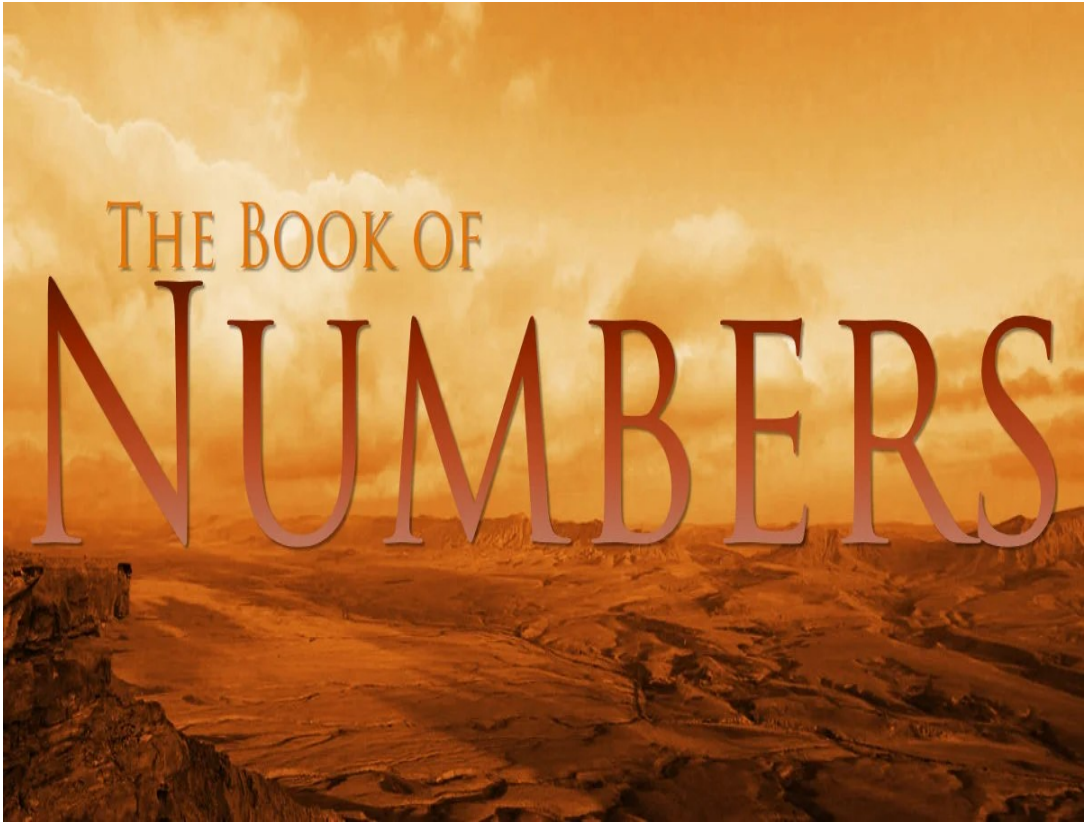


Let's Worship God

7th-12th August 2023
Numbers

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS



THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Monday - Numbers 16:35-40 - Holy Fire

We now look back to the door of the tabernacle, where we left the 250 men who are jealous of Aaron and who have been told to offer incense as a test to see whom the Lord will choose. It is probable that when the earth opens in the camp to swallow up Dathan and Abiram a fire goes out from the Lord and consumes the 250 men that offer incense, while Aaron, standing with them, is kept alive. We learn from this that our God is a consuming fire, and we are in trouble if we meddle with that which does not belong to us. God is jealous of the honour of His Church and His worship. If these men had just been content with their office as Levites, which is sacred and honourable, and better than they deserve, they might have lived and died with joy and honour; but instead, trying to take on a role God had not given them, they are thrust down to Hell, their censors struck out of their hands, and their breath out of their bodies.

God takes great care to make sure the Israelites don't forget this day. The censors must be beaten into broad plates for a covering of the altar. This covering of the altar must be a memorial to the children of Israel, throughout their generations, of this great event. There is a danger of its being forgotten in time; impressions that seem deep are not always durable; therefore it is necessary to appoint this record of the judgment, that the Levites who attend this altar, might learn to keep within their bounds, and be afraid of going outside of them, lest they should be like Korah and his company. These censors are preserved that others might hear and fear, and not sin presumptuously. God provides that His wonderful works, both in mercy and judgment, should be in everlasting remembrance, that they may serve for instruction to all mankind.

Question

1. What happens to the 250 Levites?
2. What is to be done with their censors and why?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would not forget the works of God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. Psalm 90:9

Praise: Psalm 125 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Tuesday - Numbers 16:41-50 - The Plague

The shrieks of the rebels are still sounding in the people's ears, the smell of the fire remains, and yet the same sins are repeated and all these warnings ignored. It is obvious that Moses and Aaron have no hand in the death of the rebels (they do what they can to save them), so that in charging them with murder the people are in effect charging God Himself with it. The continued obstinacy of this people shows how necessary the grace of God is to change men's hearts and lives.

Though Moses and Aaron have plenty of reasons to see the people destroyed, yet they forgive and forget the insult against them and are the best friends their enemies have. Aaron goes and burns incense between the living and the dead, to pacify an offended God, and so stops the judgment. From this we see that Aaron is a very good man, and a man that has a true love for the people, though they hate and envy him. He does not make them wait, but makes all possible speed into the gap at which death is entering. Moses and Aaron teach us here by their example not to be resentful towards those that are angry with us, nor to deny them any real kindness which it is in our power to do. Aaron is a very bold man—bold to venture into the midst of an enraged crowd that are gathered together against him, and who, for all he knows, might be even angrier by the plague—bold to venture into the midst of the infection, where thousands are falling on the right hand and on the left. To save their lives he risks his own. Aaron is a type of Christ, who came into the world to make an atonement for sin and to turn away the wrath of God from us, and who, by His mediation and intercession, stands between the living and the dead, to secure His people, and save them out of the midst of a world infected with sin and the curse.

Questions

1. What do the people accuse Moses and Aaron of doing?
2. How is Aaron like Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for Christ's atoning work on our behalf.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. Psalm 90:9

Praise: Psalm 126 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Wednesday - Numbers 17:1-7 - The Staffs

In this chapter we have orders given for the bringing of a staff from every tribe, that God by a miracle, might make it known on whom He has conferred the honour of the priesthood. It is an honour to be employed in the service of God. But perhaps the heads of the other tribes wanted it more for the sake of the profit and power that go with the office. It seems that no matter what has happened, there are still people that want to rebel against God. It is an instance of the grace of God that, having already used miracles to punish sin, He now works one more on purpose to prevent it. God is making sure that the stubborn will be left without excuse, and every mouth will be stopped. The twelve staffs will be old and dry, with no sap in them, and probably all from the almond tree. The name of each chief is written upon his staff, that every man might know his own, and to prevent arguing. They are laid before the ark, which, with its mercy seat, is a symbol of God's presence with them. They are to expect that the staff of the chief and tribe, whom God chooses for the priesthood, will blossom.

The chiefs bring them in, some of them perhaps expecting that the choice will fall upon them, and all of them thinking they have every right to compete with Aaron, and to stand for the priesthood; and Moses lays the staffs before the Lord. Moses does not object that this issue has already been sufficiently settled, and surely enough has been done to convince those that were not hardened in their envy. Moses does not undertake to settle the controversy himself, though it might easily have been done. But, since God wants it this way, he does his part, and brings the case before the Lord, to whom the appeal is made, and leaves it with him.

Question

1. What are the chiefs supposed to bring before the Lord?
2. What is the sign of the one whom God has chosen?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for your minister and elders.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. Psalm 90:9

Praise: Psalm 127 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF

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Thursday - Numbers 17:8-13 - The Staff That Budded

Aaron's staff is an obvious sign to the people that he is chosen to the priesthood, and not any other of the chiefs of the tribes. But it is also a very proper sign to represent the priesthood itself. The priesthood should be fruitful and serviceable to the church of God. It produces not only blossoms, but almonds; for the priesthood is designed, not only for an honour to Aaron, but for a blessing to Israel. In the same way Christ calls His followers (a royal priesthood, 1 Peter 2:9) to go and bring forth fruit, and that their fruit should remain. This staff also shows that there should be a succession of priests. There are not only almonds for the present, but buds and blossoms promising more later. In the same way Christ has provided in His church that a seed shall serve Him from generation to generation. This staff is a type of Christ and His priesthood: for He is the man, the branch, that is to be a priest upon His throne; and He is to grow up before God, as this staff before the ark, like a tender plant, and a root out of a dry ground, Isa. 53:2.

Probably the buds, blossoms, and almonds of this staff stay fresh; the same power that produces them preserves them for ages, as a sign against the rebels. These things are done, these things written, so that we do not sin. What God does for the taking away of sin is done in real kindness to us. All the sharp methods he uses with us, are for the cure of a disease which otherwise would certainly be fatal.

The people seem to speak despairingly, as if God is a hard Master, so that if they step even just a little beyond their bounds, they must die. It is a very wicked thing to complain against God when we are being disciplined, and in our distress to sin even more.

Questions

1. What happened to Aaron's staff?
2. What is to be done with the staff?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the mercy God shows us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. Psalm 90:9

Praise: Psalm 128 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Friday - Numbers 18:1-7 - Aaron's Responsibilities

The people, at the end of the last chapter, have complained of the difficulty and danger that there is in drawing near to God. Now, in answer to this complaint, God here explains to them that Aaron and the priests will come near for them as their representatives; so that, though the people must keep their distance, their communion with God will be kept up by the work of the priests. God has put upon Aaron a lot of honour lately. Now to keep Aaron from being puffed up with all that has been done for him, God comes to him to remind him of the burden that is laid upon him, and the duty required from him as a priest. Aaron will see that there is no reason to be proud, but instead to have a holy fear, when he considers how great are his responsibilities and how he will be accountable.

God tells Aaron of the danger that goes with his role. If the sanctuary is made unholy by the intrusion of strangers, or unclean persons, the blame is on the Levites and priests, who ought to have kept them away. If any of the duties of the sanctuary are neglected, if anything is not done at the right time or in the right way, if any thing is lost or misplaced in the moving of the sanctuary, Aaron and the priests are accountable. The greater the privilege, the greater the responsibility.

Aaron and his sons must minister before the most holy place. They are to serve, not rule (it was never intended that they should lord it over God's people). The Levites must assist Aaron and his sons. Both priests and Levites must carefully watch over the sacred things. The preventing of sin is the preventing of wrath; and the mischief sin has done should be a warning to us for the future to watch against it both in ourselves and others.

Question

1. What are the priest's responsibilities?
2. Who is accountable if anything goes wrong in the tabernacle?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that we can draw near to God through Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. Psalm 90:9

Praise: Psalm 129 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

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Saturday - Numbers 18:8-19 - Care of the Priests

As the priests are well employed, so they are well provided for, and well paid. From the plentiful provision here made for the priests Paul infers that it is the duty of Christian churches to look after their ministers; those that serve at the altar get their living from the altar. So those that preach the gospel should get their living from the gospel, and live comfortably, 1Cor. 9:13-14. God's work is its own wages, and His service carries its recompense along with it. Even in keeping God's commandments there is great reward. The priests have not only plenty to eat, but money in their pockets for the redemption of the first-born. In this way they are completely disentangled from the affairs of this life; they have no grounds to occupy, no land to till, no vineyards to care for, no cattle to tend, no visible estate to take care of, and yet have a more plentiful income than any other families whatsoever. God orders it this way that they might be entirely devoted to their ministry, and not diverted from it, nor disturbed in it, by any worldly care or business; and that they might be examples of living by faith, not only in God's care but in His laws. They live from hand to mouth, that they might learn to not worry about tomorrow; sufficient for the day will be the provision. They have no land to leave their children, that they might by faith leave them to the care of that God who has fed them all their lives. It is commanded that the best of the oil, and the best of the wine and wheat, should be offered for the first-fruits unto the Lord. We must always serve and honour God with the best we have. In the same way that the priesthood continued until Christ, the eternal high priest, came, the gospel ministry will continue until Christ comes again.

Question

1. How are the priests provided for?
2. How long will there be ministers of the Gospel?

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

For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh. Psalm 90:9

Praise: Psalm 130 - 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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