

“The Vow of the Nazirite”

Numbers Chapter 6

This is a chapter concerning consecration. This is a ritual that was for any Israelite; A priest or a layman, a man or a woman. This was available to all Israel.

At first glance one might think this has something to do with Nazareth where Jesus was born. It does not. This comes from the Hebrew word “*naziyr*” which means to devote or to consecrate oneself.

17 times this passage uses the words “separate”, “dedicate” or “consecrate”.

In chapter 5, to purify the camp those who were defiled were separated from the rest by putting them outside the camp. This separation is not due to defilement but by devotion. Their separation is among the people.

Num 6:1 **1) Elements of a Nazirite Vow** vs 1-8

Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 6:2 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When a man or woman makes a special vow, #1 the vow of a Nazirite, to **dedicate** himself to the LORD,

Vow To the Lord

- God is speaking to all the sons of Israel not just the priests.
- This is also available to the women as well.
- In verses 4, 5, 6, and 8 the mention of “All the days of his separation”. The duration is determined by the devotee. It might be a day or a week, month, year or a lifetime.
 - 1 Samuel 1:11 Hannah dedicated her son SAMUEL to the Lord for life.
 - Judges 13:1-2-5 An angel visited Manoah’s barren wife and told her that her son SAMPSON would be a Nazirite even in the womb.
 - Luke 1:15 John the Baptist
 - Acts 18:18 The Apostle Paul
- The vow is twofold. Separate oneself FROM certain thing. And a separation TO something.
- They are separated “To the Lord”
 - “*The Secret of Separation is to be separated to something.*” (Focht)
 - When you love someone your thoughts and desire is focused on the one you love. Things and other people that you distance yourself from to spend time with your love doesn’t occupy your thoughts.
 - People think about what they have to give up to be a Christian or to be in ministry. They aren’t in love with the Lord.

Num 6:3 he shall abstain from wine and strong drink; he shall drink no vinegar, whether made from wine or strong drink, nor shall he drink any grape juice nor eat fresh or dried grapes.

Num 6:4 'All the days of his **separation** he shall not eat anything that is produced by the grape vine, #2 from the seeds even to the skin.

Shall Abstain from Wine

- The Nazirite Vow abstains from wine, strong drink and anything that is a product of the grape.
- The grape isn’t evil.
- The vow is limiting what a person can be under the influence of. This vow is saying “I want to be under the influence of the Lord. I do not want anything to dull the sense of the Lord’s presence, or guidance.”
- Separation from products of the grape keeps the devotee from the vineyard and temptation.

Num 6:5 'All the days of his vow of **separation** no razor shall pass over his head. He shall be holy #3 until the days are fulfilled for which he **separated** himself to the LORD; he shall let the Shall not Cut locks of hair on his head grow long.

Hair

- The devotee shall not cut his or her hair for the duration of the vow.
- Men’s hair styles were not long as we think of long today. In the time of Moses hair would be long but kept neat and trimmed. Long hair on a man indicated a Nazirite.
- Long hair was the visible sign of the Nazirite Vow. The long untrimmed hair was different than the custom of the day.
- The Nazirite in his vow did not worry about what man thinks about them in their vow. The hair indicated to others a difference; a devotion.

- Num 6:6 'All the days of his **separation** to the LORD he shall not go near to a dead person.
- Num 6:7 'He shall not make himself unclean for his father or for his mother, for his brother or for his sister, when they die, because his **separation** to God is on his head.
- Num 6:8 'All the days of his **separation** he is holy to the LORD.
- #4
- Shall not
Touch the
Dead
- The devotee is set apart from death.
 - Mark 12:27 "He is not the God of the dead, but of the living"
 - The Devotee is to identify with his God and His nature.

Num 6:9 **2) If Defiled During the Nazirite Vow** vs 9-12

'But if a man dies very suddenly beside him and he defiles his **dedicated** head *of hair*, then he shall shave his head on the day when he becomes clean; he shall shave it on the seventh day.

- Num 6:10 'Then on the eighth day he shall bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons to the priest, to the doorway of the tent of meeting.
- Num 6:11 'The priest shall offer one for a sin offering and *the* other for a burnt offering, and make atonement for him concerning his sin because of the *dead* person. And that same day he shall **consecrate** his head,
- Num 6:12 and shall **dedicate** to the LORD his days as a Nazirite, and shall bring a male lamb a year old for a guilt offering; but the former days will be void because his **separation** was defiled.

- If the devotee touches a dead body even by accident, He is to go through the ritual of purification prescribed for being defiled by the dead.
- He has to shave his head and start his vow over.
- Leviticus 21 refers to the priests were not allowed to touch dead bodies. There was a purification ritual then they could become clean.
- It is interesting that this Nazirite puts all Israelites at that same level as a priest before the Lord.

Num 6:13 **3) Conclusion of the Nazirite Vow** vs 13-21

'Now this is the law of the Nazirite when the days of his **separation** are fulfilled, he shall bring the offering to the doorway of the tent of meeting.

- The end of the vow was determined by the devotee.
- He or she comes to the doorway of the tabernacle.

- Num 6:14 'He shall present his offering to the LORD: one male lamb a year old without defect for a burnt offering and one ewe-lamb a year old without defect for a sin offering and one ram without defect for a peace offering,
- Burnt, Sin and
Peace offerings

- Num 6:15 and a basket of unleavened cakes of fine flour mixed with oil and unleavened wafers spread with oil, along with their grain offering and their drink offering.
- Grain and Drink
offerings

- Num 6:16 'Then the priest shall present *them* before the LORD and shall offer his sin offering and his burnt offering.

- Num 6:17 'He shall also offer the ram for a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD, together with the basket of unleavened cakes; the priest shall likewise offer its grain offering and its drink offering.

- Five offerings made with three animals a male lamb, ewe lamb and a ram/ Cakes and Wafers.
- This was quite a lengthy and costly vow. It was not something taken lightly.

- Num 6:18 The Nazirite shall then shave his **dedicated** head *of hair* at the doorway of the tent of meeting, and take the **dedicated** hair of his head and put *it* on the fire which is under the sacrifice of peace offerings.
- The devotee is to shave their head and burn the hair with the peace offering.
- Num 6:19 The priest shall take the ram's shoulder *when it has been* boiled, and one unleavened cake out of the basket and one unleavened wafer, and shall put *them* on the hands of the Nazirite after he has shaved his **dedicated** hair.
- Num 6:20 Then the priest shall wave them for a wave offering before the LORD. It is holy for the priest, together with the breast offered by waving and the thigh offered by lifting up; and afterward the Nazirite may drink wine.'
- Num 6:21 "This is the law of the Nazirite who vows his offering to the LORD according to his **separation**, in addition to what *else* he can afford; according to his vow which he takes, so he shall do according to the law of his **separation**."
- It is interesting that the end of the vow is intensive and filled with offerings.
 - The Burnt Offering - (Leviticus 1) Voluntary Offering - Represented Total Consecration
 - The Grain Offering - (Leviticus 2) Voluntary Offering - Remembrance of God's Provision
 - The Peace Offering - (Leviticus 3) Voluntary Offering - Celebrates Peace. (doesn't make peace)
 - The Sin Offering - (Leviticus 4) Mandatory Offering - Atonement for Sin (makes peace)
 - The devotee has separated him/herself from carnal things unto the Lord. Yet he still has to make a sin offering. The Vow doesn't remove sin. If anything the time of devotion would tend to illuminate the Holiness of God in comparison to the sinfulness of Man.
 - "The longer you go on with the Lord the less you sin but the more you repent." (Focht)

Num 6:22 **4) The Priest's Blessing to Israel** vs 22-25

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 6:23 "Speak to Aaron and to his sons, saying, 'Thus you shall bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

- This is the commanded blessing from the Lord that the priest were to say over Israel
- If ever you do not know what to pray, here is God's heart of prayer.

Num 6:24 The LORD bless you, and keep you; Father God

- **The Lord Bless you** - to experience ultimate blessing it must come from the Lord. All else fades.
- **The Lord Keep you** - with all the influences to fall that are around us and understanding our weak flesh, our security is only found in our Savior.

Num 6:25 The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; Jesus

- **The Lord's Face Shine on you** - a shining face brings favor and His pleasure of you as opposed to a darken face of displeasure and wrath.
- **The Lord be Gracious to you** - receiving God's favor without regard to worthiness

Num 6:26 The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.' Holy Spirit

- **The Lord lift up His countenance on you** - (look towards you) the Lord's attention and guidance in your life
- **The Lord give you peace** - more than cessation of hostility but wholeness, goodness and satisfaction. John 10:10 "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly"
- LORD 3 times - doesn't prove the Trinity but understanding the teaching of the trinity one can see the Trinity illustrated here.
- YOU 6 times - clearly dispels the notion that God will bless someone else but not me. He Cares For You. This was His blessing that he wanted spoken over His people.

Num 6:27 "So they shall invoke My name on the sons of Israel, and I then will bless them."

- God's Blessing: God's Name will be upon His People and We are identified by His character, His Nature. ***** God Wants To Bless His People *****

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