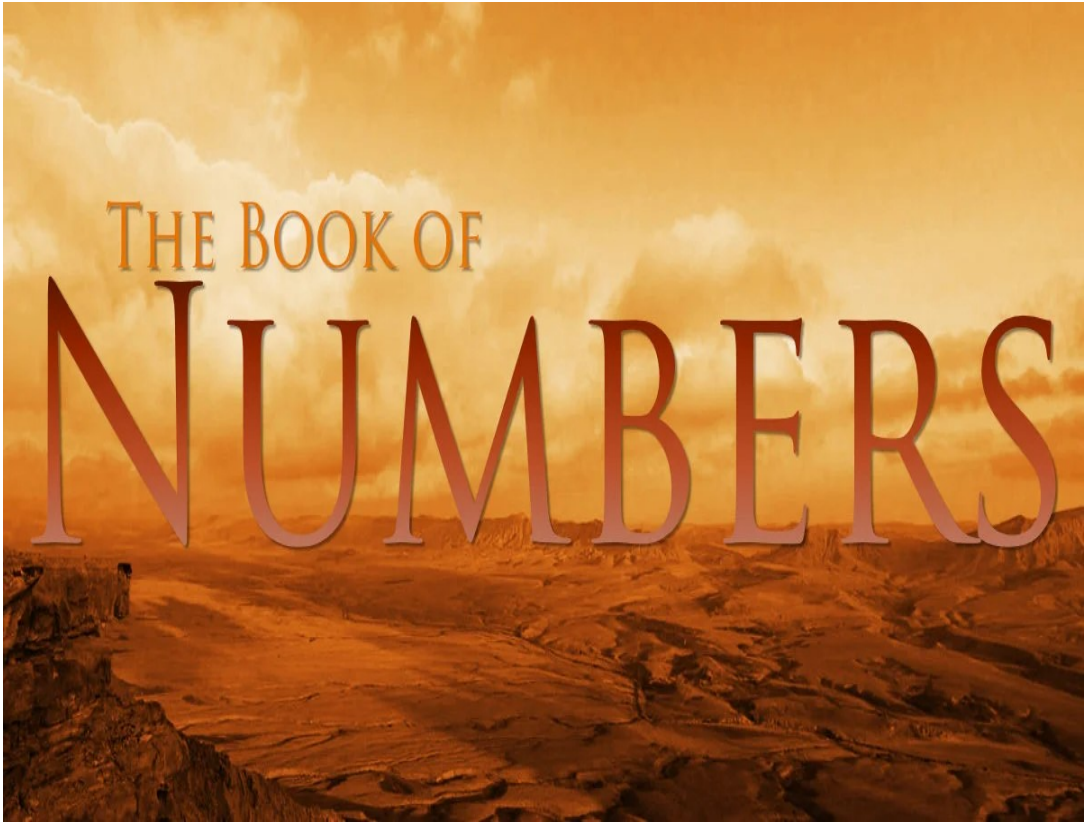


Let's Worship God

31st July - 5th Aug. 2023
Numbers

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS



THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Monday - Numbers 15:22-29 - Sins of Ignorance

Here are the laws concerning sacrifices for sins of ignorance. If they fail in one part of any of the ceremonies, they must make it up by offering this sacrifice. An example is given of a national sin, committed through ignorance, and become a habit among the people. The ceremonial observances are so numerous, and so different, that it's easy to imagine some of them gradually being forgotten and disused. So in time if they discover that there has been a general neglect of any commandment, then a sacrifice must be offered for the whole congregation, and the oversight shall be forgiven and not punished, as it deserves, with some national judgment. An example is given for an individual that sins through ignorance as well.

Notice that sins committed ignorantly need to have atonement made for them; for ignorance will not excuse or justify those that might have known their Lord's will and don't do it. David prays to be cleansed from his secret faults, that is, those sins which he himself is not aware of Ps. 19:12. Notice also that sins committed ignorantly can be forgiven, through Christ the great sacrifice, who, when He offered up Himself upon the cross, prays, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Again we see that this law of atoning for sins of ignorance is expressly made to extend to those who are strangers to the commonwealth of Israel. In this way the blessing of Abraham comes upon the Gentiles.

Question

1. What two examples are given here?
2. Who does this law apply to?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would be forgiven from your secret sins.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.
Psalm 90:8

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 22 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Tuesday - Numbers 15:30-36 - Presumption

Here we see the judgement passed upon presumptuous sinners. Those are presumptuous sinners that sin with a high hand, that is, that confront God's authority, and set up themselves in competition with it, that sin for sinning-sake, against the law, and in defiance of the penalty, that fight against God, and dare Him to do his worst. Sins like these are exceedingly sinful. The one who does them reproaches the Lord; he says the worst he can of Him, and unjustly. Presumptuous sin says, "Eternal truth is not fit to be believed, the Lord of all not fit to be obeyed, and almighty power not fit to be either feared or trusted." Presumptuous sin despises the word of the Lord, thinking themselves too great, too good, and too wise, to be ruled by it. The judgement passed on such sin is dreadful. There is no sacrifice for that sin; that soul is cut off from among God's people.

Next we have a particular instance of presumption in the sin of Sabbath-breaking. The sin is the gathering of sticks on the Sabbath day. This seems a small thing, but it is a violation of the law of the Sabbath, and shows a contempt of the Creator, for whose honour the Sabbath is established. It seems by the context to have been done presumptuously, and against both the law and the Law-maker. It seems, even common Israelites, though there is much sinful among them, will not contentedly see the Sabbath broken, which is a good sign that they have not quite forsaken God, and God has not utterly forsaken them. God is jealous for the honour of His Sabbaths, and will not hold those guiltless, whatever men do, that break them. We might think there is no great harm in gathering a few sticks on the Sabbath, but God intends this punishment for a warning to us all, to keep the Sabbath holy.

Questions

1. What does a presumptuous sinner think?
2. What happens to this man who breaks the Sabbath?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the gift of the Lord's Day.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.
Psalm 90:8

Praise: Psalm 120 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Numbers 15:37-41 - Tassels

God has just provided a way for sins of ignorance and weakness to be forgiven; now He provides a way to prevent such sins. The Israelites are ordered to make tassels on the corners of their garments, which are to remind them of their duty, that they might not sin through forgetfulness. The Jews being a special people, are now different from their neighbours in their dress, as well as in their diet, and are being taught by these little things not to be like the ungodly in greater things. In this way they proclaim themselves Jews wherever they are, those that are not ashamed of God and His law. Our Saviour, being a Jew, wore these tassels; we read of the fringe of His garment, Matt. 9:20. These tassels the Pharisees enlarged, that they might be thought more holy and devout than other people. The Jews today wear them. Their purpose is, not to look nice, but to remind the Israelites of the commandments. If they are tempted to sin, the tassel tells them not to break God's commandments. If a duty is forgotten, the tassel will remind them of it. Though we don't have tassels on our clothing, we ought always to remember the commandments of the Lord our God, that we may do them, to treasure them up in our memory, and to apply them to our lives.

The chapter closes with that great and fundamental law, 'Be holy to your God, purged from sin, and sincerely devoted to his service' That great reason for all the commandments is again given, 'I am the Lord your God.' If we more firmly believed, and more frequently and seriously considered, that God is the Lord, and our God and Redeemer, we would be bound in obligation and thankfulness, to keep all His commandments.

Question

1. What is the purpose of the tassel?
2. With what command does God finish this chapter?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would keep God's commands in your heart.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.
Psalm 90:8

Praise: Psalm 121 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Thursday - Numbers 16:1-11 - Rebellion

The rebels are angry with the settlement of the priesthood upon Aaron and his family, which they think an honour too great for Moses to give and Aaron to accept. But they have little reason to boast of the people's purity, or of God's favour, as the people have been so frequently and so recently sinful, which should have made them thankful for priests to mediate between them and God; but, instead of that, they envy them. They unjustly charge Moses and Aaron with taking honour to themselves, but in reality they have been called by God. Those that despise and resist the powers that God has set over them are proud, envious, ambitious, turbulent, wicked, and unreasonable men.

Moses falls on his face praying for direction what to say and to do at this time. He will not speak to them till he has humbled and settled his own heart and has received instruction from God. He agrees to refer the case to God, and leave it to Him to decide. But he argues the case fairly with them, to quiet their rebellion, if possible, before the appeal comes to God's tribunal, for then he knows it will end badly. Moses shows them the privilege they have as Levites. Instead of fretting that others are before us in honour, power, gifts, graces, or usefulness, we have reason to bless God if we belong to Him at all. To those who neglect opportunities of drawing near to God, who are careless in it, to whom it is a chore and not a pleasure, we may properly ask: "Is it too small a thing for you that the God of Israel has separated you for Himself?" If grumblers and complainers would consider that those they quarrel with are but instruments whom God employs, and that they are what He makes them, they would not be so bold in their complaints.

Questions

1. Why are the rebels angry?
2. How does Moses respond?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the privilege of drawing near to God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.
Psalm 90:8

Praise: Psalm 122 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Numbers 16:12-22 - Judgement and Mercy

Moses summons Dathan and Abiram to bring their complaints; but they will not obey his summons. They charge him with cheating them, raising their expectations of a good land, and then defeating them. But it is purely their own fault that they are not in Canaan, and yet they blame Moses. The wisest and best cannot please everybody. Those often fall under the heaviest attack who have earned the highest praise.

The glory of the Lord appears, and God threatens to consume them all in a moment. In this way God shows what their sin deserves, and how very provoking it is to Him. Many of the congregation, probably came only for company, following the crowd, or for curiosity, to see what would happen, yet not coming, as they ought to have done, to testify against the rebels, and openly to declare for God and Moses, and they are in danger of being consumed in a moment. If we follow the herd into which the devil has entered, it is at our peril.

Though the people have treacherously deserted them, and sided against them, yet Moses and Aaron prove faithful as shepherds of Israel, who stand in the breach when they see the flock in danger. If others fail in their duty to us, this does not release us from our duty to them, nor take away the obligations we are under to seek their good. Their prayer is a pleading prayer, and it prevails. Notice the title they give to God: The God of the spirits of all flesh. Though God might sovereignly consume this congregation in a moment, yet it is to be hoped that He will in mercy spare them, not only because they are the work of His own hands, but because, being the God of spirits, He can distinguish between the leaders and the led, between those who sinned maliciously and those who are drawn in.

Question

1. Why will Dathan and Abiram not come?
2. How does Moses react to God's threat of judgement?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the men on the Session.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.
Psalm 90:8

Praise: Psalm 123 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Numbers 16:23-34 - Judgement

Public warning is given to the congregation to withdraw immediately from the tents of the rebels. This is in answer to Moses' prayer. He has begged that God will not destroy the whole congregation. We cannot expect to benefit by the prayers of our friends for our salvation, unless we ourselves be diligent and faithful in making use of the means of salvation; for God never promised to save by miracles those that would not save themselves by means. Those that would not perish with sinners must come out from among them, and be separate. The congregation takes the warning, but the rebels themselves are obstinate. To those whom God will save he gives repentance. Grace to separate from evil doers is one of the things that accompany salvation.

God, in justice, leaves the rebels to the obstinacy and hardness of their own hearts. Though they see themselves abandoned by all their neighbours, and set up as a mark for the arrows of God's justice, yet instead of falling down and humbling themselves before God and Moses, admitting their crime and begging pardon, instead of fleeing and seeking shelter in the crowd, they stand in the doors of their tents, as if they would out-face God Himself, and dare Him to His worst. Their hearts are hardened to their own destruction, and they are fearless when their case is most fearful.

The judgment itself is proof enough of God's displeasure against the rebels, but when it is foretold by Moses beforehand, it is beyond doubt that Moses is the special servant of God. This judgment is unparalleled, terrible, severe, miraculous, and significant. This is a sign of the eternal ruin of sinners who die unrepentant and go down quickly into Hell. All Israel is alarmed at the judgment. Others' ruins should be our warning.

Question

1. What are the people warned to do?
2. What happens to the rebels?

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

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.
Psalm 90:8

Praise: Psalm 124 - 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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