the prosperity of her own soul, and the husband disallows it out of covetousness, or to show his authority, though she is free from the obligation of her vow, yet he will have a great deal to answer for.

Questions

1. What do these verses teach us about our promises to God?
2. Whose vows can be nullified?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would faithfully keep the promises you make to God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Psalm 90:15

Praise: Psalm 12 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Numbers 31:1-24 - War

The Midianites land was not designed to be given to Israel, nor would Israel have meddled with them if they had not sent their women among them to draw them to fornication and idolatry. God will have the Midianites punished. God will have us count those our worst enemies that draw us to sin. There is a day coming when vengeance will be taken on those that have introduced errors and corruption into the church, and the devil that deceives men will be cast into the lake of fire. This is the final task God gives Moses, that he who has so deeply resented the evil of the Midianites might have the satisfaction of seeing it avenged. God said, Avenge Israel; Moses says, Avenge the Lord; for the interests of God and Israel are united, and the cause of both is one and the same. And if God, in what he does, shows himself jealous for the honour of Israel, surely Israel, in what they do, ought to show themselves jealous for the glory of God.

God gives Israel a great victory. When they return they are met with great respect. Moses himself walks out of the camp to congratulate them on their victory. Public successes should be publicly acknowledged, to the glory of God. But they are also severely rebuked for saving the women alive. They are those that caused the children of Israel to commit sin; and therefore it is just that they should die, and it is dangerous to let them live. The people must purify themselves, for they have shed blood. They must also purify what they have taken, the captives and all the goods. These things have been used by Midianites, and, having now come into the possession of Israelites, they should be sanctified to the service of that holy nation and the honour of their holy God. To us now every thing is sanctified by the word and prayer, if we are sanctified by the Spirit.

Question

1. What does God command Moses to do?
2. Why is Moses angry with the Israelites?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's holiness.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Psalm 90:15

Praise: Psalm 13 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Numbers 31:25-54 - Division of the Spoil

God himself directs how the spoil should be distributed, preventing arguments. All we have is from God, and therefore must be subject to His will. The war is undertaken on behalf of the whole congregation; they would all have been ready to go to the help of the Lord against their enemies, if they had been so ordered, and they do help, most likely, by their prayers; and therefore God appoints that those that wait at home should share the spoil. But the 12,000 that went to the battle have as much for their share as the whole congregation have for theirs. The greater trouble we take, and the greater dangers we run, in the service of God, the greater will be our reward at last; for God is not unrighteous to forget the work and labour of love.

God is to have a part of the spoil, as an acknowledgment of His sovereignty over them, and that He has given them success. Here (as before) the soldiers are favoured above the rest of the congregation, for out of the people's share God required one in fifty, but out of the soldier's share only one in 500, because the people get theirs easily, without any danger or fatigue. The less opportunity we have of honouring God with our personal services the more it is expected we should honour Him with our possessions. The officers of the army recognise God's wonderful goodness to them in this battle, in preserving not only their own lives, but the lives of all the men of war that they have under their charge. Moses accepts their offering as a memorial for the children of Israel, a monument of God's goodness to them, that they might be encouraged to trust in Him in their further wars, and a monument of their gratitude to God, that He, being well pleased with this thankful acknowledgment of Him, might continue and repeat His mercies to them.

Questions

1. Why do the soldiers get more of the spoil?
2. Why do the captains of the army make a special offering to God?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all the mercy God has shown you.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Psalm 90:15

Praise: Psalm 14 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Numbers 32:1-15 - A Request

Reuben and Gad ask that the land which they have recently conquered, might be assigned to them for their inheritance. They have a great multitude of cattle, above the rest of the tribes, and want land in proportion to their large herds.

At first glance this seems like a really bad idea to Moses, and he rebukes them. It seems to come from a contempt of the land of promise and a distrust of the power of God to dispossess the Canaanites, as if a bird in the hand is better than two in the bush. There seems also to be covetousness of this good cattle land in it. It also looks like they don't care what becomes of Israel, as long as they themselves are well provided for. This request could also have bad consequences. The people might have panicked and started thinking that they are few enough, when they are all there, to deal with the Canaanites, so how can they hope to win if they drop two and a half tribes (above a fifth of their strength) on this side of the Jordan. It is also a bad precedent; if they must have the land granted them as soon as it is conquered, other tribes might make the same claim, and so the orderly dividing of the land would become a mess.

Moses shows them what he sees to be evil and selfish in this idea. It is wrong for any of God's people to be unconcerned about the difficulties of their brothers and sisters, whether public or personal. Moses reminds them of the fatal consequences of the unbelief of their fathers, when they were just ready to enter Canaan, as they themselves now are. He warns them they are in danger of bringing wrath upon the whole congregation, and hurrying them all back again into the wilderness.

Question

1. What do Reuben and Gad ask for?
2. What does Moses say about this idea?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for those struggling with difficulty in the congregation.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Psalm 90:15

Praise: Psalm 15 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Numbers 32:16-42 - Request Granted

We don't know if Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh intend to help the rest of the Israelites all along, or if Moses' rebuke makes them rethink their proposal. If they did intend to help, it is an instance how often that which is honestly meant is unhappily misinterpreted; yet Moses is excusable, for he has plenty of reason to suspect the worst of them, and the rebuke he gives them is from the abundance of his care to prevent sin. But, if they did not intend to help, it is an instance of the good effect of plain dealing; Moses, by showing them their sin, and the danger of it, brings them to do their duty without complaining or arguing.

Moses therefore grants their request, upon one condition: they should never lay down their arms till their brethren lay down theirs. He warns them of the danger of breaking their word. Sin will, without doubt, find out the sinner sooner or later. We must be diligent to repent and forsake our sins, lest they destroy us. Their brothers have all contributed their assistance to the conquest of this country, which these tribes want, and therefore they consider themselves obligated to help them in the conquest of that which is to be their possession. Having received kindness, we ought to return it, even if it is unconditional.

Moses gives them the land they desire. They build the cities, that is, repair them, because either they have been damaged by the war or the Amorites have let them decay. They change the names of them, either to show their authority, that the change of the names might signify the change of their owners, or because their names are idolatrous, and carry in them a respect to the idols that had been worshiped there.

Question

1. What do these tribes tell Moses they will do?
2. What condition does Moses make about giving them the land?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. Psalm 90:15

Praise: Psalm 16 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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