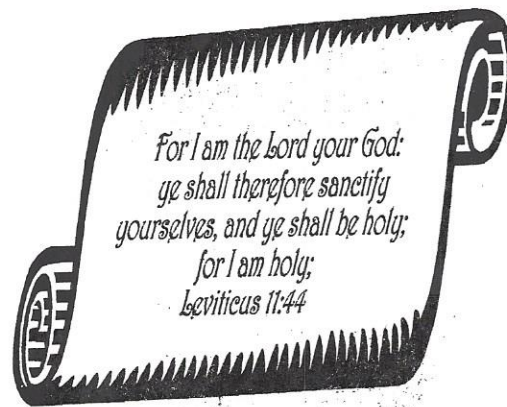


YE SHALL BE HOLY FOR I AM HOLY

LEV. 11: 44

A STUDY OF
GOD'S PEOPLE FROM
MT. SINAI TO CANAAN



BY
ANGELA WISDOM

LESSON 1

REVERENCE FOR GOD

Vocabulary Words:

Reverence - To fear, to stand in awe of, to respect.

Holy - Sacred, set apart.

As we begin our study of the book of Leviticus we will learn over and over that God wanted His people to be sanctified and holy. Do you remember the time God came down on Mt. Sinai and gave the law to His people? (Ex. 19: 10) He wanted his people to be ready for him and to "sanctify" themselves. To be sanctified is to be clean and pure morally; to be holy, or set apart. This is how God wanted His people to be. They were not to be like other people or nations around them, because they had God on their side, helping them and telling them what to do to be more like Him.

Over and over in the book of Leviticus, God tells his people, "Ye shall be holy; for I am holy". (Lev. 11: 44 - 45) God gave his people laws that told them how to be holy. To be holy is to be sacred or set apart. Obedience to God's laws is how the people could become holy and be more like God. God reminded the Israelites over and over to put a difference between the things that were holy (*things acceptable to God*) and things unholy (*things unacceptable to God*). (Lev. 10: 10)

God wanted His people to react to Him in a way that showed Him He was Holy. In Exodus 20: 18 - 21 the people reacted to God's presence as He came down on Mt. Sinai. They became afraid and backed off from the mountain, telling Moses, "You speak to us, don't let God speak to us, lest we die." Worshipping God was something that was serious. Their worship to God that day was done in a way that was not light or silly. They knew they were dealing with a God that could take their very lives if they did not obey Him.

As God gave His laws to the people in the book of Leviticus, He told them over and over, "I am the Lord". They were to remember that God gave them the laws. They were not laws that some man made up.

God wanted His laws done in the precise manner that He told them to do them. As the people built the tabernacle and all the furnishings for it, God told them to build them "according to the pattern". (Ex. 25:9) He wanted the things done in His way, not someone else's way. Doing the things "God's way" was how they showed their reverence and obedience to God.

God punished those who did not do His will. Over and over in the book of Leviticus, God told His people what to do with a person who disobeyed His laws. Sometimes the punishment was to take the person's life who disobeyed. Sometimes they were to be cut off (separated) from God's people.

Why do we need to study these things in the Old Testament?

In Romans 15: 4 Paul told the Romans that the things in the Old Testament were written for our learning. In other words, we can learn a lot of things about the God we serve by studying the Old Testament. Some people think that God was different in the Old Testament from the God we serve today, but He is NOT different. God has not changed; He is the same God today that He was in the Old Testament days. (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 6: 17 - 18; Is. 40:28; Heb. 13: 8)

If the God that Israel served is the same

God that WE serve, does He want us to worship Him in the same manner? We know by studying our Bibles that we are under another, a newer law, than the law in the Old Testament. (II Cor. 3: 7, 11, 14) The law we are under is the New Testament. **So how can we serve the same God in the same way?**

By realizing that our worship to God is a serious thing.

We are to realize that just as God was on Mt. Sinai in the presence of His people in the Old Testament, and in their midst in the Tabernacle, He is in our midst today. Matthew 18:20 tells us that whenever we gather to worship God, he is in our midst. His presence is there with us as we worship. That is an awesome thought isn't it?

By obedience to Him.

Our obedience to God's word is how we show God that we love Him and become pleasing to Him. Peter, the apostle of Christ, said that we are to obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29) John 4: 24 tells us that those who worship God must worship Him "in spirit and in truth". This means we are to worship God in the correct manner and according to His law. We learn these things by studying God's word. His word is truth. (John 17:17)

By preparing our hearts.

The Israelites prepared themselves to worship God. We are to prepare ourselves to worship God too. We are to love God with all our heart and soul. (Mk. 12:30) One time Jesus told His disciples that the Pharisees worshipped Him with their mouths, but their hearts were far from Him. (Matt. 15:8) He did not want the people to just do the right things, but to think the right things as they worshipped Him. If we are serious about our worship to God, we will start preparing our minds to think about God's word before we worship. When we read and study our Bibles, we are reading and studying what God has said to us. This is a good way to prepare our minds before we worship Him. (II Tim. 2:15)

By being in awe and fear of God.

The Israelites were fearful of God on the

day that He came down on Mt. Sinai. We are to be fearful and in awe of Him too. (Ps. 4:3-4, Ps. 8: 3-4, Matt. 10:28, Heb. 12: 28) If we are fearful and in awe of God, then we will show it by the manner that we approach Him when we worship Him.

By realizing that if we do not reverence Him and treat Him as Holy that we will be punished.

Just as the Israelites were punished for their disobedience, we will be too. We can lose our souls in a devil's hell. (Matt. 10:28; II Thess. 1:8)

Spending eternity in hell because we have not treated God as holy and revered him would be terrible to realize. Our worship to God is serious and we should be very careful how we approach Him when we worship. We should be holy, because He is holy.

As we study about the Israelite's from Mt. Sinai and their journey to Canaan, let's think about how *we* can reverence God and be holy to Him.



USE YOUR BIBLE

Lev 11:45

For I am the LORD that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be _____, for I am _____.

Rom 15:4

For whatsoever things were written _____ were written for our _____, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Matt 18:20

For where two or three are gathered together in _____ name, there am I in the _____ of them.

Heb 12:28

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with _____ and godly _____:

REVERENCE IN OUR WORSHIP:

(fill in the blanks, using the King James version)

Lev 19:30

Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and _____ my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

1 Cor 14:40

Let _____ things be done decently and in _____.

God has wanted reverence in worship to Him under the Old Law and the New Law. Below are some things that we can do that show reverence and irreverence to God. If a thing shows reverence, write **yes** in the blank. If it does not show reverence, write **no** in the blank.

1. ____ Sue reads the Bible scripture that the preacher gives in His lesson on Sunday morning.
2. ____ Mary whispers to her friend during the prayer in worship.
3. ____ John goes to the restroom in the middle of every worship service, instead of going between class and the worship service, and he disturbs those who are worshipping around him.
4. ____ Seth is always very quiet and does not disturb his parents while they partake of the Lord's Supper.
5. ____ Cindy would rather play with the baby in front of her than listen to the sermon on Sunday.
6. ____ Joe and Bill like to draw pictures and write notes to each other during worship, instead of taking notes on the preacher's lesson.
7. ____ Mike does not like to sing, so he never looks at the song book and sings while others are singing to God.
8. ____ Kerry thinks that the sermons about God's word are boring, so she goes to sleep every worship service.
9. ____ Harold and Marie are quiet during worship, they listen to the lesson, sing with the christians, bow their heads during prayer, and they look up the scriptures in their Bibles as the preacher preaches.
10. ____ Lisa and Carl never study their Bible lessons and they like to act silly while their Bible teacher is trying to teach God's word.

It would be hard to imagine the Israelites doing some of the things at Mt. Sinai that some people do while they are supposed to be worshipping God today. Can you imagine yourself going to sleep, talking to your neighbor, or going to the restroom while God was giving the law at Mt. Sinai? Our God is the same God, and our worship to God is just as important today as Israel's was on that day at Mt. Sinai. Do you think he wants us to behave any different now than He did then? _____

LESSON 2

Vocabulary Words:

Covenant - A pledge or agreement between God and man.

Mediate - To go between. Moses and the priests were to mediate, or "go between" the people and God when a decision was being made. A person who mediates is called a "mediator". *Our* mediator between us and God is Jesus Christ. When we pray, we pray to God through our mediator Christ.

Bullock - A young bull or steer.

Consecration - To dedicate.

Introduction:

The book of Exodus was about God keeping His promises to His servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God remembered His promises to them and brought His people (the children of Israel) out of Egyptian bondage.

God led His people, through His servant Moses, and brought them to Mt. Sinai. The children of Israel had to depend upon God for everything, even the bread that they ate came from heaven.

God wanted the children of Israel to belong to Him in a special way, so He made a **covenant** with His people. He told them that He would be their God and they would be His people if they would keep His commandments. The children of Israel said, " All that the Lord has said, we will do and be obedient."

It is through God's laws that God told the children of Israel what He is like. Through the people's obedience to God's laws they learned how to live as the people of God.

God told His people to build Him a Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was to remind Israel that God was in their midst; that He dwelt among them.

God gave His people priests. These priests were given to the people to **mediate** between God and Israel. When the children of Israel sinned, they could offer sacrifices to forgive the children of Israel of their sins so that they could continue to have a relationship with God.

The book of Leviticus is a continuation of the laws given to Israel through Moses at Mt. Sinai. As the book of Leviticus opens, God has already shown His people that He is pleased with His Tabernacle. The glory of the Lord filled the Tabernacle (Ex. 40:34). Now it is time for the people of God to begin their worship to Jehovah God. God will no longer speak to Moses from Mt. Sinai, but from His Tabernacle. The book of Leviticus will tell us about Israel's worship, the kinds of sacrifices God wanted, the priesthood, holy days, and laws of uncleanness.

AARON AND HIS SONS ARE CONSECRATED

Ex. 40: 12 -16 ; Lev. 8 : 1 - 36; Ex. 29: 30 - 37

It has been an exciting day for the children of Israel. The Tabernacle of the Lord has been set up in the presence of the people. All the furniture that has been built for the Tabernacle has been put into place.

All the people were gathered at the door of the tabernacle to witness this event. Before Moses anointed Aaron and his sons he told the congregation, " This is what the Lord has commanded to be done." Aaron and his sons were brought to the door of the Tabernacle and washed with water.

First the holy garments were put on Aaron. He put the coat, the girdle, the robe, and the ephod on Aaron. Then he tied the girdle around him. Next he put the breastplate on him and put the Urim and Thummim in the breastplate. The mitre was put upon his head just as God commanded Moses.

Then Moses took the anointing oil and anointed the Tabernacle and everything in it. Afterwards, he poured anointing oil on Aaron's head and anointed him to sanctify him.

Next, Moses brought Aaron's sons and put their priestly garments on them. First the coats, then the girdles and the caps.

Next, Moses brought the **bullock** for a sin offering. Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the **bullock**. Moses killed the **bullock** and put some of the blood on the horns of the altar of burnt offering. The rest of the blood was poured at the bottom of the altar. The fat of the **bullock** and some other parts were burned on the altar. The rest of the animal was burned with fire outside the camp.

Next, Moses brought a ram for a burnt offering. Aaron and his sons put their hands on the head of the ram. Moses killed it and sprinkled its blood around the altar of burnt offerings. He cut the ram into pieces and the whole ram was burned on the altar.

Then Moses brought another ram. This ram was called the ram of **consecration**. Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the ram and Moses killed it. Then he took some of the blood and put some on the tip of Aaron's right ear, on the thumb of his right hand, and on the great toe of his right foot. Then Moses took Aaron's sons and did the same thing to them. Moses sprinkled the rest of the blood around the altar. The fat of the ram, and other parts were burned on the altar. A cake of unleavened bread, a cake of oiled bread and one wafer was placed on the right shoulder of the ram of **consecration** and these were placed on Aaron's hands and the hands of his sons for a wave offering to the Lord. Then Moses took these off the hands of Aaron and his sons and burned them on the altar of burnt offerings. Moses took the breast of the animal and waved it before God for a wave offering. This was Moses' part as God commanded.

Moses then took some of the anointing oil and some of the blood and sprinkled it Aaron's garments and his sons garments and sanctified them.

The flesh of the ram of **consecration** was boiled at the door of the Tabernacle and Aaron and his sons ate it there. Any food that remained was burned with fire.

The Lord commanded that Aaron and his sons stay at the door of the Tabernacle for seven days. These seven days were the days of their **consecration**. During this time they were not to leave, and were to do whatever the Lord commanded them to do. These sacrifices were to be repeated every day for seven days.



The Priests:

AARON

NADAB ABIHU ELEAZAR ITHAMAR

Memorize the names of these priests. Aaron is the father and High Priest. His sons are Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. They are the other priests. You will need to remember their names for they will come up many times in your study of the Bible.

WHY?

Why did God want His people to worship Him in the manner they did? The only answer we have is that worshipping His way was how they could be more like God. God does not have to give us a reason for the things He wants us to do. He wants our obedience. His ways are not like our ways. Isaiah the prophet told Israel:

Isa 55:9

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

When we learn how God wanted obedience in the Old Testament, we are learning about God. God still wants obedience today.

Why did God want Moses to put blood on the right ear, right thumb and right toe of the priests? Because that is the way He wanted it done! Some think that the ear, thumb and toe represented the whole dedication of the priests to God. Maybe so, but the main reason they did it is because GOD SAID SO!!

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. God wanted the children of Israel to belong to Him in a special way, so he made a _____ with them.
2. It is through God's _____ that He told the children of Israel what He is like.
3. The Tabernacle was to remind Israel that God was in their _____.
4. The priests were given to Israel to _____ between God and Israel.
5. On the day that Aaron and His sons were to be consecrated, Moses told the people that the _____ commanded these things to be done.
6. First, Aaron and his sons were washed with _____.
7. The holy _____ were put upon Aaron and his sons.
8. Moses poured anointing oil on the head of _____ to sanctify him.
9. Moses brought a _____ for a sin offering.
10. Aaron and his sons put their hands on the _____ of the animal before Moses killed it.
11. Moses brought a _____ for a burnt offering.
12. Moses took some blood from the ram of consecration and put it on Aaron's right _____, his right _____ on his hand, and his great _____ on his right foot.
13. Moses sprinkled anointing oil and _____ on the garments of Aaron and his sons.
14. Aaron and his sons were to stay at the door of the Tabernacle for _____ days.
15. The sacrifices were to be repeated every day for _____ days.

USE YOUR BIBLE

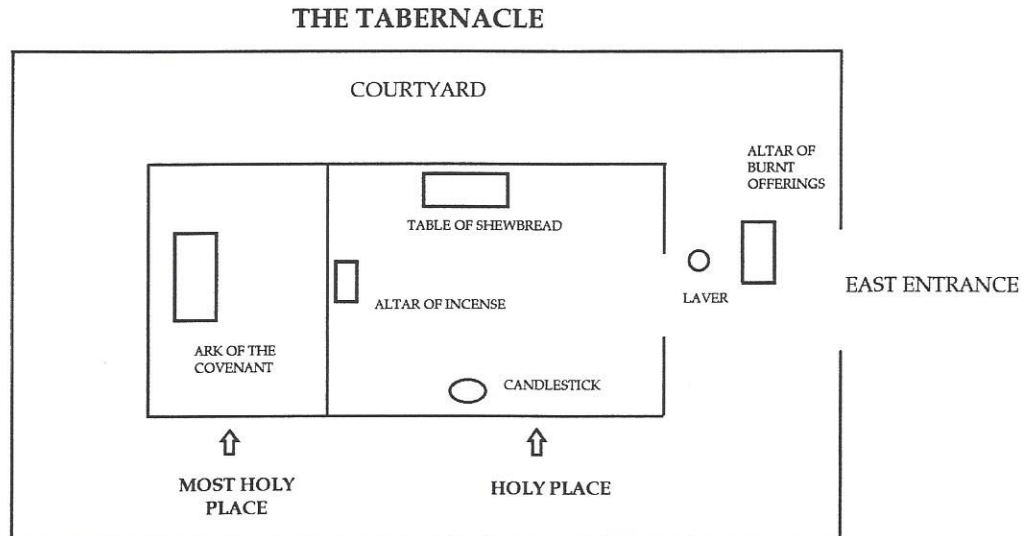
(use the King James Version)

1. Lev 8:4 And Moses did as the _____ him; and the assembly was gathered together unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.
2. Lev 8:5 And Moses said unto the congregation, This is the thing which the _____ commanded to be done.
3. Lev 8:9 And he put the mitre upon his head; also upon the mitre, even upon his forefront, did he put the golden plate, the holy crown; as the _____ commanded _____.
4. Lev 8:13 And Moses brought Aaron's sons, and put coats upon them, and girded them with girdles, and put bonnets upon them; as the LORD _____ Moses.
5. Lev 8:17 But the bullock, and his hide, his flesh, and his dung, he burnt with fire without the camp; as the _____ commanded Moses.
6. Lev 8:21 And he washed the inwards and the legs in water; and Moses burnt the whole ram upon the altar: it was a burnt sacrifice for a sweet savour, and an offering made by fire unto the LORD; as the LORD _____ Moses.
7. Lev 8:29 And Moses took the breast, and waved it for a wave offering before the LORD: for of the ram of consecration it was Moses' part; as the _____ commanded _____.
8. Lev 8:34 As he hath done this day, so the _____ hath _____ to do, to make an atonement for you.
9. Lev 8:36 So Aaron and his sons did all things which the _____ by the hand of Moses.

Do you think God thought it was important for us to know that He commanded that all these things be done on the day of the priest's consecration? _____
Why or why not? _____

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Do you remember how the Tabernacle was laid out by God? If you don't, study the illustration below. It is important in our study of Leviticus that you remember how the Tabernacle is laid out and what furniture is inside and outside it. If you want to study more about it, read Exodus 25 - 31 and Exodus 35 - 40.



LESSON 3

Vocabulary Words:

Atonement - To appease, forgive or pardon.

Sacrifice - To kill or slaughter an animal that was offered to God. The smoke from the sacrifice when burned would go up as a sweet smell to God. The purpose of the sacrifice was to create communion between God and man. There could be no communion, or forgiveness without the shedding of blood. Lev. 17: 11 says: *For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*

Meat (as in meat offering) - A meat offering was an offering of grain.

Consume - To burn up.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

It has been an exciting time for the children of Israel. The Tabernacle that they have worked on has been finished, and God showed His pleasure with it by filling it with His glory. Afterward, it was time to begin their worship to Jehovah God, so Moses began to consecrate the priests, Aaron and his sons. These priests would mediate between God and the people of Israel.

Aaron and his sons were dressed in the priest's garments and Moses, Aaron, and his sons offered sacrifices unto God. The sacrifices were offered to God every day for seven days. They were to stay at the Tabernacle night and day during this period of time and do the things God commanded so that they would not die. (Lev. 8: 35)

LEVITICUS 9

On the eighth day of the priests consecration, Moses called Aaron, his sons, and the elders of Israel together.

Moses told Aaron to take a young calf for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering to offer before God. Then they were to speak to Israel and take a kid goat for a sin offering and a calf and a lamb for a burnt offering. Also, they were to offer a bullock and ram for peace offerings and a meat offering. They were to do these things because God was going to appear to them that same day.

So, they brought everything that Moses commanded before the tabernacle. All the congregation of people came near to stand before the Lord. Moses told them that God commanded them to do this so that the glory of the Lord would appear to them.

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Go to the altar and offer your sin offering and your burnt offering to make **atonement** for yourself and the people."

So, Aaron went near to the altar of burnt offerings and killed the calf of the sin offering which was for himself. Aaron's sons brought the blood of

the animal to him and he dipped his finger in the blood and put it on the horns of the altar of incense. (Lev. 4:7) Then he poured out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar of burnt offerings and burned the animal on the altar as God commanded.

Next, Aaron killed the animal for the burnt offering. Aaron's sons presented the blood to him and he sprinkled it around the altar. Then he burned the animal on the altar of burnt offerings.

Both of these **sacrifices**, the sin offering and burnt offering, were offered for himself.

Now it was time to offer **sacrifices** for the people, so Aaron took the goat which was a sin offering for the people and killed it and offered it just as he had done the sin offering for himself.

Then Aaron killed the animal, that was the burnt offering for the people, and offered it as God wanted.

Next he brought a **meat** offering and offered a handful beside the burnt offering.

Then Aaron killed the bullock and ram that were the peace offerings for the people. Aaron's sons presented the blood to him and he

sprinkled it around the altar. Aaron took part of this sacrifice and waved it before God as a wave offering.

When Aaron was finished offering the sin offering, burnt offering and peace offerings for the people, he lifted up his hand toward the people and blessed them. Then Aaron and Moses went into the Tabernacle and came out and blessed the people again. And the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people. And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed burnt offering that was on the altar.

When the people saw this, they shouted for joy and fell facedown on the ground.



DID YOU NOTICE?

When Aaron began to offer the sacrifices, he offered first for himself. Aaron could not sacrifice and get forgiveness for the people's sins before he had first been forgiven of his own. When sacrifices were offered for the congregation, the priest had to offer sacrifice for himself first. This is a happy day for Israel. God has shown His acceptance of their sacrifices by consuming them on the altar and showing His glory. This day is not over though. In our next lesson we will study about something that happened that very same day. In one of our following lessons, we will discuss the different types of sacrifices and offerings that the children of Israel made to God and what they were for.

MEMORY WORK:

Can you name the Priests of Israel?
See lesson 2.

USE YOUR BIBLE

1. On what day did Moses call Aaron, his sons, and the elders of Israel together? (Lev. 9:1) _____
2. Could the animals that they were going to sacrifice have a blemish? (Lev. 9: 2 -3) _____
3. Why did Moses want the people to draw near to the Tabernacle? (Lev. 9: 6) _____

4. Why did God want Aaron to offer sacrifices for himself and the people? (Lev. 9: 7) _____

5. What did Aaron put on the horns of the Altar of incense? (Lev. 9: 9) _____
6. Where did Aaron pour the remainder of blood from the sin offering? (Lev. 9: 9) _____

7. What kind of offering did Aaron sacrifice after the sin offering? (Lev. 9:12) _____
8. Aaron offered a sin offering and a burnt offering for the people. What kind of offering did he offer next? (Lev. 9:18) _____
9. What did Aaron do with the blood from the peace offerings? (Lev. 9: 18) _____

10. How many people did the glory of the Lord appear to? (Lev. 9:23) _____
11. What came out from before the Lord to consume the burnt offering and fat on the altar? (Lev. 9: 24) _____

LESSON 4

Vocabulary Words:

Censer - A tray or firepan that would hold live coals of fire.

Sanctuary - A holy or sacred place. The Tabernacle was a sanctuary because God's presence was there.

Statute - A law or commandment.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

Aaron and his sons have spent seven days being consecrated as priests. During this period of time they stayed at the Tabernacle. On the eighth day, Moses told Aaron, his sons, and the elders of Israel to bring animals ready to sacrifice to God. All the people were to come to the entrance of the Tabernacle to stand before the Lord and see His glory that would appear to them.

Aaron first offered a sin offering and a burnt offering for himself. Then he offered a sin offering, burnt offering and peace offerings for the people. God was pleased with this and He showed his glory to the people by sending fire out before Him to consume the offering on the altar. The people shouted for joy and fell facedown on the earth when they saw this.

It is still the eighth day when our lesson begins today.....

The Sin of Nadab and Abihu LEVITICUS 10

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their **censers** and put fire in them and added incense to it and offered strange fire before God. This was something that God had not commanded.

And fire went out from the Lord and consumed Nadab and Abihu and they died before God.

Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spake when he said I will be treated as holy by those who come near me, and before all the people I will be glorified." And Aaron remained silent.

Aaron had an uncle named Uzziel. Uzziel had two sons named Mishael and Elzaphan. Aaron called Mishael and Elzaphan to him and said, "Come here and carry your cousins away from the front of the **sanctuary** to the outside of the camp."

So Mishael and Elzaphan came forward and carried Nadab and Abihu, still in their tunics, outside the camp as Moses ordered them to do.

Then Moses told Aaron, Ithamar and Eleazar, "Do not uncover your heads or tear your clothes; or you will die and God will be angry with the whole congregation. But your relatives and the

rest of Israel may mourn for those who the Lord has destroyed with fire."

"You are not to leave the door of the Tabernacle, or you will die; for the anointing oil of the Lord is upon you."

So Aaron and his sons Ithamar and Eleazar did as Moses said.

The Lord spake to Aaron saying, "You and your sons are not to drink wine or strong drink when you go into the Tabernacle, or you will die. This is to be a **statute** for the generations to come. You are to make a distinction between the holy and unholy, and between the clean and unclean. And you must teach the children of Israel all the **statutes** which the Lord has spoken to them through Moses."

Then Moses spake to Aaron and his remaining sons, Ithamar and Eleazar, "Take the meat offering, left over from the offerings made to the Lord by the fire and eat it unleavened beside the altar, for it is holy. Eat it in a holy place because it is your share and your son's share of the offerings made to the Lord, because this is what the Lord has commanded."

"You and your sons and daughters may eat the breast and thigh of the wave offering in a

clean place because they have been given to you as your share of the Israelites peace offerings."

Moses searched carefully for the goat of the sin offering and found out that it had been burned up! So he became angry with Eleazar and Ithamar saying, " Why didn't you eat the sin offering in the holy place? It is most holy and God has given it to you to take away the guilt of the children of Israel, and to make atonement for them before God."

" Since the blood of the sin offering was not taken into the Holy Place of the tabernacle, you should have eaten it in a holy place, as I commanded you."

Then Aaron said to Moses, " Today they have sacrificed their sin offerings and burnt offerings before God. When things like these have happened to me, would it have been acceptable in the sight of the Lord for me to have eaten the sin offering today?"

When Moses heard this, he was satisfied.

Did you notice?

On the very first day that the priests began to do their work and offer sacrifices for the people, Nadab and Abihu did wrong. We don't know what kind of fire that Nadab and Abihu offered, except that it was not the kind of fire that God commanded.

Can you see the importance that God places on doing what He wants, the way He wants it done? When God wants a thing done in a certain way, we are not to do it any other way!

Certainly what happened to Nadab and Abihu was a lesson to Aaron, his sons, and all of Israel. God is pleased when His laws are obeyed. But he is very displeased when they are not obeyed. His displeasure with Nadab and Abihu was very apparent by what happened to them.

This is also a lesson for us! We need to ask ourselves if we are doing the things God wants in the way God wants them done. Although God does not send down fire from heaven if we disobey today, he still feels the same way He did then about disobedience. HE DOES NOT CHANGE!

MEMORY WORK

Ps 15:1

LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?

USE YOUR BIBLE

(ALL THE ANSWERS ARE IN LEV. 10)

1. What reason did the Lord give for taking Nadab and Abihu's lives? v. 3

2. What would happen to Aaron and his sons if they mourned for Nadab and Abihu? v.6 _____

3. What were Aaron and his sons to put a difference between? v.10 _____

4. What were Aaron and his sons to teach the children of Israel? v. 11 _____

MATCH

Nadab and Abihu	He was content when Aaron told him why they had not eaten the sin offering.
Mishael and Elzaphan	Moses told him that the Lord would be sanctified by those who came near Him.
Aaron	The uncle of Aaron
Moses	Moses was angry with them when he could not find the goat of the sin offering.
Uzziel	Sent fire from before Him to consume Nadab and Abihu.
Eleazar and Ithamar	Cousins of Nadab and Abihu, who carried them out of the camp.
God	Offered strange fire before the Lord.

Thought Questions

1. Lev. 10 : 1 tells us that Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire before God. This was on their very first day of being consecrated as priests and doing their priestly duties. Do you think that they could have argued with God that they did not know what they were doing? Read verse 1 carefully and answer. _____

2. God did not want Aaron, Ithamar and Eleazar to mourn for Nadab and Abihu. Why do you think God did not want them to do this? _____

LESSON 5

VOCABULARY WORDS:

Defile - To make unclean or impure.

Sacrifice - To kill or slaughter an animal offered to God. A sacrifice was a substitute; the animal died so that man could live.

Savour - A sweet smell, odor, or aroma.

Frankincense - A fragrant incense or perfume.

Without Blemish - A healthy animal without a spot. It could not be crippled or lame or sick.

INTRODUCTION:

The book of Leviticus derives its name from the laws that the Levites and the Israelite people needed to know to serve God correctly. God gave these laws in order to give His people the opportunity to be holy, because He is holy. God demanded obedience to these laws. If one wanted to be pleasing to God he obeyed them.

Sin was Israel's greatest **defilement** of God's laws so God provided **sacrifices** to forgive them of their sins and to make them clean again before God. Only the shedding of blood could make a person clean again.

Sometimes a person had not sinned, but was made **defiled** or ceremonially unclean by something he had done (such as touching a dead body or having a baby). When a person was **defiled** in this manner, God required certain **sacrifices** to make the person clean again. God wanted a clean camp and the people could not be His people unless they were clean and holy.

Leviticus chapters 1 - 7 tell us about the laws of **sacrifice** that God gave Moses for the people. These chapters tell us about the different kinds of **sacrifices**, what was to be offered, and how the **sacrifices** were to be done.

We are going to study about the different kinds of sacrifices to give you a better understanding of how the people worshipped God. *(These things also give us a better understanding of some things in the New Testament.)* There are many details given in Leviticus 1 - 7, but we will not cover all of them in our lesson. We are going to give only an overview. If you want to know more details, they are in God's Word.

SACRIFICES

Leviticus 1 - 7

There are different types of sacrifices:

1. Burnt offerings
2. Meal (or meat) offerings
3. Peace offerings
4. Sin offerings

BURNT OFFERINGS:

When a burnt offering was offered the animal sacrificed was to be a male cow, sheep, goat **without blemish**. A turtle dove or pigeon of either sex was offered if the person could not afford a cow, sheep, or goat. The animal was completely burned and no one ate any of it. (Lev. 1: 9, 13,17)

"Burnt offering" means a "going up". As the sacrifice burned a sweet smell went up to God. This sacrifice signified complete dedication of oneself to God and the atonement of one's sins.

When one brought an animal to be offered as a burnt offering, the offerer laid his hands on the animal's head. This symbolically put the animal in the offerer's place. Then the offerer killed the animal on the north side of the altar of burnt offerings. The priest would catch the blood in a basin and sprinkle

it on the altar of burnt offerings, then the offerer would cut the animal into pieces and the priest would lay the pieces on the altar. The entire animal was burned as a sweet **savour** unto God.

The burnt offering was offered daily for the whole congregation and was offered on every special occasion when a group of sacrifices were offered for the whole congregation of people (such as feast days).

MEAL OFFERING

The meal offering was an offering of grain. This offering was made of fine flour mixed with oil and **frankincense**. The meal offering was brought to the priests and they would take part of it and put it on the altar of burnt offerings. The rest of the offering belonged to the priests and was to be eaten by them in a holy place specified by God.

The meal offering could not contain leavening or honey. Salt was to be an ingredient in it. It was offered anytime an offering by fire was made to God. (Num. 15: 2-4)

We are not certain what the significance of the meal offering was.

PEACE OFFERING

There were different kinds of peace offerings: Thanksgiving, vow, and freewill.

The peace offering was a sacrifice that celebrated the peace that they had with God. It was a male or female cow, sheep, or goat **without blemish**. The offerer would lay his hands on the head of the animal and then kill it beside the altar of burnt offerings. The priest would catch the blood and sprinkle it on the altar. Only certain parts of the animal were offered: the fat on the abdomen, the kidneys with the fat on them, the lobe on the liver and if it was a sheep, the fatty tail of the sheep. These parts were laid on top of the burnt offering.

The rest of the animal was given to the priests to eat that same day or the next. Any left over was burned on the third day.

SIN OFFERING

The sin offering was to remove the guilt of sin. There were different sin offerings for different people who sinned. A sin offering for the priest was offered differently than a sin offering for a common person.

The shedding of blood of the sacrifice signified that the animal's blood was substituted for the blood of the person who had done the sin. The sacrifice removed the guilt of sin.

SIN OFFERING FOR THE PRIEST:

When a priest sinned he sacrificed a young bull **without blemish**. He would lay his hands on the head of the bull and kill the animal. Then the blood was taken into the Holy Place of the Tabernacle and sprinkled before the veil. Some of the blood was rubbed on the horns of the altar of incense. The rest of the blood was poured at the base of the altar of burnt offerings. Certain parts of the animal were burned on the altar and the rest of the animal was carried outside the camp and burned.

No one ate any of this offering if the blood was carried into the Tabernacle. This sacrifice was to remove the sin of the priest and restore him to God.

SIN OFFERING FOR THE CONGREGATION:

A bull **without blemish** was offered for the congregation and it was offered in almost the same way that the priests offered his sacrifice. The elders of the congregation laid their hands on the head of the animal before it was killed.

A sin offering for the congregation was offered each day of their Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, on the Day of Atonement, and any time the congregation was guilty of sinning against God.

SIN OFFERING FOR A RULER:

Whenever a ruler sinned he was to bring a male goat **without blemish** to sacrifice. He would lay his hand on the head of the goat and kill it on the north side of the altar of burnt offerings. The priest would take some of the blood and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offerings. The rest of the blood was poured at the base of the altar.

All the fat of the animal was burned on the altar of burnt offerings. The meat of this sin offering could be roasted or boiled and it was to be eaten by the priest.

SIN OFFERING FOR COMMON PEOPLE:

The sin offering for a common person was a female goat **without blemish**. If he could not afford a goat, he could bring two turtle doves or pigeons (one for a burnt offering and one for a sin offering).

The offerer would lay his hands on the head of the animal and kill it on the north side of the altar of burnt offerings. Then the priest would take some of the blood and put it on the horns of the altar of burnt offerings and pour out the rest of the blood at the base of the altar. The fat of the animal was burned as a sweet **savour** to God. The rest of the animal was eaten by any male in the priest's family.

DID YOU NOTICE?

Did you notice all the details that God wanted His people to follow in sacrificing to Him? This alone should tell us that God cares about how we worship Him. He cares about the details.

If God cared about the details in the Old Law, don't you think He will care about them today? We have details of how He wants us to worship Him today. They are found in the New Testament.

Think also about the river of blood that had to flow around the altar of burnt offerings. Have you stopped to think about all the blood that was poured out there? Hebrews 10 : 4 tells us that the blood of bulls and goats couldn't take away sin. A bull or goat was not a perfect sacrifice. It took a perfect sacrifice to take away Israel's sin and our sin. It took the blood of Jesus Christ. Hebrews 10: 10 tells us that Jesus Christ offered Himself once for everyone. The Israelites offered thousands of animals, but the sins of Israel and our sins were not forgiven until Jesus died for us. They offered all those animals to be pleasing to God so that He would forgive them, but their sins were not wiped away completely until the perfect sacrifice was made: Jesus Christ!

MEMORY WORK

Ps 15:1

**LORD, who may abide in
Your tabernacle? Who
may dwell in Your holy
hill?**

DID YOU KNOW?

God has not wanted His people to eat blood in any dispensation of time, including the time we live in now.

God told Noah in Gen. 9:4 that they were not to eat blood because it contained the life.

In Leviticus 17:12-14 God told Israel that they should not eat blood because it is the life.

In Acts 15:20 God said that we are not to eat blood.



Questions:

1. What was Israel's greatest defilement of God's laws? _____
2. What did God provide for Israel to forgive them of their sins and to make them clean again?

3. What are the different types of sacrifices?

4. What chapters in Leviticus tell us about the laws of sacrifice? _____
5. Who would always lay the sacrifice upon the altar of burnt offerings? _____
6. Where would the offerer always lay his hands on the animal to be sacrificed, before it was killed? _____
7. Every animal offered to God had to be without _____.
8. The Burnt Offering signified complete _____ of oneself to God and atonement of one's sins.
9. The Peace Offering celebrated the _____ that the offerer had with God.
10. The Sin Offering was to remove the guilt of _____.

USE YOUR BIBLE

Lev 1:3 If his offering be a _____ sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without _____: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD.

Lev 2:1 And when any will offer a _____ offering unto the LORD, his offering shall be of fine _____; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put frankincense thereon:

Lev 3:1 And if his oblation be a sacrifice of _____ offering, if he offer it of the herd; whether it be a male or female, he shall offer it without _____ before the LORD.

Lev 4:3 If the priest that is anointed do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the LORD for a _____ offering.

NOTE: It is interesting to note that whenever a series of Sacrifices were offered for the congregation, they always offered the Sin offering first, then the burnt offering and last the peace offering. The Sin offering forgave them of their sins, the Burnt offering showed their dedication to God and the Peace offering showed their fellowship or peace with God.

LESSON 6

Vocabulary Words:

Holy - Different, set apart, dedicated to God.

INTRODUCTION:

The Lord told the people over and over "Be ye holy, for I am holy". God wanted His people to be holy and clean because they belonged to God, and He dwelt in their midst. He gave them laws of cleanness that He wanted His people to follow. The laws of cleanness are not dealing with sinful matters, (*there was nothing sinful about having a baby or having a disease like leprosy*), but God said that these things defiled a person and that they must be cleansed so that they could worship Him again. Being clean set the Israelites apart from other people — it made them different and holy. It made them a people that would be pleasing to God.

The main reason why the Israelites followed God's laws was so they could be like God and be His people. But there were other benefits to following God's laws. When the children of Israel left Egypt, God told them that if they would obey Him that He would not bring the diseases of the Egyptians upon them. (Ex. 15: 26). Following God's laws would make them a more healthy people.

God wanted those who were unclean, or defiled, to wash themselves and put on clean clothes. When a person was unclean he could not touch anything that was holy or take part in the public feast days of the people. Many times a person would be unclean only until evening, but if a person had a disease, such as leprosy, he might be defiled the rest of his life.

In this lesson we will discuss some of the things that made the children of Israel unclean. The things in this lesson are not everything that made the Israelites unclean. There are many more things. If you would like to read about all of them they are in Leviticus 11 - 15 and in the book of Numbers and Deuteronomy.



CLEAN ANIMALS LEV. 11: 1- 47

The Lord gave Moses these laws and told him to tell the children of Israel what they were.

The Israelites could eat any animal which had a split hoof and chewed the cud. (11:3)



They could eat anything in the water that had fins and scales. (11:9)



They could eat winged insects that have jointed legs used for hopping, (such as grasshopper, locust, cricket, etc.).

They could eat most birds.



UNCLEAN ANIMALS

Any animal that did not have a split hoof and chewed it's cud was unclean and could not be eaten.

A camel had a split hoof, but because it did not chew the cud, it was unclean and could not be eaten.

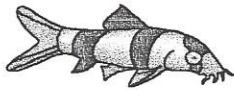
A rabbit was unclean.



Hogs were unclean because although they had a split hoof, they did not chew the cud.




Any creature in the water that did not have fins or scales was unclean and could not be eaten.



be examined. If the priest determined that he had Leprosy, then he must wear torn clothes and his hair must be unkept, and whenever anyone came near he must cover his face and cry out, "Unclean! Unclean!". He also had to live alone outside the camp.

Birds of prey such as the eagle, hawk, owl, and vultures were unclean and not to be eaten.




All flying insects that swarm and walk  on their feet instead of hopping were unclean.

All animals of prey were unclean. (Such as dogs, cats, bears, etc.)



Animals that move low on the ground, such as rats, lizards, and reptiles were unclean.



Anything  that crept or crawled on the ground, such as snakes, worms, snails, etc. were unclean and could not be eaten.

Any animal, clean or unclean, that died on its own was considered unclean and could not be eaten. If anyone touched an unclean animal they were to be unclean until the evening. Anything an unclean animal touched was to be washed with water.

Failure to cleanse oneself when he was defiled by a clean animal was considered a sin.

OTHER LAWS OF UNCLEANNESS

A woman was considered unclean after she gave birth to a baby. She had to go through a certain amount of days to purify herself, then she was to offer a burnt offering and a sin offering to God.

If a person was suspected of having a skin disease called Leprosy, he had to go before a priest to

Anyone who touched a dead body was unclean for a week. Special waters of purification were to be sprinkled on him by the priest on the third and seventh day. If he did not do this he was to be cut off from the people.

God told His people that they were to be holy because he dwelt in their midst and He did not tolerate defilement.

MEMORY WORK

Ps 15:1 - 2

- 1 **LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?**

- 2 **He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart;**

CLEAN OR UNCLEAN?

Below are a list of things that were considered clean or unclean by God under the law of Moses.
Write beside each thing whether it is clean or unclean.

1. _____ Camel
2. _____ Locust
3. _____ Snake
4. _____ Owl
5. _____ Dog
6. _____ Cow
7. _____ A woman who just gave birth to a baby.
8. _____ A person with Leprosy.
9. _____ A water animal with fins and scales.
10. _____ An animal that died on it's own.

Questions

1. Why did God want His people to be holy and clean? _____

2. Were the laws of cleanness dealing with sinful things? _____

3. What is the main reason the Israelites followed God's laws? _____

4. Were there other benefits to following God's laws? _____ What? _____

5. Read Leviticus 11: 44 - 45 and fill-in-the-blanks: *For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be _____; for I am _____; neither shall ye _____ yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. For I am the _____ that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your _____; ye shall therefore be _____, for I am _____.*

LESSON 7

Vocabulary Words:

Sheaf - A dry measure (about 2 liters) of grain.

Firstfruits - The first of the fruit and grain that was gathered and offered to God.

Scapegoat - The goat used for the sacrifice of the sins of the people. It was the goat of departure.

Introduction

Just as God specified certain sacrifices the people were to offer, and gave them certain laws of cleanness and uncleanness, He also commanded that there would be certain times and feast days that they would observe. Leviticus 23 : 1 -2 tells us: *The LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'These are my appointed feasts, the appointed feasts of the LORD, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.*

God had reasons why he wanted His people to observe these special assemblies. There were lessons that He wanted them to remember and blessings that He did not want them to forget. The feast days and special times were blessing within themselves because they gave the people the opportunity to rejoice, to rest, and to feast together. God gave them these times for their good. (Deut. 6:24)

We will take two lessons to study the feast days of the Israelites.

THE SABBATH

The seventh day of the week, (Saturday), was a day of rest for the Israelites. God told them that He had made the earth and all in it in six days and on the seventh day He rested. (Ex. 20: 10 - 11) This commandment was one of the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses on Mt. Sinai. The Sabbath was to remind them of the time they were servants in Egypt and had no rest. (Deut. 5:15)

The Sabbath was for them, and all the generations after them, to know that the Lord made them holy. (Ex. 31:13)

On the Sabbath they were to have a holy assembly (Lev. 23:3), and no work was to be done (Ex. 35:3 ; Lev. 23:3). They were to obey God's command that they rest on this day, even if there was work to be done like plowing or harvest. Those who did not obey this law were to be put to death.

THE PASSOVER

The Israelites had a feast called Passover on the 14th day of the 1st month of their year. It was to be eaten in a place that God chose. (Deut. 16:2)

The very first Passover was eaten on the night that the Lord struck all the firstborn

Egyptians dead, while passing over and saving the firstborn of the Israelites. (Ex. 12) God commanded that they keep this feast every year to remember how he brought them out of Egypt and saved their firstborn.

Each family was to celebrate this feast by putting up a 1 year old, male lamb , without blemish, on the 10th day of the month. The lamb was killed on the evening of the 14th day and eaten.

THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

This feast began on the 15th day, (immediately after Passover), of the 1st month and lasted until the 21st day. (Lev. 23:6-8) For these seven days they ate unleavened bread. There was to be no leaven in their houses, and whoever ate leavened bread during this feast was to be cut off from Israel.

This feast was to remind them of when they left Egypt. When they left there was no time to leaven their bread, so they brought unleavened bread out of Egypt. (Ex. 12: 39)

No work was to be done during this feast except the preparing of meals. The 1st and the 7th days of this feast were Holy assemblies. (Lev. 23: 7 -8)

In connection with the Feast of Unleavened Bread was the bringing of their firstfruits. Firstfruits were the first and best of their barley harvest. A

sheaf of the first crop harvested was brought to the priest and waved before the Lord. (Lev. 23: 10 - 11) They would offer a one year old male lamb for a burnt offering and a meal and drink offering.

FEAST OF WEEKS

The Feast of Weeks was also called the Feast of Harvest, the Day of Firstfruits, and it was called Pentecost in the New Testament.

The Israelites celebrated the Feast of Weeks with the **firstfruits** of crops sown in their fields. (Ex. 23:16) It was celebrated 50 days after the Sabbath of Passover.

The Feast of Weeks was a time of rejoicing before God and a reminder that they had once been slaves in Egypt, but were now free. (Deut. 16: 10 -12) During the Feast of Weeks all the men assembled for a day of holy assembly. No work was to be done. They were to offer a meal offering made from the **firstfruits** of their wheat harvest. They were also to offer seven lambs, one bullock, one ram, and one goat for a sin offering. Two lambs were offered for peace offerings.

THE FEAST OF TRUMPETS

The Feast of Trumpets was on the first day of the seventh month. They had a holy assembly on that day and it was a day for blowing trumpets. No work was to be done on that day.

On that day they offered burnt offerings, meal offerings, and sin offerings. (Num. 29)

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

The Day of Atonement was a very special day for the Israelites. On this day, atonement was made for the sins of the people. (Lev. 16:34) This day was on the 10th day of the seventh month.

On this day no work was to be done. It was the only day that the High Priest was allowed to go into the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle.

First of all, the priest would cleanse himself and then offer a sin offering (a bull) for himself. He would take a censor of burning coals and incense into the Most Holy Place to offer before the Mercy Seat. (Lev. 16: 12 -13) Then he would take some blood from the sin offering and sprinkle in on and in front of the Mercy Seat.

Next the High Priest would make atonement for the people. He would select from two goats and a

ram. One goat was for God and one goat was for a **scapegoat**. Then the High Priest would kill the goat that was a sin offering for the people and take it's blood into the Most Holy Place and sprinkle it onto the mercy seat. Afterward he went out to the altar of burnt offering and put blood of the bull and goat upon it.

Then Aaron, the High Priest, brought forward the live goat that was left, (the **scapegoat**). He laid his hands on the head of the live goat and confessed over the goat the sins of Israel. Afterward, an appointed man took the goat and led it into the wilderness. Symbolically the goat carried the sins of the people away from the camp.

Aaron then bathed, put on his priestly garments and offered a burnt offering for himself and for the people. The fat of the sin offering was burnt on the altar and the rest of the sin offering was burned outside the camp.

The man who carried the **scapegoat** into the wilderness had to wash himself and his clothes before he could come back into the camp.

MEMORY WORK

Ps 15:1 - 2

1 LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?

2 He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart;

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do you think about the way God wanted His people to worship Him under the law of Moses? Although it may seem odd to us, this was the way God wanted His people to worship Him. All these things foreshadowed things to come in God's new law — the New Testament.

The Day of Atonement was a day that God wanted His people to remember sin. (Heb. 10:3) All of the animals sacrificed pointed to the time when there would be only one sacrifice for sin — Jesus Christ. Just as the blood of the sin offering was taken into the Most Holy Place, where God's presence was, the blood of Jesus Christ was taken into heaven where God is, to make a once-for-all atonement for sins. (Heb. 9:26)

The sacrifices that Israel made were offered every day, but Jesus' sacrifice was offered only once for all times.



Questions

1. What day was the Sabbath on? _____
2. What was the Sabbath to remind them of? _____

3. When was the Passover celebrated? _____

4. What kind of bread could Israel eat during the Feast of Unleavened Bread? _____

5. What was the Feast of Weeks called in the New Testament? _____
6. When was the Feast of Trumpets? _____

7. What was the purpose of the Day of Atonement? (Lev. 16: 34) _____

8. Where could the High Priest go on this day that he could not go on other days? _____

9. When a man led the scapegoat into the wilderness, what was this a symbol of? _____

10. Who has made a once-for-all atonement for our sins? _____

LESSON 8

Vocabulary Words:

Redeem - To rescue or deliver by paying a price.

Jubilee - The blast of a horn. The blast of a horn introduced the jubilee year

Introduction

In our previous lesson we studied about special days that the Lord wanted His people to keep: the Sabbath, Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Feast of Weeks, Feast of Trumpets, and the Day of Atonement. Each special day or feast was to remind them of something that God wanted them to remember.

We will continue this lesson with more special days that Israel was to remember.

LEVITICUS 23; 25

THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

The Feast of Tabernacles (also called the Feast of Ingathering) was a seven day feast that was celebrated at the turning of the year. This feast was to remember the years that Israel spent in the wilderness.

To celebrate this feast the people would make booths (temporary shelters) out of tree branches to live in for seven days. This was to remind them of the years that they lived in booths when God brought them out of Egypt.

The Israelites were not to do any work during this feast and on the 8th day they had a holy assembly. They would offer special sacrifices to God (Num. 29).

When this feast fell on the seventh year (or Sabbath year) the law of Moses would be read to all the people.

SABBATH YEAR

God told Israel that every seven years the land itself was to have a Sabbath rest. The Israelites could plant and harvest on their land for the first six years, but on the seventh year they were not to plant a crop. Whatever grew on the land on its own could be eaten by them, but it was not to be stored up for later.

God warned His people that if they did not give the land its Sabbath they would be taken captive by the nations around them. (Lev. 26: 6-7)

During this seventh year any Israelite man

who was a slave was to be set free. If any Israelite man owed another, his debt was to be wiped clean.

This Sabbath year was to remember that they were once slaves in Egypt and that God had redeemed them. (Deut. 15:15) This year helped the Israelites to prosper. God told them that He would bless them if they obeyed this law.

YEAR OF JUBILEE

The year of Jubilee was celebrated every 50 years. On the 10th day, of the seventh month, of the 50th year, a loud trumpet would be heard throughout the land to signal that it was time for Jubilee. It was a year to proclaim liberty throughout the land. (Lev. 25:10)

God told his people they were His and that He had brought them out of Egypt. (Lev. 25:55) Only by their obedience to God could they be free of all other masters.

If an Israelite had become poor and sold himself to another Israelite, he was not to be treated as a slave and he was to go free in the year of Jubilee, if he had not been released some time before this year.

If an Israelite had some land that he wanted to sell, he could not sell it permanently. During the year of Jubilee, the land would come back to the family that first possessed it.

God told His people that if they would keep His laws they would live in the land safely and they would have plenty to eat. (Lev. 25: 18-19) He expected faith and confidence in His will to provide everything they needed.

Questions

1. What was Israel to remember when they celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles?

2. God told the Israelites that the land was to have a rest every _____ years. This was called _____ year.

3. Every 50 years the Israelites celebrated the year of _____.

MEMORY WORK

Say Psalms 15: 1 - 2 from memory.

Israel's Chronology So Far....

We have been busy learning about laws and feast days that God wanted Israel to follow. Now we need to catch up with where they are in the Bible's narrative. You will need to use your Bible and fill in the blanks. We are going to follow the Israelite's chronology and see where they will be at the beginning of the next lesson.

God gave His instructions to Israel about the last plague in Egypt and about the feast of the Passover. God said, "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the _____ month of the year to you." Ex.12:2

So on the _____ day they put up the lamb for the Passover. (Ex. 12:3) On the _____ day they killed the passover lamb and ate it that night. (Ex. 12:6) God told them that they were to observe the feast of Unleavened bread for _____ days. (Ex. 12:15) During this time they could not eat leavened bread. Israel ate the Passover on the 14th day. God called for Moses and Aaron by _____ and told them to take the children of Israel and leave Egypt to worship Him. (Ex. 12:31)

God led Israel with a pillar of _____ by day and a pillar of _____ by night.(Ex. 13: 22) God carried them across the Red Sea on dry land. Then they came to _____, but they could not drink the water because it was _____. (Ex. 15:23)

Israel finally came to the Wilderness of Sin on the _____ of the _____ month.(Ex. 16:1) While they were there God sent them bread from heaven called _____.(Ex. 16: 15)

Israel continued their journey and came to Mt. Sinai in the _____ month after leaving Egypt. (Ex. 19:1) While they were at Mt. Sinai, God gave the people His covenant. He actually spake to the Israelites from the mountain, and His covenant was ratified. Then Moses went up into the mountain for _____ days and nights.(Ex. 24:18)

While Moses was in the mountain with God it did not take long for the people to forget God. The people made a golden _____ to worship. (Ex.32:8) As Moses came off the mountain and saw the golden calf, he brake the stones with the commandments written on them at the bottom of the mountain. He punished those who were guilty and pled with God to renew His covenant with Israel.

God wanted Moses to go back into the mountain for _____ more days. (Ex. 34:28) At the end of the 40 days, Moses assembled the people and gave them instructions on how to build God's tabernacle.

The people worked and built the tabernacle just as God wanted them to. On the _____ day of the _____ month of the second year, Israel set up the Lord's tabernacle. (Ex. 40:2)

When the Tabernacle was set up, the priests began their consecration to God. Their consecration lasted _____ days. (Lev. 8:33)

On the _____ day, Aaron and his sons began their work as God's priests. (Lev. 9:1) That same day, Nadab and Abihu sinned against God by offering strange fire to Him. God struck them dead.

This is where our next lesson will begin.

LESSON 9

Vocabulary Words:

Prince - Leader or Captain.

INTRODUCTION:

In this lesson we begin our study in the book of Numbers. Numbers gets its name from the numbering of the people at Mt. Sinai and then their being numbered again in the plains of Moab, before they enter the land of Canaan.

NUMBERS 7:1-89

Offerings of the princes of Israel.

After Moses had completed setting up the Tabernacle, and had anointed it, the **princes** of Israel brought special offerings to be used in the service of God. Each of the twelve tribes of Israel had a **prince**.

Each **prince** brought 6 covered wagons and 12 oxen. This equaled out to one covered wagon per 2 princes and one ox per prince. God told Moses that these would be used by the Levites in their service to God in the Tabernacle. There were three major families in the tribe of Levi: Gershon, Merari, and Kohath. Two wagons and four oxen were given to the family of Gershon, four wagons and eight oxen to Merari, and none to the family of Kohath. None was given to the family of Kohath because their job was to carry the furniture of the Tabernacle on their shoulders and not on wagons.

The days that the princes brought their gifts were the same days that the priests were being consecrated.

Each prince offered the same thing:

One large silver platter full of fine flour.

One silver bowl of fine flour.

One golden spoon full of incense.

Burnt offerings of one bullock, one ram and one male lamb.

One male goat for a sin offering.

Peace offerings of two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs a year old.

NUMBERS 9: 1 - 14

Passover observed.

It has been a year since Israel has left Egypt. The Tabernacle has been set up and consecrated. For eight days the priests were consecrated. During those same eight days the princes of Israel brought their offerings from each tribe. By now the first two weeks of the first month are almost over, and God reminded Moses that it was time to keep the Passover again.

God told them to keep the Passover at the time God appointed: the fourteenth day of the first month. So Moses reminded Israel to keep the Passover. They kept the feast in front of Mt. Sinai. This is where they have been camped ever since they left Egypt.

Now on this day there were some men who could not eat the Passover that day because they had been defiled by the dead body of a man. These men came to Moses and Aaron and said, "We are unclean because of the dead person we have been close to, but why should we be kept from celebrating the feast at this time?"

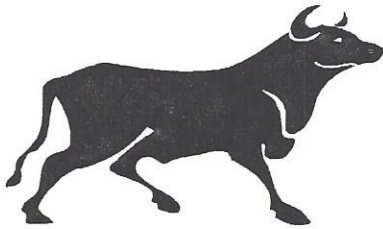
Moses told the men, "Wait and I will find out what God wants you to do."

Then the Lord spoke to Moses saying, "Tell the children of Israel that if any of them become unclean because of a dead body, or are away on a journey, they may still celebrate the Lord's Passover. They are to celebrate it on the 14th day of the second month in the evening. They are to eat the passover lamb with unleavened bread and bitter herbs and leave none of it until the morning. They are to keep all the laws of the Passover."

" But if there is a man that is not unclean, who is not away on a journey, that does not keep the Passover, he must be cut off from the people because he did not bring his offering to God at the appointed time. That man will bear the consequences of his sin."

"If a person who is not a Israelite wants to celebrate the Passover with you, he must do it according to My laws."

So Israel stayed at Mt. Sinai for another month so that the unclean could partake of the Passover.



MEMORY WORK

Ps 15:1 - 3

- 1 LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?
- 2 He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart;
- 3 He who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;
(NKJ)

FILL-IN-THE-BLANKS

Use these words to fill-in-the-blanks: LORD, COMMAND, LEVITES, SECOND, YEAR, SINAI, KOHATH, DEAD

1. The princes brought their offerings before the _____. Num. 7:3
2. Moses took the wagons and oxen and gave them to the _____. Num.7: 6
3. Moses did not give any wagons or oxen to the sons of _____ because they carried the furniture of the tabernacle on their shoulders. Num. 7: 9
4. The Lord wanted Israel to keep their second Passover after leaving Egypt on the first month of the second _____. Num. 9:1
5. Israel kept the Passover on the 14th day of the first month in the wilderness of _____. Num. 9:1
6. Certain men defiled by a _____ body could not keep the Passover on the 14th day of the first month. Num. 9:6
7. Moses told the defiled men to wait till he found out what the Lord would _____ concerning them. Num. 9: 8
8. God told Moses that a defiled man could partake of the Passover on the 14th day of the _____ month. Num. 9:11

LESSON 10

Vocabulary Words:

Blaspheme - To speak of with irreverence. To curse.

Census - The number or sum of.

LEVITICUS 24: 10 - 23

Israel stones a blasphemer.

We are not sure when this event happened, but it happened sometime while Israel was camped at Mt. Sinai.

An Israelite woman named Shelomith married an Egyptian man. She and her husband had a son. One day her son went out among the children of Israel and a fight broke out between him and another Israelite.

The son of the Israelite woman **blasphemed** the name of God and cursed. Those in charge put the man into prison until they could find out what God wanted to be done to the man.

The Lord told Moses, "Bring the one who has **blasphemed** outside the camp. Let all those who heard him **blaspheme** lay their hands upon his head. Then let all the congregation of the people stone him."

"Then I want you to tell the congregation that anyone who curses God will be held responsible. If anyone **blasphemes** the name of God he will be put to death. It does not matter if the person is an Israelite or a stranger in the land, he must be put to death if he does this."

"Also, anyone who kills another man shall be put to death. If one kills an animal he must replace it with another animal. If anyone injures his neighbor, what was done to the neighbor is to be done to him. This law is the same for the stranger as well as one from your own country."

So Moses told the children of Israel what God had told him. And they took the **blasphemer** outside the camp and stoned him, just as God commanded.

NUMBERS 1 : 1-46

The soldiers are numbered and organized.

The Lord spake to Moses on the first day of the second month of the second year. It was exactly one month from the time that the Tabernacle was set up. Jehovah told Moses, "Take a **census** of the whole congregation of Israel. Count the men twenty years old and up that are able to go to war. You and Aaron are to number them. One man from every tribe, each one the head of his family, is to help you count.

So all the men were counted with the following results:

Reuben	46,500
Simeon	59,300
Gad	45,650
Judah	74,600
Issachar	54,400
Zebulun	57,400
Ephraim	40,500
Manasseh	32,200
Benjamin	35,400
Dan	62,700
Asher	41,500
Naphtali	53,400

The total number of men counted was: 603,550.

The tribe of Levi was not counted with the other tribes because the Lord told Moses not to count them.

NUMBERS 2: 1-34

God arranges the tribal camps.

The Lord spake to Moses and Aaron. He told them that the Israelites were to camp around the Tabernacle (or Tent of Meeting) in a certain order.

On the East side of the Tabernacle the tribes of Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun camped. These tribes were called the "camp of Judah". This camp

would move out first whenever the children of Israel traveled. There were 186,400 soldiers in this camp.

On the South side of the Tabernacle were the tribes of Reuben, Simeon and Gad. They would move out after the camp of Judah when they traveled. They had 151,450 soldiers in their camp.

When the Israelites traveled the Tent of Meeting (or Tabernacle) would move out next with the tribe of Levi.

On the West side of the Tabernacle camped the tribes of Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin. They would move out after the Tabernacle and the Levites. They had 108,100 soldiers in their camp.

On the North side of the Tabernacle were camped the tribes of Dan, Asher, and Naphtali. They traveled at the very end of the Israelites and they had a total of 157,600 soldiers.

Can you see the order and wisdom of God in placing the tribes around the Tabernacle when they camped? Each tribe knew exactly where they were to camp, and exactly when they were to move out when they traveled. The Tabernacle was in the middle so that it would be well protected when they were camping and when they were traveling.

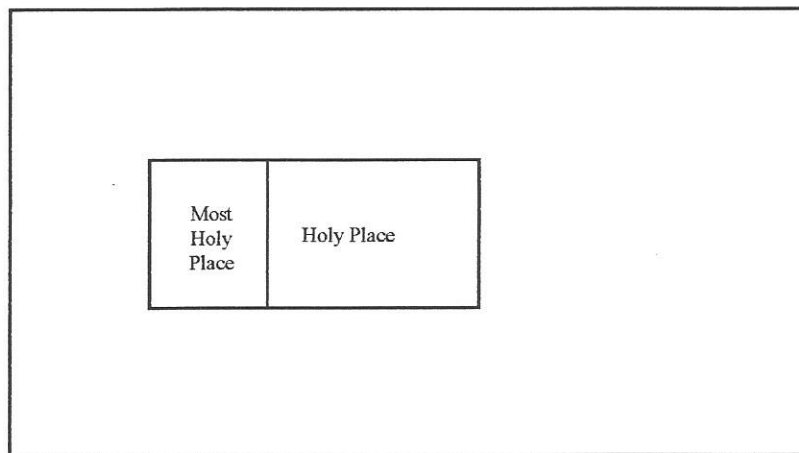
MEMORY WORK

Ps 15:1 - 3

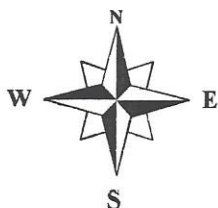
- 1 LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?
 - 2 He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart;
 - 3 He who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;
- (NKJ)

Dan
Asher
Naphtali

Benjamin
Manasseh
Ephraim



Judah
Issachar
Zebulun



Reuben
Simeon
Gad

This drawing is not complete. In another lesson we will add the clans of Levi, Moses, Aaron, and the priests.

Multiple Choice

1. The Israelite man had (blessed , blasphemed) God.
2. The Israelite man was put into prison until (Moses , God) told them what to do to him.
3. God told the people to take the man (inside , outside) the camp and stone him.
4. God told Israel that anyone who killed another man should be put (in prison , to death).
5. God told Moses to (number , bless) the congregation of Israel.
6. The only ones counted were the men (40 , 20) years old and up, who were able to go to war.
7. Moses (did , did not) count the tribe of Levi.
8. The Israelites camped (inside , around) the Tabernacle.
9. Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun camped on the (North , East , South) side of the Tabernacle.
10. Reuben, Simeon, and Gad camped on the (East, West , South) side of the Tabernacle.
11. The Tabernacle was placed (on the North, in the center) of the tribes.
12. Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin camped on the (South, West, North) side of the Tabernacle.
13. Dan, Asher, and Naphtali camped on the (East , North, West) side of the Tabernacle.

Thought Questions

1. The Israelite son of Shelomith had killed another man and blasphemed God. Do you think God is displeased when people kill others and curse Him today? _____

2. God said that anyone who killed another was to be put to death. God considered life important then. One had to give his life for another. Do you think he considers life important today? _____

3. Why do you think God wanted the Tabernacle placed in the middle of all the tribes?

4. Why do you think God did not have Moses and Aaron count the women and children?

God did not have Moses and Aaron count the women, children, and the very old. If he had, there would surely have been more than a million people!

LESSON 11

REVIEW

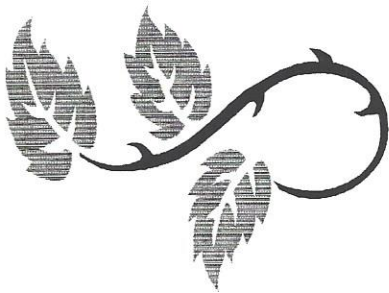
Multiple Choice

(underline the correct answer)

1. God wanted His people to be sanctified and (unholy, holy).
2. The things in the Old Testament were written (to give us a good story, for our learning).
3. The God we serve is (the same , a different) God than Israel served.
4. Worship to God is a (silly , serious) thing.
5. The Tabernacle was to remind Israel that (Moses, God) was in their midst.
6. God commanded that the priests stay at the Tabernacle and be consecrated for (7 , 10) days.
7. On the eighth day of the priest's consecration, Aaron and his sons offered (songs, sacrifices) to God.
8. God showed His pleasure in their sacrifices by (telling the people, consuming the sacrifices with fire).
9. Aaron had to offer sacrifice first for (the people , himself).
10. Nadab and (Eleazar , Abihu) offered strange fire before God.
11. God killed Nadab and Abihu with fire and told Israel, " I will be treated as (serious, holy) by those who come near me, and I will be glorified.
12. God told Aaron and his sons not to (bury , mourn) for Nadab and Abihu.
13. (Leprosy , Sin) was Israel's greatest defilement before God.
14. God required (prayers, sacrifices) to make His people clean again after they were defiled.
15. An animal offered for a burnt offering had to be (with , without) blemish.
16. When a burnt offering was offered, the animal was (burned, eaten) on the Altar of Burnt offerings.
17. A meal offering was made of (animal parts , grain).
18. Peace offerings celebrated the (good times, peace) they had with God.
19. A sin offering was to remove the (skin of the animal , guilt of sin of the offerer).
20. Blood from the sacrifices was poured out (inside , at the base) of the altar of Burnt offerings.
21. Animal sacrifices (were , were not) the perfect sacrifice for sin.
22. Jesus Christ offered himself (many times , once) for the sins of everyone.
23. A person could become defiled by touching a (clean , unclean) animal.
24. Israel followed God's laws so that they could become more like (Moses, God).
25. God told His people that they were to be holy because He (just liked a clean people, was in their midst.)
26. God gave the Israelite special days for (fun , their good) .
27. The Sabbath was a day of (work , rest) for the Israelites.
28. Israel was to remember how God brought them out of Egypt when they celebrated (the day of Atonement , the Passover).
29. On the day of Atonement, (food , atonement) was made for the sins of the people.
30. The High Priest (could , could not) go into the Most Holy Place on the day of Atonement.
31. Symbolically, the (passover lamb , scapegoat) carried the sins of the people away from the camp.
32. The year of Jubilee was celebrated every (7 , 50) years.
33. The Sabbath year was celebrated every (50 , 7) years.

34. Each of the twelve tribes of Israel had a (priest , prince) who brought special offerings to the Tabernacle.
35. Those who were (clean , unclean) during the first Passover could celebrate the Passover in the second month of the year.
36. God said that anyone who blasphemed Him was to be put (in jail , to death).
37. God wanted Moses and Aaron to take a (goat , census) of the people in the second month of the second year.
38. Levi (was , was not) counted with the other tribes of Israel.
39. God said that the tribes (were , were not) to camp around the Tabernacle in a certain order.
40. The Tabernacle was located (to the north , in the middle) of the tribes.

Thought Questions



1. Did God have very many details in the way He wanted His people to worship Him? _____

2. How did God react when His people did not obey His commands? _____

3. What does this tell you about God? _____

4. Do you think God reacts the same way to us when we disobey (even though He does not give immediate punishment today as He did then)? _____

MEMORY WORK

Ps 15:1 - 3

1 LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?

2 He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart;

3 He who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;

(NKJ)

LESSON 12

Vocabulary Words:

- Redeem - to rescue or deliver by paying a price.**
- Minister - to serve or wait on.**
- Smote - to slay or kill.**
- Shekel - a piece of money (we do not know the value)**

Introduction:

In lesson 10 we learned about God telling Moses and Aaron to number the people. Everyone was numbered in this census except the Levites. We will learn why in this lesson.

To understand this lesson we need to review some things that happened previously:

In the book of Exodus we learned that God sent Moses to deliver His people from Egyptian bondage. The Pharaoh did not want to let the people go worship, so God sent plagues upon the Egyptians. The last plague that God sent was the death of the firstborn. God told his people to prepare to leave Egypt. The Israelites ate a feast that night and painted the doorposts of their houses with blood so that the angel would pass over their homes and not kill the firstborn male child in that home. All the Egyptian firstborn males were killed, but the firstborn males in Israel were saved alive.

God told the Israelites that when He would bring them into the land of Canaan (the promised land) that they would set apart all the firstborn males of man and beast to belong to the Lord in a special way. They were to be redeemed. And they were to tell their children what happened that night in Egypt. (Exodus 13)

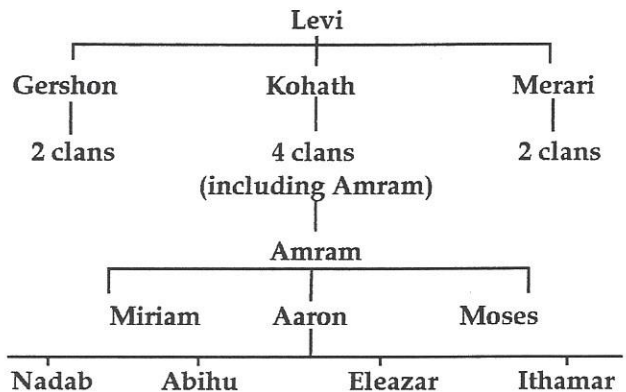
NUMBERS 1 ; 3 ; 4; 6; 8

The Levites are numbered and organized.

When Moses and Aaron numbered the children of Israel, God told them that they were not to number the tribe of Levi. God wanted the tribe of Levi to serve Him in a special way. He said that they were to be in charge of the Tabernacle, it's furnishings, and everything belonging to it. They were to be in charge of carrying the Tabernacle, the repair of it and it's furnishings, and they were to encamp around it.

Every time the Israelites would move the Levites would take down the Tabernacle and set it up again in their new camp. Anyone else that came close to the Tabernacle was to be put to death. The tribe of Levi were to camp around the Tabernacle so that the wrath of God would not fall on the rest of Israel.

Below is a family tree of Levi and his sons. Notice how Aaron and his sons fit into the family tree. Aaron and his sons were appointed priests, but by this time Nadab and Abihu are dead because of their sin against God.



The Lord told Moses that he should bring the tribe of Levi before Aaron and present them to him to **minister** unto him. Their job was to perform duties for Aaron and Israel by doing the work of the Tabernacle.

The Levites were the only tribe given wholly to the High Priest, but out of the Levites only Aaron and his sons could serve as priests. Anyone else who went into the Tabernacle would be put to death. Only the priests could offer sacrifices to God.

The Lord also told Moses that He would take the Levites and substitute them for the firstborn children of Israel. God said, "On the day that I **smote** all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I set apart all the firstborn of man and beast in Israel to be Mine. Now, count all the Levites by their families, every male from a month old up."

So Moses counted all the Levite males, a month old and up. Moses counted three divisions of Levi: Kohath, Gershon, and Merari. There were clans (or families) in each division of Levi. When Moses was through counting there was a total of 22,000 males in the tribe of Levi.

Then God told Moses to count all the firstborn males of the children of Israel that were a month old or up, and make a list of their names. God said, "I want you to take the Levites in place of the firstborn in Israel. Also take the firstborn of the livestock of Levites instead of the firstborn of the livestock of Israel. They will be mine, for I am the Lord." *(It was in this way that God provided the flocks and herds that would be used for daily sacrifices for the congregation.)*

Moses counted the firstborn children of Israel as God told him to, but when he was through counting there were 273 more firstborn males of the children of Israel that there were males of the tribe of Levi.

God told Moses, "Now take the Levites instead of the firstborn of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of Israel's cattle. The Levites will be mine, for I am the Lord. As for the 273 males that are more than the Levites, they will be **redeemed** for five **shekels** per head for each of them. The money you collect from those **redeemed** is to be given to Aaron and his sons."

(In the future, each time a firstborn son was born a special sacrifice was offered for him and the parents paid five shekels to redeem him. (Num. 18: 15 - 16) When a firstborn animal was born, it was to be offered to God. If it was clean if was sacrificed on the altar. A blemished clean

animal was eaten. If it were an unclean animal, it was redeemed by offering a clean animal instead, or it could be donated to the tabernacle to be sold or used for a work animal or killed.)

As Moses and Aaron counted the Levites, God told them where they were to camp and what their specific jobs were.

The clans of Gershon were to camp on the west side of the Tabernacle. They camped between the Tabernacle and the tribe of Ephraim.

Their job was to transport all the curtains and hangings of the Tabernacle and it's court. Aaron's son Ithamar supervised the work that they did. They had two wagons and four oxen to help them in their work.

The clans of Kohath camped on the south side of the Tabernacle between it and Reuben's tribe. Kohath was given the job of taking care of the furniture of the tabernacle. They carried the ark, the altar of incense, the table of shewbread, the candlestick, and the altar of burnt offering whenever the Israelites moved from one place to another.

Eleazar was in charge of the work that the clans of Kohath did.

Moses, Aaron, and his sons were in the clans of Kohath, but they camped on the east side of the Tabernacle between it and the tribe of Judah. They camped directly in front of the entrance of the Tabernacle.

The clans of Merari camped on the North side of the Tabernacle, between it and the tribe of Dan. Their responsibilities were to carry the boards, sockets, stakes, cords, pillars and posts of the Tabernacle. They were given four wagons and eight oxen to carry these things. Ithamar supervised the jobs that they had to do.

After the tribe of Levi was counted and organized the way that God commanded, they were to be consecrated before God so that they would be clean and could do the work God wanted them to do.

They were to have the water of purifying sprinkled on them. Then they were to shave their whole body and wash their clothes. They were to bring two bulls with meat offerings for sacrifice.

Then Moses was to have all the Israelites assemble before the Tabernacle. In front of Israel, Moses was to present the Levites before

God. The children of Israel then laid their hands on the Levites and Aaron presented the Levites as a wave offering to God, so that they could perform the duties that God wanted them to do.

The Levites laid their hands on the two bulls. First the one for the sin offering, then the other one for the burnt offering. This was to make atonement for the Levites.

Doing these things set the Levites apart from the other Israelites. This showed Israel that the Levites belonged to God in a special way. God took them for Himself instead of the firstborn of Israel. The firstborn belonged to God because He had spared them in the land of Egypt, but now the Levites would take their place. They were a gift to Aaron and his sons to perform the duties of service at the Tabernacle.

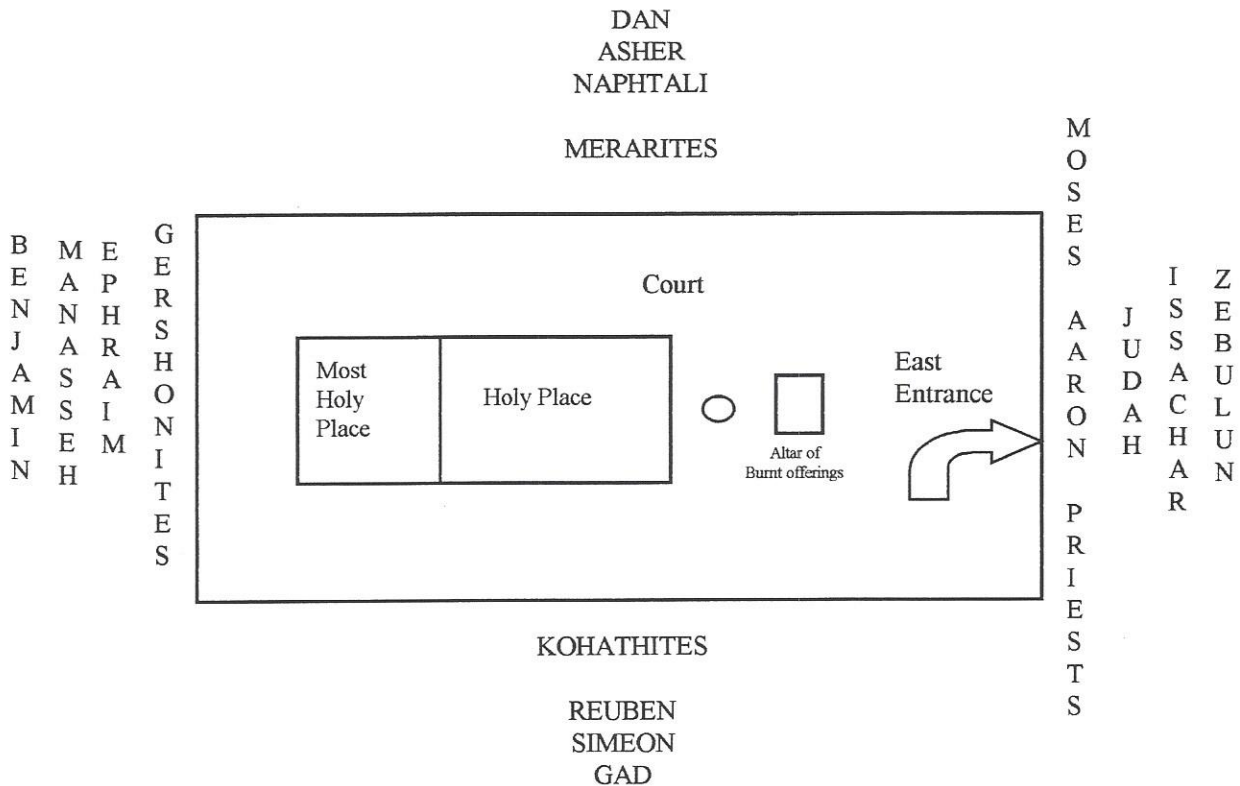
Moses and Aaron carried out all of God's instructions and then the Levites were ready to carry out God's commands.

God gave another commandment concerning the Levites: Only men 25 years old and up could take part in the work of the Tabernacle. At age 50 they must retire from doing the work, but could continue to assist others as they performed their duties.

Memory Work

Deut 10:12

**"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,
(NKJ)**



True or False

1. ___ When God told Moses and Aaron to number the children of Israel, they were to number the tribe of Levi also.
2. ___ God wanted the tribe of Levi to serve him in a special way.
3. ___ The tribe of Levi did work for the tribe of Reuben.
4. ___ Only Aaron and his sons could serve as priests.
5. ___ Moses counted all the Levite males, one year old and up.
6. ___ God said that the male Levites would take the place of the firstborn males in Israel.
7. ___ Moses counted 22,000 males in the tribe of Levi.
8. ___ The 273 extra male Israelites had to be redeemed by paying five shekels per man.
9. ___ God did not care where the Levites camped in Israel.
10. ___ Moses, Aaron and his sons were in the clans of Kohath.
11. ___ When the Levites were consecrated, this set them apart from the other Israelites.
12. ___ The Levites were a gift to Aaron and his sons to perform the duties of the Tabernacle.
13. ___ Men 50 years old and older took care of the work of the Tabernacle.

Use your Bible

1. Num 8:13-14 And thou shalt set the _____ before Aaron, and before his sons, and _____ them for an offering unto the LORD. Thus shalt thou separate the _____ from among the children of Israel: and the Levites shall be _____. (KJV)
2. Num 3:2 And these are the names of the sons of _____; _____ the firstborn, and _____, _____, and _____. (KJV)
3. Num 3:4 And _____ and _____ died before the LORD, when they offered _____ fire before the LORD, in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children: and _____ and _____ ministered in the _____ office in the sight of Aaron their father. (KJV)

LESSON 13

Vocabulary Words:

Threshing - To separate the grain from the straw by beating.

Yoke - Something that joins two together.

Drought - A long period of time with no rain.

Hostile - To be contrary or oppose.

Abhor - To loathe, to reject, to be defiled.

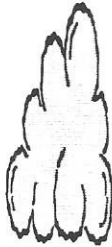
Introduction:

The Israelites have now been numbered and organized. The Levites have been numbered and organized also. All of the tribes know what to do and how to move out whenever God is ready for them to move.

In this lesson we will discuss some of the signals God gave Israel. We will also discuss the blessings and curses that God gave them. Then it will be time for the children of Israel to leave Mt. Sinai and start their journey toward the land that God has promised them.

SIGNALS GOD GAVE ISRAEL NUMBERS 9 : 15 - 23; 10:1-10

On the day that the Tabernacle was put up, God covered it with a cloud. Each day a cloud was over the Tabernacle, and at night it looked like fire.



Whenever the cloud lifted, it was time for the Israelites to move to another place. In this way, it was at the Lord's command that they moved and that they camped. As long as the cloud stayed over the Tabernacle, they remained in camp. If it stayed a day, a month or a year the Israelites would stay camped in the same place and not move out.



God told Moses to make two trumpets of silver. These two trumpets were to be used to assemble the people together at the door of the Tabernacle. Both trumpets were blown when the whole congregation of people were to assemble.

If only one trumpet was blown, then the princes of Israel were to assemble.

When an alarm was blown with the trumpets, the camps on the east side of the Tabernacle set out first. When the alarm was blown the second time the camps on the south side of the Tabernacle moved out.

The sons of Aaron were to be the only ones to blow the trumpets.

When they went to war an alarm was to be sounded with these trumpets. If they did this, God would save them from their enemies.

They were to blow the trumpets during their feast days. The trumpets were to be a memorial between them and God to remind them that He is the Lord your God.

BLESSINGS AND CURSES LEVITICUS 26

This chapter is one of the most frightening in the history of the children of Israel. In this chapter God tells Israel how He will bless them if they obey Him. He also tells them what will happen to them if they do not obey Him. The most chilling thing about this chapter is that all the prophecies came true. As you study about the children of Israel

you will see that they will not continue to obey God, and all the curses will happen to them.

In this lesson though, Israel is still in obedience to God and these things are warnings to them.

BLESSINGS

God said, " If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments I will :

*Send you rain at the proper times,
The trees will give you fruit,
Your **threshing** time will last until you gather your grapes, and grape gathering will last till time to sow the land,
You will have plenty to eat and live safely in the land,
You will have peace in the land and when you lie down at night you will not be afraid.
I will get rid of the evil beasts in the land and the sword will not pass through your land.
You will chase your enemies and they will be killed by your sword.
I will make you fruitful and you will multiply and I will fulfill my covenant with you.
I will walk among you and you will be My people, and I will be your God.*

" I am the God that brought you out of Egypt so that you would not be slaves. I broke the bonds of your **yoke** so that you could walk erect."

CURSES

God said, " If you do not obey Me, and do not do all these commandments :

*I will bring sudden terror upon you,
Wasting disease of the lungs and fever will destroy you.
It will do you no good to sow your grain, for your enemies will eat the harvest.
My face will be against you and your enemies will kill you.
Those who hate you will rule over you and you will run, even when no one is running after you.*

"If after all this you still do not obey Me, then your punishment will be seven times worse.

*I will break your pride by sending severe **drought** upon your land.
Your work will be in vain because you will not harvest a crop and the trees will not bear fruit.*

"If after this you are still **hostile** to Me and unwilling to obey Me, I will send punishment seven times

worse:

I will send wild beasts among you that will kill your children and animals. There will not be as many of you and your roads will be deserted.

"If these things will not reform you and you are **hostile** to Me, I will be **hostile** to you and I will punish yet seven more times for your sins:

*I will bring the sword upon you for breaking my covenant.
I will send a plague among you and you will be delivered into the hands of your enemy.
There will be so little grain that ten women can bake bread in one oven.
You will eat but will not be satisfied.*

"If after all these things you still do not obey Me, then in my anger I will punish you seven more times for your sins:

*You will eat the flesh of your sons and daughters.
I will destroy your high places with your idols and cast your dead bodies upon your idols.
I will abhor you.
I will destroy your cities and your sanctuaries will be desolate.
I will not smell the sweet savour of your sacrifices.
The land will be so desolate that even your enemies will be appalled at it.
I will scatter you among other nations and will pursue you with a sword.
Your land will be desolate while you are in your enemies' land.
Anyone left in the land will be so afraid that the sound of a leaf falling will cause them to run as if they are pursued by a sword.
You will perish in the land of your enemy because of your sin and the sins of your fathers.*

When God was through telling Israel all of the curses, He did give them some hope. He told them that if they would confess their sins and the sins of their fathers that He would remember His covenant with them. Even when they were in the land of their enemies, if they would turn back to God, He would not destroy them completely and would not break His covenant with them.

How different Israel's history would have been if they had heeded God's warnings. We

should learn a lesson from the mistakes that Israel made. Israel had physical choices to make in their obedience to God. Much of their punishment was of a physical nature. We have choices too! If we do not obey God, He will punish us also. Our punishment will be everlasting punishment away from God in a devil's hell. Just as the punishment of Israel was sure,(as the scripture bears out), ours is also if we do not obey Him.

**TIME TO LEAVE MT. SINAI
NUMBERS 10: 11 -35**

On the 20th day of the second month of the second year the cloud lifted up from over the Tabernacle. And the children of Israel started their journey out of the wilderness of Sinai.

The Israelites moved out in the order that God had commanded them. Judah left first. Then the Tabernacle was taken down and the Gershonites and Merarites moved out carrying the Tabernacle. They were followed by Reuben. Next came the Kohathites carrying the furniture of the Tabernacle. Then followed the camp of Ephraim and last of all Dan.

As they were leaving, Moses spake to his brother-in-law Hobab. He said, " We are journeying to the place that God said He would give to us. Come with us, for we will do you good. For the Lord has promised good things for us."

Hobab told Moses, " No, I will not go with you, but will go to my own land and kindred."

Moses said, " Please do not leave us. You can be like eyes for us because you know where to camp in the wilderness. If you go with us, whatever good God does for us the same we will do for you."

We do not have Hobab's answer here, but he must have gone with them because his descendants are found later living among the Israelites. (Judges 1:16 ; 4:11)

Israel departed and went three days journey with the ark of the covenant going on before them. The cloud of God led them.

Every day as the ark set forth on the journey Moses would say, "Rise up, O Lord, and let Your enemies be scattered. And let them hate You and flee before You."

When the ark rested at night, Moses would say, " Return, O Lord, unto the many thousands of Israel."

Memory Work

Deut 10:12

**"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,
(NKJ)**

CAN YOU SEE?

Can you see that God is giving His people every opportunity to be obedient to Him? He has told them what kind of blessings He will give them if they obey. He has even warned them very specifically about what will happen to them when they disobey.

Can you see the care that God has for His people? He is not leaving them to wonder if He is with them or not. They can look in the sky at the cloud and see a visible reminder that He is leading them and taking care of them.

Can you see the organization that God had for his people when they moved out of their camp? He did not leave them to wonder when their time was to move out. The priests would blow the trumpets and each tribe moved out in the order they were to move in.

Can you see that just as God loved the children of Israel He loves us also? Our laws are different. We do not have to wait to see a cloud move, or hear a trumpet blown. All we need to do is open God's word and read His will for us! Contained within His word are blessings and cursings for us also. Heaven is the greatest blessing and Hell is the greatest curse.

Multiple Choice

1. Each day a (trumpet , cloud) was over the Tabernacle.
2. At night the cloud looked like (the sun , fire).
3. When it was time for Israel to move, the cloud (disappeared , lifted up).
4. God told Moses to make (12 , 2) trumpets of silver.
5. The trumpets were blown to assemble people at the door of (Moses' tent, the tabernacle).
6. Leviticus chapter (10 , 26) tells about the blessings and curses of Israel.
7. The punishment of God is (sure , not sure) if His people do not obey Him.
8. On the 20th day of the 2nd month of the (first , second) year, Israel left Mt. Sinai.
9. Israel (did , did not) leave Mt. Sinai in the order that God commanded them.

Thought Questions

1. Do you think that any Israelite could say that God had not told them what they were to do in obedience to God? _____

Why? _____

2. God told the children of Israel that He would destroy their land if they did not obey Him. When God gave His people the land it was a land they said was flowing with milk and honey. This is just a way of saying that it was a very fertile land.

As we continue to study the Old Testament, we will learn that God did destroy the land because of their disobedience. Many people today do not know about these promises that God made. They look at the land today and it is almost a waste land, and it is no longer a fertile land to grow plants and crops. God kept His promise and destroyed the land. It is no longer a fertile land even today.

If someone told you that they did not understand why God gave such a terrible looking land to His people, what would you tell them? _____

LESSON 14

Vocabulary Words:

Taberah - Burning

Lust - To desire, to wish or long for, appetite, or covetousness.

Loathe - Disgusting, nauseating.

Homer - A dry measure of about 65 gallons.

Kibroth-hattaavah - Graves of lust.

Introduction:

In our last lesson we learned about the different signals God gave His people. We also learned about the blessings and curses that God gave His people.

On the 20th day of the second month of the second year Israel is finally on their journey to the land that God told Abraham hundreds of years before would belong to His people. It should have been an exciting time for Israel. Finally they would see the fulfillment of God's promises.

We'll see in this lesson how the children of Israel behave on their journey.

NUMBERS 11 - 12: 1-15

TABERAH

The children of Israel had not been traveling long and they began to complain. God heard their complaining and became very angry. He sent out fire from Him to burn the people, and consumed those on the borders of the camp.

When this happened, the people began to cry to Moses. So Moses prayed to God and the fire died out.

The name of the place was called **Taberah** because the fire of the Lord had burned among them.

KIBROTH-HATTA AVAH

(Remember - Israel is still receiving Manna from God to eat.)

The mixed multitude that was traveling with the Israelites began to **lust** after other food. So all the people began to weep and wail saying, "Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish that we ate in Egypt that were free. Also the cucumbers and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic."

"But now our appetite is gone. There is nothing to look at except this manna!"

Now the manna looked like a coriander seed and was small pearl-like white flakes. The people would gather it and crush it or grind it and make it into cakes. The taste of it was like honey

mixed with olive oil. As the dew at night fell, the manna would fall on the ground.

Moses could hear the people weeping and wailing in their tents. The Lord became very angry. Moses was also very displeased.

Moses said to the Lord, "Why have You brought all this trouble on me your servant? What have I done to displease You that You have put the burden of this people upon me? Am I their mother or father? Why have you told me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant, to the land that You have promised to their fathers?"

"Where can I get meat for all of these people? They keep weeping before me saying 'Give us meat to eat'."

"I cannot carry the burden of all these people alone; the burden is too heavy for me."

"If you are going deal with me in this way, then please kill me now if I am pleasing in Your sight. Do not let me see my own ruin."

The Lord said, "Bring me seventy men of the elders of Israel. Men that you know will be good leaders. Have them come to the Tabernacle and stand there with you. I will talk with you there, and I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and put the Spirit upon these men. They will help you carry the burden of the people so that it will not be too much for you."

"Tell the people to consecrate themselves for tomorrow, and they will eat meat. For I heard them when they cried 'If only we had meat to eat! 'We were better off in Egypt!'"

"Now I will give you meat to eat and you will eat it! You will eat it not one, two, five, ten, or twenty days. You will eat it a whole month until it comes out your nostrils and you loathe it! This is because you have rejected the Lord among you and have cried before Him saying, 'Why did we ever leave Egypt!'"

Then Moses said, " Lord, here I am among 600,000 footmen. You have said that You will give them meat for a whole month. If we killed all the flocks and herds would it be enough for them? Or would all the fish in the sea be enough?"

The Lord said, " Is the Lord's hand too short? You will see if My word will come true for you or not."

So Moses told the people what the Lord had said. Then he brought seventy men of the elders and had them stand around the Tabernacle. The Lord came down in the cloud and spake to Moses. Then the Lord took the Spirit that was upon Moses and gave it to the seventy elders. When the Spirit was upon them, they could prophesy.

Now there were two men who were elders who had remained in the camp; Eldad and Medad. They were not at the Tabernacle, but the Spirit came upon them and they began to prophesy. When they were heard prophesying, a young man ran to Moses to tell him about Eldad and Medad.

Joshua heard what the young man said and told Moses, " Moses, forbid them to do this!"

Moses said, " Are you jealous for my sake? I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon all of them."

Then Moses and the elders went back into the camp.

And the Lord caused a wind to bring quail from the sea. They fell around the camp about three feet deep, as far as a day's walk in any direction.

That day and night, and all the next day the people went out and gathered quail. The one who had gathered the least gathered at least 10 homers. And they spread them out all around the camp.

And while the meat was still between their teeth, before they even swallowed it, God's anger was kindled against the people. And God struck the people with a very severe plague.

The name of the place was called **Kibroth-hattaavah** because they buried the people there that lusted.

HAZEROTH

When the people left Kibroth-hattaavah, they came to a place called Hazeroth.

While in Hazeroth, Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because he had a Cushite wife.

They said, "Has the Lord spoken only through Moses? Hasn't He spoken through us too?" And the Lord heard them say this.

(Moses was a very humble man. More humble than any man on the earth.)

When the Lord heard what Miriam and Aaron had said about Moses, He said to them and Moses, " All three of you come to the Tabernacle."

So all three of them came. Then the Lord came down in the pillar of cloud and stood in the entrance of the Tabernacle. He called Miriam and Aaron and they came to Him. Then He said, " Hear My words! When there is a prophet among you I reveal myself to him through visions, and speak to him in dreams. This is not true of My servant Moses. He is faithful in all My house. I speak to him clearly mouth to mouth and he sees the form of God. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?"

The anger of the Lord was against Miriam and Aaron, and He left them.

When the cloud lifted over the Tabernacle, there stood Miriam white with leprosy. And Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had leprosy.

Then Aaron said to Moses, " Please do not hold this sin against us that we have so foolishly committed. Oh, do not let Miriam be as one dead."

So Moses cried out to God, " Oh God, please heal her I pray!"

The Lord said to Moses, " If her father had spit in her face she would have been in disgrace for seven days. Shut her up outside the camp for seven days and after that receive her into the camp.

So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not travel on until she was brought back inside the camp.

Think About It:

Israel has not been on their journey long and already they are murmuring and complaining. The people were not content with the way that the Lord was taking care of them.

Seeing the reaction that the Lord had when Israel complained ought to make us think about the way God feels about us when we complain. God does not send fire among us or kill us with a plague, but rest assured that He still feels the same way when His people murmur.

1 Cor 10:10 says: *nor complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer. Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come.*

The things that happened in the Old Testament were written as examples to us. God still feels the same — He does not change!

Memory Work

Deut 10:12 - 13

"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

"and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?
(NKJ)

Match

1. Taberah

___ He spake to Moses face to face.

2. Fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, garlic

___ Graves of lust.

3. Manna

___ They spake against Moses' Cushite wife, and said God had spoken through them too.

4. Moses

___ Food in Egypt that the Israelites began to lust after.

5. quail

___ God said that Israel would eat this for a month until it came out their nostrils.

6. 10 homers

___ The Israelites got tired of eating this bread that God sent from heaven.

7. Kibroth-hattaavah

___ The place where the fire of the Lord burned among Israel.

8. Miriam and Aaron

___ God struck Miriam with this disease when she spake against Moses.

9. God

___ The one who gathered the least quail gathered this much.

10. Leprosy

___ He said, "I cannot carry the burden of all these people alone."

LESSON 15

Vocabulary Words:

Flow with milk and honey - This is a way of saying that the land is very bountiful with fruit and a good land to grow food.

Provoke - To despise, abhor, blaspheme.

Introduction:

Israel has left Mt. Sinai and started on their journey to the promised land. They have problems on the way though, because of their murmuring. God is not happy with them at Taberah or Kibroth-hattaavah and punishes them.

Miriam and Aaron are not pleased with God's arrangement at Hazeroth, so they complained about Moses. God showed them and Israel that they were not to complain and try to change His pattern.

In this lesson we will see what happens when some spies get a look at the land that God is going to give Israel.

NUMBERS 12: 16 - 14:45

SIN AT KADESH-BARNEA

When the children of Israel left Hazeroth they came to the wilderness of Paran.

And the Lord spake to Moses and said, "Send out men to spy out the land of Canaan that I am going to give to the Israelites. Send one man from each tribe."

So Moses chose twelve men and sent them from the wilderness of Paran to the land that God was going to give them. As Moses sent them out he said, "Go up this way into the South and into the mountain. See the land and the people that live there. Notice if they are strong or weak, few or many. See if the cities they live in are villages or walled cities. Look at the soil. Is it fertile and are there trees? Bring back some of the fruit of the land. (For this was the time of year when the grapes were ripening.)

So the men went up and spied out the land from the Wilderness of Zin unto Rehob. They went up through the Negeb and came to Hebron. They also went to the valley of Eschol where they cut off a branch with a single cluster of grapes, and two of them carried the grapes on a pole between them. They also carried some pomegranates and figs back with them.

At the end of forty days, the spies returned back to their camp. They told Moses, Aaron, and all the congregation of Israel about their journey and showed them the fruit that they had brought back with them. They said, "We went into the land where you sent us and it certainly does **flow with milk and honey**, and this is it's fruit."

"But, the people who live there are powerful, and the cities have walls around them and are very large. We even saw descendant of Anak (*giants*) there! The Amalakites live in the Negeb, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country, and Canaanites live near the sea and by the Jordan River."

Evidently the people began to talk among themselves about what had just been told to them. So Caleb, (one of the spies), quieted the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and possess the land, for we can certainly do it!"

When Caleb said this, the other spies who had gone with him said, "We cannot attack these people, for they are stronger than we are! Why the land that we explored eats up those living in it. And all the people that we saw are men of great size. We even saw giants, and we seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes. And we looked like grasshoppers to them too!"

That night all of Israel wailed and cried about the things they had heard that day. They

murmured against Moses and Aaron saying, "If only we had died in Egypt, or in this wilderness we are in. Why is the Lord bringing us into this land to be killed by the sword? Our wives and children will be prey for them. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?"

Then they began to say, "Let us choose us a leader and go back to Egypt."

This was very upsetting to Moses and Aaron, and they fell facedown in front of the assembly of people that were gathered. Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, tore their clothes and pleaded with Israel saying, "The land that we spied out is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord is pleased with us He will lead us into this land and give it to us — a land flowing with milk and honey. Do not rebel against the Lord. Do not be afraid of the people of the land because they will be like prey for us to eat. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us! Do not be afraid of them."

This made the children of Israel angry, and they wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb with stones. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the Tabernacle to all of the Israelites.

And the Lord said to Moses, "How long with this people provoke Me? How long will they refuse to believe in Me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have showed them? I will kill them with a plague and will disinherit them. Then I will make you a greater and mightier nation than they are."

Moses said to the Lord, "Then the Egyptians will hear what You have done. For it was by Your power that You brought these people out from among them. And they will tell everyone in this land what You have done. They have already heard, O Lord, that You are with this people, and that Your cloud stays over them and that You lead them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night."

"Now, if You kill all of these people at once, then the nations who have heard of You will say, "The Lord was not able to bring this people into the land that He promised them, so He killed them in the wilderness. Now, let us see the strength that You have told us about: that You are slow to anger, abound in love, and forgive sin and rebellion. Yet, You will not leave the guilty unpunished."

"Please pardon, I pray, the sins of this people, just as You have forgiven them from Egypt until now."

The Lord replied to Moses, "I have forgiven them, as you have asked. But, as surely as I live, and

as surely as the glory of the Lord fills the earth, not one of the men who has seen My glory and My miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tested Me ten times and have not hearkened to Me, shall see the land. Surely they will not see that land that I promised to their fathers. No one who has treated Me with contempt will see it!"

"But my servant Caleb, because he has followed me fully, will go into the land to possess it."

"Since the Amalakites and the Canaanites are living in the valleys, turn back tomorrow and go to the wilderness by the Red Sea."

Then the Lord spake to Moses and Aaron, "How long will this wicked congregation grumble against Me? I heard their complaints, so tell them that I will do to them the very things I heard them complain about. Their bodies will die in this wilderness — everyone 20 years old and up who were counted in the census and have complained against Me. No one will enter the land except Joshua and Caleb."

"As for your children, I will bring them into the land that you rejected. They will be shepherds in the wilderness for forty years, until the last person dies in the wilderness. Forty years — one year for each of the days that you explored the land — you will suffer for your sins."

"As for the men who spied out the land, because they spread a bad report, will die of a plague before the Lord. Only Joshua and Caleb will live."

When Moses told Israel all these things that God had said, they began to mourn.

Early the next morning the people started toward the hill country saying, "We will go up to the place that the Lord has promised us."

When Moses saw this he said, "Why are you disobeying the Lord's command? This will not succeed! Do not go up, for God is not with you! You will be defeated by your enemies."

But the children of Israel did not heed what Moses said and went up toward the hill country anyway. Moses and the ark of the covenant stayed in the camp.

Then the Amalakites and Canaanites, who lived in the hill country, came down and attacked them and beat them all the way to Hormah.



THINK ABOUT IT:

The children of Israel had already seen many of the mighty works of God by now. They had seen the plagues that God brought upon Egypt. They had crossed the Red Sea. They had received manna from heaven. They had seen God's glory on Mt. Sinai and over His Tabernacle.

It seems amazing that they could even doubt that God would bring them into the land of Canaan and take care of them. He had been taking care of them all the time until this happened. The problem was that they became afraid and lost their faith in God. God wanted them to fully trust in Him to take care of them, but they did not. This made God angry with them, and they were punished because of their unbelief.

God wants us to fully trust in Him also. We need to remember the Israelites when our faith in Him becomes weak. If He cared for them, He will care for us too. He will also punish us if we choose not to put our faith in Him.

Memory Work

Deut 10:12 - 13

"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

"and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?
(NKJ)

Use Your Bible

1. Numbers 13:2 What land did the Lord tell Moses to send spies into? _____

2. Num. 13:3 By whose commandment did Moses send the men into the wilderness of Paran? _____
3. Num. 13: 18 - 20 What did Moses want the men to find out? _____

4. Num. 13:25 When did they return from exploring the land? _____
5. Num. 13:30 Who was certain that they could take the land? _____
6. Num. 13: 32 What kind of report did the rest of the spies give to Israel about the land?

7. Num. 14:2 What did the children of Israel do against Moses and Aaron? _____

8. Num. 14: 4 Did the children of Israel want Moses to lead them back to Egypt? _____
9. Num. 14:10 What did the children of Israel want to do to Joshua and Caleb when they tried to convince them to take the land? _____
10. Num. 14:11-12 Who did the Lord say that He would make another nation out of? _____
11. Num. 14:20 Did God forgive Israel when Moses pled for them? _____
12. Num. 14:23 What did God say would happen to the men who did not listen to Him?

13. Num. 14:30 Who were the only ones who would see the land of Canaan? _____

LESSON 16

Vocabulary Words:

Sheol - Realm of the dead.

Provoked- Despise, abhor, treat with contempt.

Murmur - To grumble or complain.

Introduction:

In our last lesson we learned about Israel's reaction to the report that the 12 spies brought back from the land of Canaan. Ten of the spies gave a bad report and the people became afraid and did not put their trust in God.

God said that He would punish them by making them wander as shepherds in the wilderness for 40 years until every person that rebelled against Him died. Only Joshua and Caleb would get to enter the land of Canaan.

It has now been about a year and a half since they have left Egypt. They are now entering a period of their history where they will wander in the wilderness for 40 years. Thirty eight of these years they are waiting for a generation to die. The last year they will begin to travel again as God leads them toward the promised land once more.

In this lesson we will learn about some things that happened during their wandering in the wilderness.

NUMBERS 15: 32 - 36

A Man Breaks the Sabbath.

One day while the children of Israel were wandering in the wilderness they found a man that had been picking up sticks on the Sabbath day.

The ones who found this man brought him before Moses, Aaron, and the whole assembly of people. Since they did not know what to do to the man, they had him guarded until they could find out from the Lord.

The Lord told Moses, "This man must be put to death. The whole congregation is to stone him with stones outside the camp."

So all the congregation did as God commanded and took the man outside the camp and stoned him with stones.

This example was to prove to the people that God wanted His people to obey Him.

NUMBERS 15: 37 - 41

Tassels on Their Garments.

The Lord spake to Moses and told him, "Speak to the children of Israel and tell them to make tassels of blue to put on the corners of their

garments. When they look at these tassels they are to remember to obey all the commandments of the Lord and not follow the desires of their own heart and eyes. Then they will be holy to God, for I Am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt."

NUMBERS 16 - 17

The Sin of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

There were some men in Israel named Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On. Korah was from the tribe of Levi. Dathan, Abiram, and On were from the tribe of Reuben. These four men gathered together 250 leaders in Israel and came to oppose Moses and Aaron. They said to Moses and Aaron, "You have taken too much upon yourselves. The whole congregation of Israel is holy and the Lord is among them. So why do you lift yourselves up above the congregation of the Lord?"

When Moses heard them say this, he fell facedown. And he spake to Korah, and all those following him saying, "Tomorrow the Lord will show who belongs to Him, who is holy, and will have that person come near Him. The man God

chooses He will cause to come near Him."

"Now you, Korah, and all your followers are to do this: Take your censers tomorrow and put fire and incense in them before God. The man whom the Lord chooses will be the one who is holy. You Levites have gone too far."

Then Moses said to Korah, "Now listen, you Levites! Is it not enough for you that God has separated you from the rest of Israel to do the work in the Lord's tabernacle, and to stand before the people of Israel and serve them? God had brought you and the other Levites near to Himself. Are you trying to get the priesthood too? It is against the Lord that you have gathered against. Who is Aaron that you **murmur** against him?"

Then Moses asked Dathan and Abiram to come forward. But they said, "We will not come. Isn't it enough that you have brought us out of a land flowing with milk and honey to kill us in the wilderness? And now you want to make yourself a lord over us? Indeed, you have not brought us unto a land flowing with milk and honey, or given us the land and vineyards promised to us. Will you gouge out the eyes of these men? No! We will not come!"

This made Moses very angry and he spake to the Lord saying, "Do not accept their offering. I have not even taken a donkey from them, and I have not done harm to any of them."

Moses said to Korah, "You and all your followers be here tomorrow before the Lord, you, they, and Aaron. All 250 men should bring their censers, with incense in them, to present before the Lord. You and Aaron are to present your censers also."

The next day Korah and each man with his censer and incense stood at the entrance of the Tabernacle. Moses and Aaron were there also. And the glory of the Lord appeared to all the assembly.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Separate yourselves from these people so that I may consume them at once."

But Moses and Aaron fell facedown and cried out, "O God, God of the spirits of all men, will you be angry with the entire assembly of people, when only one man has sinned?"

The Lord said to Moses, "Tell the congregation of people to move away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram."

So Moses got up and went to Dathan and

Abiram. The elders of Israel followed him. Moses told the assembly, "Move away from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch anything that belongs to them or you will be swept away because of their sin."

Everyone moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Dathan and Abiram were outside the entrance of their tents with their wives and children.

Moses said, "This is how you will know that God sent me to do all these things and that this is not my idea. If these men die a natural death then the Lord has not sent me. But, if the Lord brings about a new thing and the earth opens up and swallows them and all that belongs to them and they go alive unto **Sheol**, then you will understand that these men have **provoked** the Lord."

As soon as Moses finished saying this, the ground split apart and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed Korah, Dathan, Abiram, their households, and all of Korah's men. They all went down alive into the realm of the dead with everything they owned, and the earth closed over them.

When the congregation heard the cries of those who were swallowed, they began to run away shouting, "The earth may swallow us up too!" Fire came out from the Lord and consumed the 250 men with their censers.

Then the Lord told Moses, "Tell Eleazar, Aaron's son, the priest, to take the censers out of the smoldering remains of those burned and scatter the coals. The sins of these men have cost them their lives, but the censers are holy. Take the censers and hammer them into a covering for the altar. They have offered them before the Lord, so they are holy. They are to be a reminder to the children of Israel."

So Eleazar did what God commanded. This covering was to remind Israel that no one but a descendant of Aaron should burn incense before the Lord or he would become like Korah and his followers.

The next day the whole congregation of Israel **murmured** against Moses and Aaron. They said, "You have killed the people of the Lord."

As the people gathered against Moses and Aaron, the cloud covered the Tabernacle and the glory of the Lord appeared to them. Moses and Aaron came to the front of the tent and the Lord spake to Moses saying, "Get away from this congregation so that I may consume them at once!"

Moses and Aaron fell facedown. Then Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer and put incense and fire from the altar in it and hurry to the congregation of people to make atonement for them. Anger has come out from the Lord and the plague has begun!"

Aaron did as Moses commanded and ran into the midst of the people, but the plague had already begun. Aaron offered incense and made atonement for the people and he stood between the living and the dead as the plague was stopped.

14,700 people died in the plague, in addition to those who died because of Korah.

When the plague was stopped, Aaron returned to the entrance of the Tabernacle where Moses was.

Did you notice?

Did you notice that Korah, Dathan, Abiram and On were not pleased with God's arrangement? God is the one who chose Moses to be Leader of Israel. God is the one who chose Aaron to be High Priest. It was not the place of Korah, Dathan, Abiram and On to question God's plan. God showed His displeasure in their attitude by the way He punished them.

There are men today that question God's arrangement. They try to change God's way of doing things to their way of doing things, just as Korah, Dathan, and Abiram wanted to change God's plan. Some men try to change the way God wants us to worship. If God was displeased with Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, do you think He is displeased today when men try to change His arrangement?

It is important to do things exactly as God wants us to do them. The earth will not swallow us up today, as in Moses' day, but we will be punished in a devil's hell if we do not obey His way!

Memory Work

Deut 10:12 - 13

"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

"and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?
(NKJ)

Use Your Bible

1. Num 16:3 And they gathered themselves together _____ Moses and _____ Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD? (KJV)
2. Num 16:42 And it came to pass, when the congregation was gathered _____ Moses and _____ Aaron, that they looked toward the tabernacle of the congregation: and, behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared. (KJV)
3. Num 16:44-45 And the _____ spake unto Moses, saying, Get you up from among this congregation, that I may _____ them as in a moment. And they fell upon their faces. (KJV)

Match

Stoned outside the camp

Tassels

Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On

Moses and Aaron

Eleazar

Children of Israel

They murmured against Moses and Aaron

He made a covering for the altar out of the 250 censers.

The children of Israel wore these on the corners of their garments.

The man who picked up sticks on the Sabbath.

They questioned God's arrangement.

Leader and High Priest of Israel

LESSON 17

Vocabulary Words:

Rod - A walking stick or staff.

Rebel - One who resists and is disobedient to authority.

Sanctify - Holy, sacred, hallowed, set apart.

Meribah - Strife and contention.

Introduction:

In our last lesson we learned about the sin of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. They thought that they could change God's arrangement for leadership in Israel, but God showed them that He was the one in control and that His will was not to be changed.

In this lesson God will further show Israel who is in authority in Israel.

NUMBERS 17: 1 - 18: 1-7 AARON'S ROD

The Lord spake to Moses and told him, "Take a rod from the prince of each tribe of Israel. On these twelve rods each man is to write his name. Aaron will write his name on the rod from the tribe of Levi. Each man will lay his rod in the Tabernacle before the testimony. In this way I will cause the Israelites to quit murmuring against you, for the man whom I choose — his rod will blossom."

So Moses spake to the children of Israel. The prince from each tribe gave Moses his rod and Moses laid them before the Lord in the Tabernacle.

The next day, Moses went into the Tabernacle and the rod of Aaron for the tribe of Levi had not only sprouted, but had budded, blossomed, and produced almonds.

Moses brought the rods out of the Tabernacle for the children of Israel to see, and each man took the rod that belonged to him.

The Lord told Moses, "Put Aaron's rod back in front of the testimony to be a sign against those who rebel. This will put an end to their murmurings against me so that they will not die."

So Moses did what the Lord told him to do. And the children of Israel spake to Moses saying, "We will die! We are lost, we are all lost! Anyone who comes near to the Tabernacle of the Lord will die.

Will we all die?"

Then the Lord repeated his instructions to Aaron about who was to approach the Tabernacle.

The Lord said to Aaron, "You and your sons and your father's family bear the guilt for things done in the sanctuary. You and your sons are responsible for the priesthood."

"Fellow Levites may help and assist you when you and your sons serve before the Tabernacle. Your fellow Levites are responsible to you in all their duties of the Tabernacle, but they are not to go near the furnishings of the Tabernacle or near the altar, or both you and they will die. The Levites may help you in the care of the Tabernacle, but no one else may come near you so that the wrath of God will not come upon the Israelites again."

"I have chosen the Levites to be a gift to you to do work at the Tabernacle. But, only you and your sons may serve as priests in everything concerning the altar of burnt offerings and inside the Tabernacle. I am giving you the priesthood as a gift. Anyone else who comes near the Tabernacle must be put to death.

NUMBERS 20:1 Miraim Dies.

And the children of Israel came to the

Wilderness of Zin in the first month. And the people stayed at Kadesh. While they were there, Miriam died and was buried.

We will see in the rest of chapter that Israel is now in their 40th year of wandering in the wilderness. There have not been many stories recorded in the Bible about these 40 years.

Israel will be entering the promised land about one year from this point in time.

NUMBERS 20: 2 -13 MERIBAH

While the people were at Kadesh there was no water for the Israelites. So the people gathered themselves against Moses and Aaron. And they quarreled with Moses saying, "We wish we had died when our brethren died before the Lord. Why have you brought us to this wilderness that we and our cattle should die here? Why did you make us leave Egypt to bring us to this evil place? It is not a place of grain, or figs, or vines, or pomegranates. Neither is there any water to drink."

Moses and Aaron left these people to go to the Tabernacle. When they got there they fell on their faces and the glory of the Lord appeared before them. And the Lord spake to Moses saying, "Take the rod and you and your brother Aaron assemble the people. Speak to the rock before the people and it shall give forth water so that you can give the people and their animals water to drink."

So Moses took the rod that had been laid up before the Lord and did as the Lord commanded him to do.

Moses and Aaron assembled the people together before the rock and then Moses said, "Hear now you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice. Water came out of the rock abundantly and the Israelites drank and gave their animals to drink.

But, the Lord spake to Moses and Aaron. He said, "Because you did not believe me to sanctify me in the eyes of Israel, you will not bring the people into the land which I have given them."

This water was called the water of Meribah because the Israelites quarreled with the Lord, and He proved Himself holy among them.

NUMBERS 20: 14 - 21

Moses asks permission to go through Edom.

While Israel was in Kadesh, Moses sent a message to the king of Edom. It said, "You know about all the trouble and suffering that we have had. Our forefathers went to Egypt and stayed many years. The Egyptians treated us badly, but when we cried out to the Lord, He heard us and sent an angel and brought us out of Egypt. Now we are in Kadesh, a city on the edge of your territory. Please let us pass through your country. We will not go through the fields or the vineyards or drink water from your wells. We will travel along the King's highway and not turn to the right or left till we have passed through your territory."

When Edom got this message they replied, "You may not pass through here. If you try we will attack you with the sword."

Israel responded back to Edom, "We will go the main road, and if we or our livestock drink anything we will pay for it. We only want to pass through on foot, nothing else."

Edom answered them back, "You may not pass through."

Then Edom came out against Israel with a large and powerful army. They turned the Israelites away. So Israel turned and went another route toward Mt. Hor.

The Edomites descended from Esau. In Deut. 2: 1 - 8 we learn that God did not want Israel to fight Edom because He had given Edom their land through Esau, many years before.

Memory Work

Deut 10:12 - 14

12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

13 "and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?

14 "Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it.

(NKJ)

Multiple Choice

1. Moses took a (garment , rod) from the prince of each tribe of Israel.
2. There were (10 , 12) rods.
3. Each man was to write his (tribe , name) on his rod.
4. God said that He would cause the rod of the man He chose to (disappear , blossom).
5. Each man laid his rod before the testimony in the (camp , Tabernacle).
6. (Moses' , Aaron's) rod sprouted, budded, blossomed and produced almonds.
7. God told Moses to put Aaron's rod in front of the testimony to be a sign against those who (talk , rebel).
8. God said that this would put an end to Israel's (feast days, murmuring against God).
9. The (priests , Levites) were not to go near the furnishings of the Tabernacle.
10. While the people were at Kadesh they had no (food , water).
11. The people murmured saying, "Why did you make us leave Egypt and bring us to this (great , evil) place?"
12. God told Moses to (strike , speak) to the rock.
13. Moses said, " Hear now you rebels, must (God , we) bring you water out of this rock?"
14. Moses (spake , struck) the rock.
15. God told Moses and Aaron that they would not bring the people into the land He had given them because they did not (speak to the rock , sanctify Him in the eyes of the people) .
16. The water was called (evil , Meribah).
17. Israel wanted to pass through (Egypt , Edom).
18. Edom said, " You (may , may not) pass through.

LESSON 18

Vocabulary Words:

Vowed - To promise. To do or give something to God.

Hormah - Devoted.

Loathe - To have a sickening dread, to abhor.

Fiery Serpents - Poisonous snakes.

What has happened?

In our last lesson, God had the princes from each tribe take their rods, along with Aaron's rod, and put them before the testimony in the Tabernacle. Aaron's rod blossomed and bore fruit, showing Israel that God had chosen him to be a leader in Israel. Only the priesthood were to come near to the Tabernacle's furnishings or its altar, but the Levites could help them in their duties.

Miriam died at Kadesh. While they were there the children of Israel began to murmur again because they had no water. God told Moses to speak to a rock so that the rock would give the people water, but instead Moses struck the rock and did not give God the glory for supplying the water. Because of this, Moses and Aaron would not enter the promised land.

While they were at Kadesh, Moses asked the king of Edom if they could pass through the land of Edom. But the Edomites would not let Israel come through their land. So, Israel turned and went another route on their way to Canaan.

NUMBERS 20: 22 - 29

Aaron Dies.

Israel traveled from Kadesh and came to Mt. Hor on the border of Edom. When they came to Mt. Hor the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron saying, "Aaron will be gathered unto his people. He will not enter into the land that I will give the Israelites because both of you rebelled against My command at the waters of Meribah."

"Take Aaron and his son Eleazar and bring them up to Mt. Hor. Remove Aaron's garments and put them on his son Eleazar. He will die on the mountain."

So Moses did as the Lord commanded. They went up Mt. Hor in the sight of all the congregation of Israel. Moses removed Aaron's garments and put them on his son Eleazar. Then Aaron died on top of the mountain. After he died, Moses and Eleazar came down from the mountain. The people saw that Aaron had died and they mourned for him for thirty days.

NUMBERS 21: 1 - 3

King Arad battles with Israel.

When King Arad, the Canaanite, heard that Israel was coming along the way the spies had come, he attacked Israel and took some of them captive.

So Israel **vowed** unto the Lord saying, "If You will deliver these people unto us, we will totally destroy their cities."

The Lord heard Israel's plea and delivered the Canaanites over to them. Israel completely destroyed them and their cities.

The name of the place where this happened was called **Hormah**.

NUMBERS 21: 4 - 9

The Fiery Serpents.

The children of Israel left Mt. Hor and went along the route of the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people became impatient on the journey. They began to speak against God and against Moses

saying, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no food and no water, and we loathe this light bread. (*Remember - Israel is still receiving Manna from God.*)

So the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people. The fiery serpents bit the people and many of the Israelites died.

When this happened, the people began to come to Moses saying, "We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord, that He will take the serpents away from us." So Moses prayed to the Lord.

The Lord told Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it upon a pole. Then whenever someone is bitten they can look at the serpent on the pole and they will live."

So Moses made a bronze serpent and put it upon a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a serpent, they looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

NUMBERS 21: 10 - 20

Israel travels to Mt. Pisgah

Israel continued their journey and camped at Oboth and then at Iyeabarim. From there they journeyed and camped in the Zered Valley. Then they set out and camped along the Arnon River, on the border between Moab and the Amorites.

From there they traveled to Beer. At Beer the Lord told Moses to gather the people together and He would give them water.

While they were there the children of Israel sang a song:

Num 21:17-18 Then Israel sang this song:

"Spring up, O well!

*Sing about it, about the well that the princes dug,
that the nobles of the people sank--
the nobles with scepters and staffs."*

From Beer the children of Israel traveled on to Mount Pisgah, which overlooks the desert.

NUMBERS 21: 21 - 35 ; DEUT. 2: 26-31 ;

DEUT. 3:1-11

Israel defeats the kings of the Amorites and Bashan.

While the Israelites were camped at Mt. Pisgah, they sent messengers to Sihon, the king of the Amorites. They said, " Let us pass through your country. We will not go through your fields or

vineyards. We will not drink the water from your wells. We will travel the kings highway until we have passed through your borders."

But Sihon did not want Israel to go through his land. So he gathered his people together and went into the desert to fight against Israel at Jahaz.

Israel, however, overtook Sihon and took his land from the Arnon River in the south to the Jabbok River in the north. They captured all their cities and occupied them. So Israel settled in the land of the Amorites.

Moses sent spies to Jazer and Israel captured it's villages and drove out the Amorites living there.

As Israel traveled on they came toward Bashan. Og was the king of Bashan. He was a very large man who slept on a bed of iron that was more than thirteen feet long and six feet wide. Og and his whole army marched out to battle Israel at Edrei. God told Moses, " Do not fear Og, for I have delivered him, his people, and his land over to you. Do to him the same thing that you did to Sihon."

So they killed him and his sons, and his army until there were no survivors. And Israel possessed their land.

Memory Work

Deut 10:12 - 14

12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

13 "and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?

14 "Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it.

(NKJ)

Did you notice?

Did you notice that God kept his promise to Aaron that He made at Meribah? Aaron did not enter the promised land because he died at Mt. Hor. God made his son Eleazar the new High Priest of Israel.

Did you notice that God took care of Israel in their battle with King Arad. Even though God did this, it didn't take Israel long to forget about God's care. Did you notice that they began to murmur again? They had food to eat. They had manna from heaven. But they were not content with what God had given them. They complained and treated God's gift of manna to them with contempt. When God punished them, with the fiery serpents, they repented.

As we study about Israel, they will do the same thing over and over. They'll follow God for a while, and then forget Him and begin to murmur. God will punish them and then they will repent. One would think that they could remember all the wonderful things that God had done for them and know that He would take care of them.

We can be guilty of the same thing that Israel was. When we forget all the wonderful things that God has done for us and given us, many times we will begin to murmur just like the Israelites. We need to remember that God will take care of us, just as He took care of Israel. The old law was written for our learning.

True or False

1. ___ Aaron died at Mt. Pisgah.
2. ___ Aaron got to enter the promised land.
3. ___ Eleazar became the High Priest after his father Aaron died.
4. ___ The people mourned for Aaron 30 days.
5. ___ King Arad attacked Israel and took some of them captive.
6. ___ The people vowed unto God that they would destroy the cities of King Arad.
7. ___ The people were patient on their journey around the Red Sea.
8. ___ The Israelites loved the manna they ate every day.
9. ___ God sent fiery serpents among the people.
10. ___ Moses made a bronze serpent and put it on top of a house.
11. ___ Anyone who looked at the bronze serpent would die.
12. ___ The children of Israel sang a song to God at Beer.
13. ___ King Sihon was happy that the Israelites wanted to come through his land.
14. ___ Israel did not defeat Sihon.
15. ___ Israel settled in the land of the Amorites.
16. ___ Og was the king of Bashan.
17. ___ The people were afraid of Og and would not fight him.
18. ___ Israel possessed the land of Og.
19. ___ God took care of the children of Israel.

LESSON 19

Vocabulary Words:

Prevail - To overcome, to be the victor, to have power and strength over.

Adversary - An opponent. One who stands against another.

Baal - The name given to the false god of fertility in Canaan.

Introduction:

God kept his promise to Aaron. He did not let him enter the promised land. After Israel was through mourning the death of Aaron, they fought and won a battle against King Arad with God's help.

It didn't take long for them to begin to murmur again though. They complained that they had no food or water. But they did have food — they had manna from God. They also should have realized that God was going to take care of them. God punished them by sending fiery serpents. Many of the Israelites died from the serpent's bites, so they pleaded with Moses to take the serpents away. God had Moses make a bronze serpent. Whenever an Israelite was bitten, they could look at the bronze serpent and live.

Later the Israelites defeated the Amorites and Bashan with the help of God.

In this lesson we will learn about one of Israel's enemies and how he wanted to curse Israel.

NUMBERS 22 - 31

Balaam.

Israel made their camp in the plains of Moab next to the Jordan River. They were next to the city of Jericho.

The people of Moab were afraid of the Israelites because there were so many of them. The Moabites said to the elders in the land of Midian, "These Israelites will lick up everything around us, just like an ox licks up grass in the field."

Now a man named Balak had heard about Israel and what they had done to the Amorites. Balak was the king of the Moabites.

Balak sent messengers to a man named Balaam. His message said, "There is a people that have come from Egypt and there are so many of them that they cover the face of the earth. These people are camped close to me. Come now and curse this people for me because they are too mighty for me. Then we can prevail over them, smite them, and drive them out of the land. For I

know that whoever you bless is blessed and whoever you curse is cursed."

So the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian delivered the message to Balaam.

Balaam told the men, "Stay here tonight and I will give you the answer that the Lord gives to me."

The princes (elders) of Moab stayed with Balaam that night. That night the Lord came to Balaam and said, "What men are these that are with you?"

Balaam said to God, "Balak the king of Moab has sent them to me. Balak's message said that a people have come out of Egypt and they are so large that they cover the face of the earth. Now curse them so I can overcome them and drive them out of the land."

God said to Balaam, "Do not go with these men. You are not to curse the people because they are blessed."

The next morning Balaam said to the princes of Balak, "Go back to your land. The Lord will not give me permission to go with you."

When Balak learned what Balaam said, he

sent more princes from his land to Balaam. These men said to Balaam, "Balak has said that nothing should hinder you from going to him. He will give you great honor and will do whatever you say. Come and curse these people."

Balaam said to Balak's servants, " Even if Balak gave me his palace filled with gold and silver, I could not go beyond God's word. Now, stay here tonight and I will find out what else the Lord will tell me."

That night God came to Balaam and said, "Since these men have come for you, go with them. But do only what I tell you to do."

The next morning Balaam got up and saddled his donkey, and went with the princes of Moab.

God became angry because Balaam went with them, so He sent an angel to stand in the way as an **adversary** against Balaam. Now Balaam was on his donkey with two of his servants.

When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road with a sword in his hand, she turned away and went into the field. Balaam hit the donkey and made her get back on the road. Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between two vineyards, with walls on both sides. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, she pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam's foot against it. When the donkey did this, Balaam beat the donkey again.

The angel of the Lord went on ahead of them to a place where there was no place to turn to the right or left. When the donkey saw the angel, she lay down under Balaam. Balaam became so angry that he beat her with his stick. Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey and the donkey said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?"

Balaam answered, "You have made a fool out of me. If I had a sword in my hand I would kill you right now!"

The donkey said to Balaam, "Isn't it true that I am your donkey which you have always ridden on until this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?"

"No." Balaam answered.

Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes and he could see the angel of the Lord standing in the road with the sword in his hand. When Balaam saw this he fell on his face on the ground.

The angel of the Lord said unto him, "Why

have you beaten your donkey these three times? I came here to oppose you because your way is contrary to me. But the donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she had not turned away I would certainly have killed you by now and let her live."

Balaam said to the angel, " I have sinned. I did not realize that you were standing in the road to oppose me. Now, if you are displeased, I will go back.

The angel said to Balaam, " Go with the men, but speak only the words that I tell you." So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

When Balak heard that Balaam was coming he came out to meet him at the Arnon River. Balak said to Balaam, " Didn't I send you an urgent call to come? Why didn't you come to me. Can't I reward you as you want?"

Balaam said, " Well I have come to you now. Can I speak anything I want to say? I can only say what God puts in my mouth to say."

Then Balaam went with Balak . Balak sacrificed some cattle and sheep giving some of them to Balaam and the princes with him. The next day Balak took Balaam up to the high places of **Baal**, where he could see some of the people of Israel. Balaam said to Balak, " Build seven altars here and prepare seven bulls and seven rams for me."

Balak did as Balaam said and the two of them offered a bull and a ram on each altar. Then Balaam said, " Stay here by your altar while I go aside . Maybe the Lord will come to meet me and whatever He tells me I will tell you." So Balaam went off to a bare hill.

God met with Balaam, and Balaam said " I have set up seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on each one."

Then the Lord put a message in Balaam's mouth. He said, "Go back to Balak and give him My message."

Balaam went back to Balak. He was standing beside his offering with all the princes of Moab. He told them, "Balak brought me from the mountains of the east saying 'curse Jacob for me and denounce Israel'. But how can I curse those whom God has not cursed? From the top of the rock I look and see a people set apart, not considering themselves one of the nations. Who can count the dust of Jacob or number a fourth of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous and

my end be like theirs."

When Balak heard this he said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I brought you to curse my enemies and you have done nothing but bless them."

Balaam said, "Don't I need to speak what the Lord puts in my mouth?"

Then Balak said, "Please come with me to another place where you can see Israel. Only you will not be able to see all of them. From there curse them for me."

So Balak and Balaam went to the top of Pisgah and built seven altars and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

Balaam said to Balak, "Stay here by your offering while I meet the Lord over there."

The Lord met with Balaam and put a message in his mouth to tell Balak. When Balaam went back to Balak, Balak said, "What did the Lord say?"

So Balaam gave Balak the Lord's message. He said, "Arise Balak and listen to me. God is not a man that lies, or the son of man that can change His mind. Has He promised to do something and not done it? I have received a command to bless. He has blessed and I cannot change it. The Lord God is with Israel. He brought them out of Egypt and they have the strength of a wild ox. This people shall rise up like a lion that does not rest until he devours his prey and drinks the blood of the slain."

Then Balak said to Balaam, "Then don't curse them or bless them at all!"

Balaam said, "Didn't I tell you that I must do whatever the Lord says?"

Balak said, "Let me take you to another place and perhaps you can curse Israel from there." So he took Balaam to the top of Peor.

Balaam said to Balak, "Build me seven altars here and prepare seven bulls and rams." Balak did this and offered each animal on the altars.

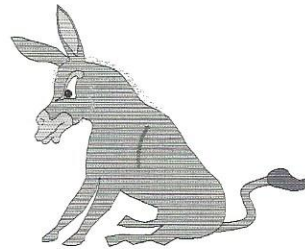
Balaam could see now that God wanted to bless Israel. He turned his face toward the desert and saw Israel camped in their tribes. And the spirit of God came upon Balaam. He said, "This is the oracle of a man who sees and hears the word of the Lord and sees a vision from the Almighty. How beautiful are your dwelling places O Israel! They are spread out like a valley and like gardens by a riverside. Their king is greater than

Agag, and their kingdom will be exalted. May those who bless you be blessed and those who curse you be cursed!"

This speech made Balak's anger burn against Balaam. He struck his hands together and said, "I called you to curse my enemies, but you have blessed them these three times. Leave at once and go home! I said that I would reward you, but the Lord has kept you from being rewarded."

Balaam said, "Didn't I tell your messengers that even if you gave me your palace filled with gold or silver I could not do anything on my own to go beyond the commandment of God. I must say only what the Lord says. Now I am going back to my people. Let me warn you what Israel will do to your people in the days to come. I am Balaam whose eyes are opened. I hear the words of the Lord. A scepter will rise out of Israel to destroy Moab. Edom and Seir will be conquered but Israel will grow strong. Amalek will be destroyed and the Kenites who live in the rocks will be destroyed. Who can live when God does this? Asshur and Eber will also be destroyed."

Then Balaam got up and returned home and Balak went his own way.



Memory Work

Deut 10:12 - 14

12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

13 "and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?

14 "Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the LORD your God, also the earth with all that is in it.

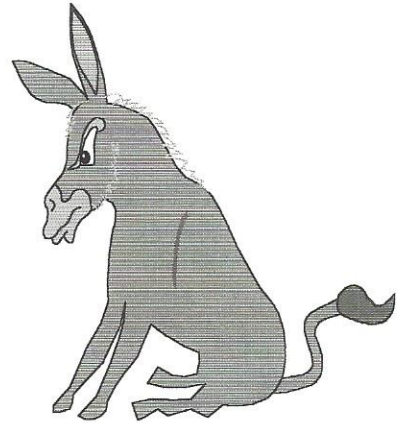
(NKJ)

Multiple Choice

1. Balak was king of the (Moabites, Amorites).
2. Balak wanted to (bless, curse) the children of Israel.
3. God sent an (donkey , angel) to stand in the way as an adversary to Balaam.
4. Balaam was traveling on a (horse, donkey).
5. Balaam beat the donkey (4 , 3) times.
6. God caused the donkey to (run , talk).
7. Balaam (blessed , cursed) the people.
8. Balaam could only say what (Balak , God) wanted him to say.
9. Balaam blessed the children of Israel (5 , 3) times.

True or False

- ___ 1. The people of Moab were not afraid of Israel.
- ___ 2. Balak wanted to drive the children of Israel out of the land.
- ___ 3. God told Balaam that the children of Israel were cursed.
- ___ 4. God did not want Balaam to go to Balak.
- ___ 5. Balaam could see the angel of the Lord in the road at first.
- ___ 6. The Lord put His message in Balaam's mouth.
- ___ 7. God said that Moab would be destroyed.



LESSON 20

Vocabulary Words:

Baal of Peor - A false god of the Moabites. Peor was the name of a mountain near Heshbon. When the name of the false god Baal is joined to the name of a place it means that Baal was worshipped at that place. Baal was worshipped at Peor (Baal of Peor or Baal-Peor). Worship to Baal always involved the sin of fornication.

Where are we?

Balak, king of the Moabites, wanted Balaam to curse the children of Israel. God told Balaam that he was not to go with Balak's men or the curse Israel because they were blessed. But Balaam went with them anyway. He knew what God's will was concerning Israel, but he went with Balak and asked God more than once what His will was for Israel. God would not allow Balaam to do anything but bless the children of Israel, and he prophesied that many of the nations around Israel would be destroyed. This made Balak angry.

NUMBERS 25: 1 - 25

Baal-Peor

While Israel was staying in the plains of Moab, the men began to commit the sin of fornication with the Moabite women. The Moabites tempted the Israelites to do sacrifices to their gods, and to eat and bow down to their gods. So Israel began to worship the **Baal of Peor**.

This made the Lord angry so He said to Moses, "Take the leaders of these people that are worshipping **Baal of Peor** and kill them in broad daylight before the Lord. Do this so the fierce anger of the Lord will be turned away from Israel."

So Moses said to the judges in Israel, "Each of you must kill the men that have joined in worship to **Baal of Peor**."

While Moses and the congregation of Israel were still weeping about the deaths of these men, an Israelite man named Zimri, in the sight of all Israel, brought a Midianite woman named Cozbi into the tent of his family to commit fornication with her. When Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, saw this, he left the congregation of the people with a spear in his hand. He followed the Israelite man into his tent and thrust the spear through the body of the man and the belly of the woman.

When Phinehas did this he stopped a

plague that had already been begun by the Lord and had killed 24,000 people.

Then the Lord spake to Moses and said, "Phinehas has turned away My anger from the children of Israel. He was jealous for Israel with the jealousy I have, so I did not destroy the children of Israel. Tell him that I am making a covenant of peace with him. He and his descendants will have an everlasting priesthood because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the Israelites."

"Treat the Midianites as enemies and kill them because they have treated you as enemies and deceived you in the matter of Peor."

NUMBERS 31

Israel kills the Midianites

The Lord told Moses, "Avenge the children of Israel of the Midianites. After that you will die."

So Moses said to the people, "Arm some of yourselves for war against the Midianites and avenge the Lord of Midian. Send a thousand men from each tribe for the war."

So Moses sent the 12,000 men along with Phinehas. Phinehas took the trumpets to signal the war and they fought against Midian and killed every man. They killed five kings of Midian. They also killed Balaam with a sword.

The Israelites captured the Midianite women and children, their flocks, herds, and other goods. They burned down their towns. Then they brought all the captives and spoils of the war to Moses, Eleazar the priest, and the congregation of Israel. Moses, Eleazar and leaders of Israel went out to meet the soldiers.

Moses was angry with the commanders of the army. He said, "Why have you allowed all the women to live? They were the ones who followed the advice of Balaam and turned Israel away from God at Peor. They are why the Lord struck us with a plague that killed 24,000 of God's people. Now kill all the boys and kill all the women who have slept with a man. But save all the girls who have not slept with a man."

"Those of you who have killed anyone or touched a dead person must stay outside the camp for seven days. Then you must purify yourselves."

Eleazar said, "This is a law that God commanded Moses: Any gold, silver, brass, iron, tin, or lead that can withstand fire is to be purified in the fire. If an object cannot be purified with fire, it must be washed with water. On the seventh day, wash yourselves and your clothes with water and you may come into the camp."

Then God commanded Moses, "You, Eleazar, and heads of families are to count all the animals and people that were captured. Divide it between the soldiers and the congregation. Part of the soldiers part is to be given to the Lord and part of the congregation's part is to be given to the Lord.

After they had counted everything and divided it up, the officers over the army came to Moses. They said, "We have counted the soldiers that went to war and not one of us is missing. So we are bringing as an offering to God the gold jewelry that each man found to atone for ourselves before God."

Moses and Eleazar accepted the golden articles and put them into the Lord's treasury.

NUMBERS 26

Israel is counted a second time.

This happened after the plague of Baal-Peor. The Lord told Moses and Eleazar, "Take a

census of the children of Israel. Every man twenty years old and up that are able to serve in the army of Israel.

The men were counted and there were:

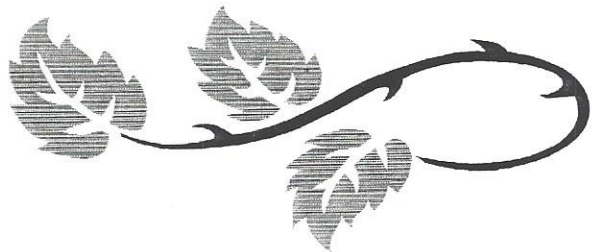
Reuben 43,730	Manasseh 52,700
Simeon 22,200	Ephraim 32,500
Gad 40,500	Benjamin 45,600
Judah 76,500	Dan 64,400
Issachar 64,300	Asher 53,400
Zebulun 60,500	Naphtali 45,400

The total of men was 601,730.

The Levites were numbered separately from the other tribes. There were 23,000 one month old and older. The Levites would not get an inheritance of land because they were the Lord's inheritance.

The Lord told Moses that the promised land would be divided among the tribes according to the number of people. The biggest tribes would have a bigger inheritance (or more land).

When they were finished counting the people they found that not one single man who had been numbered in the first census by Moses and Aaron was still alive, except Joshua and Caleb. God had said that they would die in the wilderness and He kept His promise to them!



**Be able to say from
memory
DEUT. 10: 12 -14**

TRUE OR FALSE

1. ___ The men of Israel began to commit fornication with the women of Moab.
2. ___ The Moabites tried to get the Israelites to do God's will.
3. ___ God wanted the people worshipping Baal of Peor to be killed at night.
4. ___ A man named Zimri brought a Midianite woman to his tent to commit fornication with.
5. ___ Eleazar killed Zimri with a spear.
6. ___ God killed 24,000 Israelites with a plague because of the sin of Baal-Peor.
7. ___ God made a covenant with Phinehas because he turned away God's anger against Israel.
8. ___ The Israelites killed the Midianites.
9. ___ The Israelites kept Balaam alive.
10. ___ Balaam advised the Midianite women to turn Israel away from God at Baal-Peor.
11. ___ When Israel was counted a second time, everyone who wandered in the wilderness was still alive.

USE YOUR BIBLE

Num 25:11-13

11 _____, the son of _____, the son of _____ the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my jealousy.

12 Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my _____ of peace:

13 And he shall have it, and his _____ after him, even the covenant of an everlasting _____; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

(KJV)

LESSON 21

Vocabulary Words:

Urim - The high priest had the Urim and the Thummin in the pocket of his breastplate on the priestly garments. We do not know exactly what they were, except that God communicated His will to Israel by the High Priest's use of them.

Refuge - Shelter and protection from danger.

In our last lesson:

The men of Israel began to commit fornication with the women of Moab. Because of this sin God started a plague that killed the children of Israel. But Phenehas stopped the plague when he killed an Israelite man and Midianite woman who were committing fornication.

God wanted the Midianites killed because of the sin they led Israel into. Balaam was also killed because he had given the Midianites advice on how to lead the Israelites away from God.

After their war with the Midianites the Israelites were counted again. When they were counted this time they realized that everyone who had been counted in the first census were dead except Joshua and Caleb.

NUMBERS 27: 12 - 23

A New Leader for Israel.

The Lord told Moses, "Go up into this mountain of Abirim (*or Nebo or Pisgah*) and see the land that I have given to the children of Israel. When you have seen it you will be gathered to your people just as your brother Aaron was. You will not enter the land because you did not sanctify me in the eyes of Israel when they were at the waters of Meribah in the wilderness of Zin."

Moses said to God, "May the Lord, the God of all men's spirits, appoint a man over this congregation of people. A leader who will go out and come in before the people, so that the Lord's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd."

The Lord said, "Take Joshua the son of Nun. He is a man in whom is the Holy Spirit. Lay your hand upon him. Have him stand before Eleazar the high priest and the entire congregation of people, and give him a charge to lead God's people in their sight. Give him some of your authority so that all of Israel will obey him. He is to stand before

Eleazar and Eleazar will inquire of God what should be done by using the **Urim** before the Lord. At Joshua's command the people will obey."

So Moses did as the Lord commanded him. He appointed Joshua to take his place as the new leader of Israel.

NUMBERS 32: 1-42

Reuben and Gad ask for their inheritance.

The tribes of Reuben and Gad had many livestock, and they saw that the lands of Jazer and Gilead were a suitable place to raise livestock. So they went to Moses, Eleazar, and the leaders of Israel and said, "The land that the Lord conquered for Israel is suitable for livestock and we have livestock. If it is pleasing to you let this land be given to us for a possession. Don't make us cross over the Jordan to receive our possession."

At first Moses was displeased by what the Reubenites and Gadites told him. He said to them, "Are you going to let your brethren go to war while you sit here? Why are you discouraging the rest of Israel from going over the river into the land that

God has given them? This is the same thing your fathers did when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land. After they went into the land and viewed it they discouraged the Israelites from entering the land that God had given them. God's anger was kindled that day and He swore that because Israel had not followed Him wholeheartedly not one man 20 years old or up would see the land that he had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. No one but Joshua and Caleb followed the Lord wholeheartedly. God made Israel wander in the wilderness for forty years until an entire generation was dead. And now! Here you are, a brood of sinful men, standing in your father's place and making the Lord even more angry with Israel. If you do not follow God, He will leave all of you in this desert and you will be the cause of Israel's destruction."

Then the men from Reuben and Gad came up near to Moses and said, "We would like to build pens here for our livestock, and cities for our women and children. We are ready to arm ourselves and go ahead of the rest of Israel until we have brought them to their land. In the meantime our women and children will live in our cities on this side of the Jordan. We will not return home until every Israelite has received his inheritance. And we will not receive an inheritance on the other side of Jordan because we want to receive ours on the east side of the Jordan."

Moses said to the people, "If you will do this — if you will arm yourselves for battle and go over the Jordan with us to drive out the enemies, then when the land on that side has been taken you may return to this land for your possession, and you will be free of your obligation to the Lord and Israel. But if you fail to do this, you will sin against the Lord and be sure that your sin will find you out."

"Go ahead and build cities for your women and children, and sheepfolds for your flocks, but do what you have promised."

The men from Reuben and Gad said that they would do as God commanded.

Then Moses gave orders about the tribes of Reuben and Gad to Eleazar the priest, to Joshua, and to the leaders of Israel. He told them that if every man went across the Jordan with the rest of Israel armed for battle and helped them take the land, then they could have the land of Gilead for

their possession. But if they did not cross the Jordan and help them fight for the land they would have to take their possession with the rest of Israel in the land of Canaan.

The men of Reuben and Gad once more said that they would do as God had said. So Moses gave the tribe of Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh, land on the east side of the Jordan.

NUMBERS 34: 16 - 29

God appoints men to divide the land.

God spake to Moses and told him the names of the men who were to help Eleazar and Joshua divide the land.

NUMBERS 35:1-34

The cities of Levi and cities of refuge.

The Lord told Moses that the tribe of Levi would receive cities in the surrounding lands for their inheritance. All together they would receive 48 cities. Six of the cities that they would be given would be cities of **refuge**. When a person killed another he would be able to flee to one of these cities for **refuge**

The Lord told Moses, "Tell the Israelites that when they cross over the Jordan some of the cities will be cities of refuge. They are places that a person who has accidentally killed another may flee. In these cities a person will be safe and cannot be killed by another before he is tried before the people. Three of these cities will be on this side of the Jordan and three will be on the other side in Canaan."

"If the person who flees to one of these cities is found to be guilty of murder, he is to be killed. But if a person has killed accidentally he will not be killed. He must remain in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest. If he leaves the city before the death of the high priest then he may be killed by the avenger of blood."

By following these instructions of God the Israelites could keep the land pure. God said that blood polluted the land. He did not want His land defiled because he dwelt among them.

The Levites were not given a specific portion of land like the rest of Israel received. One of the Levites duties was to teach the children of Israel God's law. Can you see God's wisdom in having them scattered in cities throughout

Israel, rather than having them all in one place?

Israel's wandering is over.

Israel spent one year and one month in their travels from Egypt to Mt. Sinai and then at Mt. Sinai. This year was counted in the 40 years of wandering. Until they got to Kadesh-barnea the children had been traveling to Canaan, but murmuring and rebelling on the way. (Num. 9-10) It was a year that Israel spent in the wilderness rather than in the promised land, so it was counted in the 40 years that God wanted them to wander in the wilderness..

They spent 38 1/2 years of wandering in the wilderness (Deut.2:14, Num. 33:38) after the things that happened at Kadesh.

For seven months after Aaron died the children of Israel prepared to enter the land of Canaan from the east side of the Jordan and would cross the Jordan and camp at Gilgal. It must have been an exciting time for Israel to know that finally they would receive the land that God had promised them since the days of Abraham.

Try to say from memory:

**Psalm 15:1-3
and
Deut. 10: 12 - 14**

USE YOUR BIBLE

Num 35:33-34 So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye are: for _____ it _____ the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it. _____ not therefore the land which ye shall inhabit, wherein I dwell: for I the LORD dwell among the children of Israel. (KJV)



MATCH

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Moses | They received cities in the surrounding land for inheritance |
| Joshua | He told Moses that he would not enter the land. |
| Urim | They wanted land on the east side of the Jordan. |
| Reuben and Gad | He was to inquire of God what should be done about a new leader in Israel. |
| Eleazar | He asked God to appoint a new leader in Israel. |
| Cities of refuge | Eleazer used this to inquire what God's will was. |
| Levites | The new leader of Israel. |
| God | There were six of these, for a person who accidentally killed, to flee to. |