

Feb 27th 2005: Overview of O.T. Leviticus and Numbers: Nu 21:4-9 & John 3:10-21

One of the things remember doing as young Xtian....deciding...read thro Bible

Start at Genesis and.....

For quite a time.....Leviticus and Numbers.....to be avoided

Leviticus in particular....as a specialised book.....for those interested in sacrifices !!

NOW I no longer see them as books to be avoided

I still see them as technical books...whose valuable & relevant teaching for us.....

is not found so much in all the details....as in the Major Truths.....those details point to

Leviticus and Numbers show us that:-

- Rebellion and sin is embedded in the heart of man (particularly from Numbers)
- A perfect sacrifice as decreed by Holy God is needed for a relationship with Him
- Out of love and concern for His people God gave them rules
- God persevered with His plan for His people despite their continual rebellion

Leviticus means.....that which relates to the Levites

In fact the book relates more to the duties of the Priests

Someone has called Leviticus: God's guidebook for His newly redeemed people, showing them how to worship, serve, and obey a holy God.

ITS FOCUS	1:1-17:16 Sacrifice	18:1-27:34 Sanctification
DIVISIONS	Laws relating to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approach to God• Priests• Purity• National Atonement	Laws of Sanctification:- <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For the People• For the Priesthood• In worship• In the Land of Canaan• Through vows
TOPICS	Way to God	Walk with God
	Acceptable Approach to God	Continued fellowship with God

Leviticus was given at Mount Sinai by God to His people through Moses over a 1 month period. It is a book that is full of allusions to the person and the work of Christ

It is in Leviticus 17:11 that we are told very clearly.....

That the life is in the blood...and therefore that the blood...

which reveals a life offered in place of one's own life.....makes atonement.....

In the NT....Hebrews....talking about Jesus states →9:11-12.....14-15.....

...and then says.....For without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness

But the other thing Leviticus emphasises.....and you will notice it again &.....

The blood must come from an animal without defect.....:..absolutely pure

And here again we see God in the OT....preparing the world for the sinless

Come as the Lamb of God.....

I do encourage you to read Leviticus....and to do so with these thoughts in mind

And then to read the book of Numbers.

For Leviticus ends with God's people being shown the way of life a holy God expects of them, and Numbers reveals how hard it was for them to live out that holy life and the terrible results of disobedience and rebellion.

Only one year has passed since the Exodus from Egypt when the book of Numbers opens.The book contains the records of two generations,... two numberings of the people,and two sets of instructions for enjoying the Promised Land.

At first we deal with those who left Egypt or the "old generation" (chapters 1-12).

Then there follows those years of wandering in the wilderness (Chapters 13-20).

Finally we have the new generation of people gathered beside the Jordan and ready to cross over into the Promised Land.

FOCUS	1:1-10:10 Old Generation	10:11-25:18 Tragic Transition	26:1-36:13 New Generation
DIVISIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of Israel • Sanctification of Israel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To Kadesh-barnea; report of spies • At Kadesh-barnea • In Wilderness • To Moab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reorganization of Israel • Regulations of Offerings and vows • Conquest and Division of Israel
TOPICS	Order Preparation	Disorder Postponement	Reorder Preparation
PLACE	Mount Sinai	Wilderness	Plains of Moab
TIME	20 days	38 years, 3 months, 10 days	.c.5 months

*Graphs adapted from material in "Talk Thru the Bible" by Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa.

The lesson of Numbers is clear. God's love is tough love.

This people continued to try God with their wickedness until He judged them in the wilderness.

Yet He never deserted them but out of a new generation He fashioned a Nation that would finally inhabit the Land of Promise.

The key verses in Numbers are found in chapter 14 verses 22-23.....

They follow the people's decision to heed the advice of the ten spies who said, "We can't attack those people they are stronger than we are."(13:31), and the rebellion that followed

14:22-23 says.....

These.....had seen God's power in Egypt....Red Sea.....How He provided for them...

Yet they rebelled against Him again...and again.....and again.....Ten times God says..
The decision not to enter.....last straw

Turn with me to chapter 9:15

This was the glory of God that they saw all the time.....and this was the generation....Egypt

V15-18.....

The last thing each family didstand outside their tent and look
The first thing in the morning....was to look....IT was a glory that no other god
..produce.....And if it was still there.....stayed

Yet though they saw the glory of God....such as they
They still grumbled against Him.....They sinned and broke.....They refused to trust..
First opportunity they sought out gods made by.....

And we think to ourselves.....How could they desert such a God.....so quickly
But the book of Numbers.....stands as a warning to believers.....**That human heart....**

Many of us are aware of those....who once loved the Lord.....Do so no more.
And of others who went from Him.....Lived in the Wilderness.....Brought them back

*Jim Bakker was a great preacher of God's Word.....Built up an enormous ministry
God worked thro Him.....many were brought into the kingdom*

*But Jimmy walked after other gods = → money and fame::::Sent to prison for fraud
That was his wilderness wanderings.....But God rescued him
He wrote a book.....entitled →I was Wrong*

In this book of Numbers we both see how easy it was for a people who had seen God's
glory to fall away from Him and rebel against His plan for their lives,
but we also see how God persevered with this nation that He called His children.

How He made the way of escape for those who had sinned to return unto Him

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This is particularly evident in a story found in chapter 21 verses 4-9.
This is the story that the Jesus refers to in John 3:10-14

The people had once again rebelled against God.....

So God sent poisonous snakes to bite them.. They came to Moses and said 21:7...

Then the Lord instructed Moses to..... The serpent was the symbol of their sin

Its just punishment

The choice was theirs.....Once bitten.....which made them aware of personal sin
They could look.....acknowledge...and live

The same is true of the Son of Man says Jesus to Nicodemus

He is the pure sacrifice that Leviticus points to

He is the sin bearer.....lifted up on a cross

When a personconscious of sin.....looks to Jesus as their Lord and Saviour

And on the basis of His death in their place.....Asks God to forgive ...to save

God does

That cross has your sin upon it

Have you chosen to look to that cross and be saved.....

