

Sunday School Lesson

Numbers 8 – 10:10 Levite Consecration & Divine Provision (January 26, 2025)

Keep in mind that Moses and his brother, Aaron, are Levites.

After a year at Mt. Sinai, God is now preparing His people to move out towards the Promised Land. This requires leaders, organizational structure, and rules. God expects holiness and order in all this. The Israelites are going into the wilderness of Paran and the plains of Moab.

Distributing the LIGHT

God was in the cloud of fire by night.

God now provides the light in a world filled with darkness.

- Lampstands – pure gold; main trunk and 3 branches on each side (Exodus 25:31-40)
- Burn at night, Aaron to maintain lamps (Leviticus 25:1-4)

Read **Isaiah 60:19**

By consecrating the Levites, God's light was instilled in them and they became a distribution of God's light among His people. The ceremony is in Numbers 8:5-16.

The first-born held a very prominent place in each family and would receive a double portion of family inheritance. They were already consecrated to God, per **Exodus 13:2**

God reminded them of how He conquered the Egyptians. Now God directed that the Levites serve as pseudo-first-born for the nation of Israel: they are consecrated to Yahweh, set apart, and give specific duties on behalf of the people. Read **Numbers 8:17-19**.

Tradition is Important

Celebrating Passover (Numbers 9:1-14):

- God directed Moses to start commemorating Passover on the 14th day of the 1st month (Nisan) of the second year after they escaped Egypt.
- Pesach (Passover) is 8 days, beginning on the 14th day of Nisan. Clean homes & souls of leaven.
- Men who handled dead bodies were ritually unclean and could not participate in Passover. What to do?

- Guidance from Yahweh said they had 30 days to get ritually clean and could celebrate Passover 30 days later. This included anyone on a trip.
- Pesach Sheni (2nd Passover) 30 days later in month of Iyyar.
- Visitors were welcome to participate (also, sojourners referred to Gentile converts).
- Anyone NOT on a trip and NOT unclean, but chooses not to participate will be punished (translation could be excommunication or death).

Divine Leadership for the March

- Raising the tabernacle (tent) is described in 9:15, which ties directly to Exodus 40:2.
- The pillars of cloud and fire were introduced in Exodus. Numbers is more explicit.
- The Israelites interpreted movement of the cloud or fire as commands directly from Yahweh. Read **Numbers 9:15-23**.

Two Silver Trumpets

To be blown by the sons of Aaron (the priests)

- Summon the congregation to the entrance of the tent of meeting.
 - Blow one for the leaders & heads of tribes
 - Blow both for all the people
- Breaking camp
- Alarm
 - First alarm: camps on the east side shall set out
 - Second alarm: camps on the south side shall set out

When

- Going to war
- At appointed feasts
- At the beginnings of your months
- Over your offerings

Summary:

- The focus of this part of Numbers emphasizes the need for leadership, organization, and community cohesion. Moses was expected to plan the movements of Israel, and we are expected to plan the work of the church today. In many places churches are failing because of a failure to plan. The church leaders know a lot of Bible verses. Most church leaders know what a person needs to do to accept God's gift of salvation. But without plans and organization of the work, the church often fails.

- It highlights the consequences of disobedience and the importance of trusting in God's plan, even during difficult times.
- Additionally, it serves as a reminder of God's faithfulness and provision, even when we falter.

References:

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