

“The Next Generation”

Numbers Chapter 15

Num 15:1 **1) Remember to be Thankful Even in Discipline** vs 1-16

Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 15:2 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you enter the land where you are to live, which I am giving you,

Num 15:3 then make an offering by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering or a sacrifice to fulfill a special vow, or as a freewill offering or in your appointed times, to make a soothing aroma to the LORD, from the herd or from the flock.

- Who is this addressed to? The Lord is telling Moses to remind the younger generation (younger than 20 years old) of the commands of the Lord. "When you enter the land..."
- Numbers 14:28-31 "As I live," says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will surely do to you: *your corpses will fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men, according to your complete number from twenty years old and upward, who have grumbled against Me. Surely you shall not come into the land in which I swore to settle you, except Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun. Your children, however, whom you said would become a prey—I will bring them in, and they will know the land which you have rejected.*"
- The Lord in this chapter setting reminders before the Next Generation.
 - The Future Promise - a land the Lord will bring them to and will give them. Vs 2
 - The Blood Relationship - theirs is a relationship based upon blood. (sacrifices and offerings) Vs 3

Grain, Drink,
Burnt, Peace
Offerings

Num 15:4 'The one who presents his offering shall present to the LORD a **grain offering** of one-tenth *of an ephah* of fine flour mixed with one-fourth of a hin of oil,

Num 15:5 and you shall prepare wine for the **drink offering**, one-fourth of a hin, with the **burnt offering** or for the sacrifice, for each lamb.

Num 15:6 'Or for a ram you shall prepare as a grain offering two-tenths *of an ephah* of fine flour mixed with one-third of a hin of oil;

Num 15:7 and for the drink offering you shall offer one-third of a hin of wine as a soothing aroma to the LORD.

Num 15:8 'When you prepare a bull as a burnt offering or a sacrifice, to fulfill a special vow, or for **peace offerings** to the LORD,

Num 15:9 then you shall offer with the bull a grain offering of three-tenths *of an ephah* of fine flour mixed with one-half a hin of oil;

Num 15:10 and you shall offer as the drink offering one-half a hin of wine as an offering by fire, as a soothing aroma to the LORD.

Num 15:11 'Thus it shall be done for each ox, or for each ram, or for each of the male lambs, or of the goats.

Num 15:12 'According to the number that you prepare, so you shall do for everyone according to their number.

Num 15:13 'All who are native shall do these things in this manner, in presenting an offering by fire, as a soothing aroma to the LORD.

- We know that these instructions are for the Next Generation. They are the ones that will enter the Promised Land. But currently the Lord is turning them back from the Land. He has told them that they will wander 38 years, and the older generation will die in the wilderness.

- This is one of the lowest point for Israel. YET THE LORD TELLS THEM TO MAKE OFFERINGS.
- What kind of offerings? Burnt, Grain, Drink, Peace.
- In the first 5 chapters of Leviticus we were taught the 5 offerings.
 - 1. **The Burnt Offering** was an offering of total consecration.
 - 2. **The Grain Offering** was an offering of remembrance of God's Goodness/Provision towards mankind.
 - 3. **The Peace Offering** was an offering to celebrate peace, not to make peace. Peace was made by the sin offering.
 - 4. **The Sin Offering** was an offering to make atonement for unintentional and unspecific sins. (Deals with Guilt)
 - 5. **The Trespass Offering** was an offering to make atonement for unintentional & intentional specific sins. (Deals with specific acts)
- The offerings the Lord is instructing them to perform are the voluntary thanksgiving offerings. Even at the lowest point of their journey. Even in the discipline of the Lord.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 *"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*
- Psalm 100 *"A Psalm for Thanksgiving. Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. **Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing.** Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And **His faithfulness to all generations.**"*

Num 15:14 If an alien sojourns with you, or one who may be among you throughout your generations, and he *wishes to* make an offering by fire, as a soothing aroma to the LORD, just as you do so he shall do.

Num 15:15 *'As for the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the alien who sojourns with you, a perpetual statute throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the alien be before the LORD.*

Num 15:16 *'There is to be one law and one ordinance for you and for the alien who sojourns with you.'*

- Whether you are the older generation, a younger generation, born and raised in a Christian home or a late comer there is the one and same law and ordinance.
- Any movement that attempts to change God's standards by arguing relevance to a new, different or enlightened culture is wrong.
- God's standards are the same for all mankind for all history.
 - We have broken His law.
 - We are sinners deserving of judgment. Yes, Hell.
 - We must repent of our sin.
 - Put our trust in Jesus who became our substitute and paid our penalty for us.
 - By placing our trust in Jesus we will be forgiven for our sins.

Num 15:17 **2) Remember Where Forgiveness is Found** vs 17-31

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 15:18 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, 'When you enter the land where I bring you,

Num 15:19 then it shall be, that when you eat of the food of the land, you shall lift up an offering to the LORD.

- The Lord is reminding them of a promise that has not been revoked.
- Even though it is a long way off, the Lord wants them to look forward to the Promised Land.

Num 15:20 'Of the first of your dough you shall lift up a cake as an offering; as the offering of the threshing floor, so you shall lift it up.

- Num 15:21 'From the first of your dough you shall give to the LORD an offering throughout your generations.
- Num 15:22 'But when you unwittingly fail and do not observe all these commandments, which the LORD has spoken to Moses,
- Unintentional Sin
- Num 15:23 *even* all that the LORD has commanded you through Moses, from the day when the LORD gave commandment and onward throughout your generations,
- Num 15:24 then it shall be, if it is done unintentionally, without the knowledge of the congregation, that all the congregation shall offer one bull for a burnt offering, as a soothing aroma to the LORD, with its grain offering and its drink offering, according to the ordinance, and one male goat for a sin offering.
- Num 15:25 'Then the priest shall make atonement for all the congregation of the sons of Israel, and they will be forgiven; for it was an error, and they have brought their offering, an offering by fire to the LORD, and their sin offering before the LORD, for their error.
- Num 15:26 'So all the congregation of the sons of Israel will be forgiven, with the alien who sojourns among them, for *it happened* to all the people through error.
- Num 15:27 'Also if one person sins unintentionally, then he shall offer a one year old female goat for a sin offering.
- Num 15:28 'The priest shall make atonement before the LORD for the person who goes astray when he sins unintentionally, making atonement for him that he may be forgiven.
- Num 15:29 'You shall have one law for him who does *anything* unintentionally, for him who is native among the sons of Israel and for the alien who sojourns among them.
- Num 15:30 'But the person who does *anything* defiantly, whether he is native or an alien, that one is blaspheming the LORD; and that person shall be cut off from among his people.
- Deliberate Sin
- Num 15:31 'Because he has despised the word of the LORD and has broken His commandment, that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt *will be* on him.'
- These offerings have not changed with this new generation.
 - Blood is still required for forgiveness.
 - Verse 22-29 tells us that sin is sin even if it wasn't intentional. Even if the sin wasn't supposed to happen.
 - Verse 30-31 tells us that deliberate sin is not to be tolerated. This is the one who is defiantly living against God's Word. They despise His Word. They are to be cut off.

Num 15:32 **3) A Sabbath Breaker Not Remembering Deliberately** vs 32-36

- Now while the sons of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering wood on the sabbath day.
- Num 15:33 Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation;
- Num 15:34 and they put him in custody because it had not been declared what should be done to him.
- Num 15:35 Then the LORD said to Moses, "The man shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp."
- Num 15:36 So all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him to death with stones, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.
- This sounds severe. A man gathering wood on the Sabbath. Put him to death?
 - The Lord just finished telling people about sinning deliberately, despising the Word of the Lord.

- This account immediately following the instruction is an example of the seriousness of listening to the Word of the Lord.
- Many think that there are acceptable grey areas in God's Command. But Jesus dealt with grey areas.
 - The example of Jesus redefining Adultery: not just the physical act but the beginning stages of lust. **Matthew 5:27-28**
 - The example of Murder: not the act but the anger. **Matthew 5:21-22**
 - Young people believe making out is "ok" as long as there isn't actual intercourse.
 - It is despising the Word of the Lord. The physical act is an outcome of the condition of the heart. It is the heart that is judged not the act.
- **1 Samuel 16:7** "But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
- **Jeremiah 11:20** "...O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously, Who tries the feelings and the heart ..."
- **Acts 1:24** "...You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men ..."

Num 15:37 **4) The Hassel of the Tassel for Rememberence** vs 37-41

The LORD also spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 15:38 "Speak to the sons of Israel, and tell them that they shall make for themselves tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and that they shall put on the tassel of each corner a cord of blue.

Num 15:39 "It shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the LORD, so as to do them and not follow after your own heart and your own eyes, after which you played the harlot,

Num 15:40 so that you may remember to do all My commandments and be holy to your God.

Num 15:41 "I am the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt to be your God; I am the LORD your God."

- The Lord has the sons of Israel to wear tassels on the corner of their garments.
- This tassel was called the "Tzitzit"



- **Deuteronomy 22:12** "You shall make yourself twisted threads, on the four corners of your garment with which you cover yourself."
- Commonly made of 3 White strings and one blue. Folded over making 8 pieces that are tied and looped with the blue string 4 different times with a knot separating them.
 - The first set of blue loops number 10 = the Hebrew alphabet Yod Y
 - The second set of blue loops number 5 = the Hebrew alphabet Heh H
 - The third set of blue loops number 6 = the Hebrew alphabet Waw W
 - The fourth set of blue loops number 5 = the Hebrew alphabet Heh H
 - The Loops represent directly the spelling of the Tetragrammaton (one of God's names) (YHWH)
- The purpose was not for ornamentation. God give a clear purpose. That they would look at them and remember they live according to their Father's Way not their own. It is a reminder for them to obey the Lord's commands.
- We Christians do not wear tassels. Some of us will wear t-shirt with scriptures or Christian references. These do provide accountability for us in our walk before the public.

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