

People on the Move The Book of Numbers Lesson 4 4Q 2009

Trumpet, Blood, Cloud, and Fire

When you read the title for this week's lesson what comes to mind?

SABBATH

Read the first paragraph, "At the last Passover..." thoughts? What did Jesus institute? Was it the reality or another symbolic ceremony? What is the difference between the first symbolic ceremony and the second? What was the Passover designed to teach? What is the communion service designed to teach? Is there a difference?

The Passover pointed forward to the coming of Christ, the communion reminds us of His completed mission on earth and His ongoing mission in our hearts and minds!

In the Passover the blood was applied to the doorposts, what did this symbolize? The life is in the blood and applied to the doorpost symbolizes the life of Christ applied to the door of the life which is the heart.

In the Communion service the wine represented what? The blood of Christ, which is His life and it is taken into the believer, thus it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me.

In the Passover they ate the lamb, symbolizing the body of Christ. In the Communion they ate the unleavened bread symbolizing the body of Christ. Both taken into the believer, we eat the words of Christ, we ingest the truth about God as revealed by Christ, we hunger after and internalize the character of Christ.

The Passover preceded their departure from Egypt, likewise the communion precedes our departure from sin. Egypt symbolized enslavement to sin and Pharaoh was symbolic of

Satan the ruler of this world of sin. Just as Pharaoh had more truth about God revealed to him than any other leader, yet rejected it and hardened his heart against God, so too, Lucifer had more truth about God revealed to him than any other created being, but rejected it and hardened his heart against God.

As Pharaoh enslaved the Hebrews, Satan enslaved mankind in sin. And as God sent Moses to deliver Israel from Pharaoh and slavery, God sent Jesus to deliver mankind from Satan and sin.

SUNDAY

Read first paragraph, “This was the first...” thoughts?

Who is the angel of the Lord?

- Exodus 3:1-6

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

⁵ “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.”

But does anyone’s version say that the angel of the Lord struck down the firstborn? The NIV says it was the Lord Himself:

- Exodus 12:12,13, 29

“On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn—both men and animals—and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the LORD. ¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt...At midnight the LORD struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, who sat on the throne, to the firstborn of the prisoner, who was in the dungeon, and the firstborn of all the livestock as well.

Thoughts? Does anyone have a problem with this?

God was bringing judgment, not on people, but on all the gods of Egypt – how? The Egyptians worshipped many animals and also chimeras (animal human hybrids), like Anubis who had the body of a man and the head of a jackal. He was the god of the dead or underworld. By slaying the first born of all them, God exposed them as false. God thereby provided evidence to human minds of the impotence of their false gods so that the human beings could “judge” rightly about God and reject the false gods and choose Him. This is what God has been doing throughout the history of the human race.

Was God unleashing anger and wrath to inflict “judgment” and punish unthinking, inanimate idols? Or was God providing evidence of the powerlessness of the idols, and thus giving humans the ability to judge rightly?

In Daniel when the little horn wages war against the saints and overcomes until God gives judgment to the saints – until God provides enough evidence for human beings to judge correctly about God and reject the Satanic version of God (Daniel 7:22).

MONDAY

Read third paragraph, “The Lord’s leading...” thoughts?

What is the Lord working to do in our lives? Where is the Lord leading us? Is He leading us out of the slavery of sin and into the promised land of eternity?

Psalms 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

- Jesus is our caretaker, He will provide for our eternal needs

3 he restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name’s sake.

- Who is leading? And where is He leading? And for what reason? Then notice where this path of righteousness leads -

4 Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

- This isn’t the valley of death – this is the valley of the shadow of death, the valley in which we feel like we are dying, but in which we only die to self, to sin, to the carnal man, to the life of selfishness. Even though we feel like we are dying, we are not afraid because Jesus is there comforting us through the process.

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

- In the face of worldly opposition, with Satan as a roaring lion seeking to destroy, Jesus pours out His Holy Spirit which ennobles, transforms, recreates, renews and regenerates us to be like Christ. Our hearts overflow with love for God and others!
- ⁶ Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.
- Just as we read last week, the rough stones are made smooth in this world through the pruning and preparation of God. We are fitted to be the very building blocks of God's Heavenly Sanctuary and we dwell in the House of Lord forever! We are pillars in God's Temple and never will we leave it!

Thoughts?

Read next paragraph, "But there's a deeper issue..." thoughts?

What is being symbolically taught by all of this?

The Jewish nation became God's chosen people – chosen for what? For exclusive salvation? Or chosen to reveal to the world the truth about God and prepare the world for the coming of the Messiah? What method did God give them to reveal this truth? A Grand Play!

The OT Jewish economy is a great theater, the Jewish people were the actors, God was the producer, Moses was the initial director and the Levitical law was the script. They had a beautiful stage, wonderful costumes and intricate props.

But the system did nothing to actually remedy the problem of sin, it only acted out the drama.

Can we identify some of the players and discover some of the lessons?

There are two general themes being taught within the system –

1. God’s plan to restore the world (global restoration) to unity with the rest of the universe and
2. God’s plan to heal individuals from sin.

Who did the High Priest represent? Jesus

Who did the sacrificial animal represent? Jesus

Who was the only one allowed to go in to see God in the Most Holy Place? The High Priest – then why could Moses go in after Aaron was the High Priest?

- Moses represented Christ before His incarnation when He and the Father counseled together over the plan of salvation.
- The Lamb represented Christ during His incarnation (33 years on earth)
- Aaron represented Christ after His ascension

Who did the children of Israel represent?

The Levites – The church, priesthood of believers

The rest of the tribes – the unconverted people of the world

- The families of the tribe of Levi, however, were not counted along with the others. ⁴⁸ The LORD had said to Moses: ⁴⁹ “You must not count the tribe of Levi or include them in the census of the other Israelites. ⁵⁰ Instead, appoint the Levites to be in charge of the tabernacle of the Testimony—over all its furnishings and everything belonging to it. They are to carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings; they are to take care of it and encamp around it. Numbers 1:47-50
- The LORD also said to Moses, ¹² “I have taken the Levites from among the Israelites in place of the first male offspring of every Israelite woman. The Levites are mine, ¹³ for all the firstborn are mine. When I struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, I set apart for myself every firstborn in Israel, whether man or

animal. They are to be mine. I am the LORD.”
Numbers 3:11-13

As the Levites were taken from the rest of the tribes and became God's, so to Christians are taken from the world, bought with a price and become the Lord's (Acts 20:28, 1Cor 6:19,20).

- ⁵ The LORD said to Moses: ⁶ “Take the Levites from among the other Israelites and make them ceremonially clean. ⁷ To purify them, do this: Sprinkle the water of cleansing on them; then have them shave their whole bodies and wash their clothes, and so purify themselves. Numbers 8:5-7

As the Levites were washed and cleansed with water, so too the Christian is washed and renewed by the Holy Spirit.

- Titus 3:4-7 “But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

Levi means *joined unto* and were joined or given to Aaron

- Of all the Israelites, I have given the Levites as gifts to Aaron and his sons to do the work at the Tent of Meeting on behalf of the Israelites and to make atonement for them so that no plague will strike the Israelites when they go near the sanctuary.” Numbers 8:19

Just as the Levites were joined to Aaron so too the Bride, the Church is joined unto Christ or given to Christ

What does it mean the Levites will make atonement in behalf of the rest of the Israelites? Look at how they camped – does this give any insight? What do we learn about the plan of salvation from the way the camp was arranged?

What do you think this means?

- That is why the Levites have no share or inheritance among their brothers; the LORD is their inheritance, as the LORD your God told them.) DT 10:9
- The LORD said to Aaron, “You will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites. Numbers 18:20

The Christian is to be a stranger and pilgrim in earth, our citizenship is in heaven. The people of the world worry about acquiring wealth, lands, possessions, we are God’s ambassadors to bring people to the eternal home! (Philippians 3:20).

Did everyone who left Egypt enter the promised land? Why not?

The spies brought back discouraging reports (except Caleb and Joshua) and the people became afraid and said “would it be better that we died in the land of Egypt” (Numbers 13:26-33, 14:2).

So what happened?

- In this desert your bodies will fall—every one of you twenty years old or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me. ³⁰ Not one of you will enter the land I swore with uplifted hand to make your home, except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. Numbers 14:29,30

Who would die in the desert? Who, over twenty, entered Canaan?

- Numbers 1:20-44 – “All the men twenty years old or more who were able to serve in the army were listed” All the tribes are listed – EXCEPT Levi (vs 47). The Levites were numbered from one month old and upward (Numbers 3:15).

So the death sentence pronounced upon the children of Israel to die in the wilderness, all twenty and older (except Joshua and Caleb) did not apply to the Levites! Eleazar, Aaron’s son, was more than twenty, yet he entered Canaan and was a prominent leader. And Phinehas son of Eleazar also entered the promised land.

What does this teach?

That those who are not bound to Christ become frightened by the devil’s schemes, believe Satan’s lies and rebel against God and die in the wilderness of this world. However, those who are bound to Christ, while ministering to those dying in the world, will be saved and taken into the promised land. Caleb and Joshua represent those Paul spoke about in Romans 2, those who respond to the Holy Spirit’s leading yet have not heard the truth from Scripture.

When they marched they marched in the order that they camped with Levi and the sanctuary in the middle with six tribes in front and six tribes behind and the pillar leading.

What do we learn?

Entire nation = the world

Levi = the church

Pillar = God

What does it teach us? God is constantly working to lead the entire world back to Him (For God so loved the world that He

gave His only Son!). Yet, even though God is constantly leading and all the events of nations on earth are under His guidance, not all the people in the world (or Israel) recognize God's leadership. Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Yet God has His people in the midst of the world to work to teach the people the truth about Him!

Likewise today God is still leading, still shining the light of heavenly truth, yet not everyone follows the leading or accepts the truth.

TUESDAY

Read top paragraph and dark section following – thoughts?

The priests blew the silver trumpets for what purpose?

- To call the entire assembly, blow both trumpets
- To call just the leaders blow one trumpet
- To signal the moving of the camp
- In time of war when an enemy is in their land blow the trumpets and the Lord will deliver
- For all festivals and burnt offerings

But only the priests could blow the trumpets – what does this symbolize?

- Who among our teachers are awake and as faithful stewards of the grace of God are giving the trumpet a certain sound? Who are voicing the message of the third angel, calling upon the world to make ready for the great day of God? The message we bear has the seal of the living God. Counsels to parents, teachers and students 459
- Those who present the truth are to enter into no controversy. They are to preach the gospel with such faith and earnestness that an interest will be awakened. By the words they speak, the prayers they offer, the influence they exert, they are to sow seeds that will bear

fruit to the glory of God. There is to be no wavering. The trumpet is to give a certain sound. The attention of the people is to be called to the third angel's message. Let not God's servants act like men walking in their sleep, but like men preparing for the coming of Christ.--Review and Herald, March 2, 1905. {Ev 119.2}

Thoughts?

WEDNESDAY

Read bottom paragraph, "Even our Savior..." When Moses and Elijah came to the Lord do you think they spoke to Him? What do you think they might have said?

THURSDAY

Read bottom pink section –

Whenever the ark set out, Moses said,
"Rise up, O LORD!

May your enemies be scattered;
may your foes flee before you."

³⁶ Whenever it came to rest, he said,

"Return, O LORD,
to the countless thousands of Israel." Numbers 10:35,36

Thoughts? Why did God not use His power to make everything okay?

What does God want for each of us? Growth, maturity, development of character, how does that happen?

- If a teacher gives you all the answers do you develop the ability to think, reason, problem solve?
- If you have someone else do your piano lessons will your ability improve?
- If you have another person go to physical therapy after your broken leg, will your leg get stronger?

What does God want? Our individual development, growth, maturity and eventual “self-control”, autonomy!

FRIDAY

Read first two paragraphs – thoughts?

Read and discuss questions 1 and 3

