

People on the Move The Book of Numbers Lesson 12 4Q 2009

The Second Generation: Admonitions

SABBATH

In the middle of the first paragraph it states, “In spite of the divine judgment on the nation, in which the first generation (except for Joshua and Caleb) perished, God had multiplied them abundantly, and the armies of Israel mustered in the plains of Moab were for all practical purposes as large as those of the first generation.”

What did we learn earlier in this quarter about who entered Canaan after the 40 years in the wilderness? Was Joshua and Caleb the only men from the first generation to enter Canaan? No, the Levites were not counted in the general census but were counted separately

- 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
- 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, are not frightened away by Satan’s lies and will be saved and taken into the eternal 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.

SUNDAY

Numbers 27:1-11 describes where the daughters of Zelophehad, a descendent of Manasseh son of Joseph, petitioned for a portion of land since their father had no sons. The word from God was that they were right and that they should receive the portion of land due their father as their inheritance. According to the Lord what were they right about?

Why should our father’s name disappear from his clan because he had no son? Give us property among our father’s relatives.” Verse 4.

What do you think about the inheritance of land and how they handled it? Why was, and is to this day, the land so important? Is the land really important in God's economy or was it, just like the OT sanctuary, merely part of the symbolic system to teach something? Is there something special about the soil or earth there? Some would suggest yes, what did Jesus say?

In John 4 Jesus is conversing with the woman and the well when the woman asks a question:

“Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet.
²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.” Verse 19, 20.

What place is more holy? What space is most spiritually special? Where is the land that is the best location to worship God? How did Jesus reply?

Jesus declared, “Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.” Vs 21-24

Here is my paraphrase of John 4:19-24

John 4:19 Shocked and somewhat uncomfortable with such a personal revelation the woman said, “Sir, to know such things you must certainly be a prophet. ²⁰ So please help me with a problem. Our people have always worshiped God here on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the

place where we must worship God is in Jerusalem, which is it?”

John 4:21 Jesus declared, “Believe me dear woman, the place one worships God is not important, but the condition of the heart of the worshiper is what matters. Very soon you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship a confusing tradition of rituals that don’t enlighten the mind and has no ability to heal the worshiper; we worship the Creator God and our minds are enlightened and healed by him because all he asks of us is sensible and reasonable. The plan to heal humanity from the infection of selfishness and sin is provided through the Jews. ²³ The time has now come that all true worshipers will worship the Father with an intelligent reasonable understanding of who he is – loving, admiring and respecting the truth about his nature, character, and methods; these understanding worshipers are the kind the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is intelligent and reasonable, and his worshipers must worship him intelligently and reasonably, appreciating and valuing the truth of God’s methods and principles.”

So what do we make of the land? Why was it given and what was it to teach?

Who did the various tribes represent? Did the tribes that inherited land represent the saved followers of Christ? No, the Levites represented Christ’s followers – the other tribes represented those who have yet to come to Christ. Does this give a clue?

What is it that the people of the world want? They want money, power, land, and a name for themselves. Thus, the tribes want land so their names can be remembered.

The land was to remain in the family and never be able to be permanently sold. Every 50 years the land would revert back

to its original owner. What was God trying to teach with this? Was God trying to set out a system, that if the world followed, would minimize poverty, hunger, and the accumulation of great wealth by some at the exploitation of others?

What was the inheritance of the Levites?

- 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

Does that mean the Levites names would not be remembered? Whose name did the priests and Levites want remembered? Name means character. The priests and Levites symbolize those who are not trying to promote earthly gain, or promote themselves but who want to promote the truth about God!

What inheritance are you desiring?

MONDAY

Read top paragraph, “After so many...” thoughts? When God says He is going to do something are His promises absolute, unconditional certainties, or are some of God’s promises conditional upon us? In other words, are some of God’s promises made dependent upon our response “If you do this I will do that”? Any examples?

- The promises to the descendents of Abraham?
- The promises to each of us as individuals for salvation?
 - God’s promise to provide a Savior was not dependent upon our response, but what about God’s promise to heal/save us as individuals?
- Others?

Joshua becomes the successor to Moses and is acknowledged as such before all the people. How did the people respond?

Then they answered Joshua, “Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. ¹⁷ Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Joshua 1:16,17

If you were Joshua what might you have thought about this response? Oh, please, not that????

TUESDAY

Read second paragraph “Numbers 28:1-8 describes...” thoughts? What do you think is symbolized by the daily? The constant work of the Godhead within the hearts and minds of mankind to heal and restore?

What do you think is being described in Daniel 8:11-14:

It set itself up to be as great as the Prince of the host; it took away the daily sacrifice from him, and the place of his sanctuary was brought low. ¹² Because of rebellion, the host of the saints and the daily sacrifice were given over to it. It prospered in everything it did, and truth was thrown to the ground.

¹³ Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, “How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled—the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host that will be trampled underfoot?”

¹⁴ He said to me, “It will take 2,300 evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary will be reconsecrated.”

Thoughts?

What is Satan's goal? What is Satan trying to accomplish with respect to human beings? Do you agree with this possibility, described by E.G. White?

“Satan's aim had been to reproduce his own character in human beings. No sooner was man created than Satan resolved to efface in him the image of God, and to place his stamp where God's should be.” 6BC 1119

How does taking away the daily do this? The daily represents Christ's work of revealing truth about God and the application of His character within the heart/mind of the believer. Taking away the daily represents the false god constructs that have supplanted the truth Christ brought in the minds of people. This is what Paul was referring to in 2Thes when the man of sin would arise and set himself up in God's temple proclaiming himself to be God. Does this give insight as to why it would take 2300 years for the sanctuary to be cleansed?

What is God trying to accomplish?

“Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. ²³ I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes. ²⁴ ‘For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. EZ 36:22-27

Thoughts? Does this have any bearing on Revelation 14:7, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come”?

How do we give glory to God? How is God glorified? When He restores His image in us, when we have characters like His who gets the credit?

WEDNESDAY

Is about Vows and Oaths – why is it important that we keep our word?

If a parent tells their first grade child that they will give them \$10 for a 100% on a spelling bee and the child brings home a 100% but the parent doesn't give the money, what does the parent teach the child? That the parent cannot be trusted!

What if the parent says, if you don't put away your toys you cannot have dessert tonight after dinner. And the child doesn't put away the toys and when the dessert is being served and the child isn't getting one, the child begins to cry and wail and the parent gives a dessert anyway. What does the parent teach the child? That the parent cannot be trusted!

What impact does this have on the child? Increases fear and anxiety, just as Adam, when he believed lies about God and therefore believed God could not be trusted experienced fear and rebelled. Likewise, when we don't keep our word with our children we give them a real reason not to trust us and increase their distrust in us and thereby increase the amount of fear and anxiety with which they struggle. This generally leads to more acting out of various kinds as the children seek for something stable and reliable in which to trust and thereby reduce their fear and anxiety – and until they find it they remain in rebellion seeking to watch out for themselves!

Read first paragraph, "It's one thing..." thoughts? Do you accept this statement as always true? What about Rahab? What did she do? Hid the spies and lied about it when asked. Yet where do we find her in the Bible? The hall of faith in Hebrews, why is she there? Because Rahab lied while trusting in God or exercising faith in God, how can that happen?

What did Rahab know about God? Not much, only that He was powerful and the Holy Spirit convicted her that He was the true God and not her pagan gods. She made a choice to put herself on God's side and put her life on the line to protect others. This was an act of faith, but did she know about God's character, methods, principles? No she didn't know much, she was a child wanting to her best to be on God's side. God looked at her hearts desire to please Him not her specific performance.

Analogy: your toddler wanting to help you weed the garden picks a small tomato plant and holds it up with a big smile, "help mommy!" Do you punish the child? Is the child disobedient? Is the performance perfect?

Do the circumstances matter or should we just take rules, or prophetic writings and apply them blindly to all circumstances?

Listen to what EGW said about how some applied her writings:

My mind has been greatly stirred in regard to the idea, "Why, Sister White has said so and so, and Sister White has said so and so; and therefore we are going right up to it." God wants us all to have common sense, and He wants us to reason from common sense. Circumstances alter conditions. Circumstances change the relation of things. {5BIO 315.6}

Thoughts?

Read second paragraph, “In this immediate...” thoughts? Do circumstances matter? Should we keep every vow and promise regardless of circumstances or are there some vows or promises that need to be broken? Any examples?

Last paragraph EGW states, “The obligation to which one’s word is pledged—if it does not bind him to perform a wrong act—should be held sacred.”

Does she put conditions on keeping our word? Are there circumstances in which our word should not be kept? Examples?

A patient came to see me who was distraught because she had promised her mother, some years before, that she would never put her mother in a nursing home. Five years before coming to see me the patient’s mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s dementia. She had gradually worsened to the point of no longer knowing when, where, or who she was. She called her daughter “mamma” most of the time. She wandered around constantly, didn’t sleep through the night, saw people who weren’t there and required 24 hour a day care. What should the lady do? She was an only child, didn’t have monetary resources so had been trying to keep her promise all alone but was completely worn out. One evening, after my patient fell asleep on the couch her mother wandered out of the house and over to a neighbor’s and began screaming incoherently and the police were called. What should my patient do, keep her promise or break it?

What was the heart intent of the promise? To do what is best for her mother and in these circumstances, what was now best for mother?

Marriage vow? A Christian school teacher went to her pastor because her deacon husband has been violently abusing her for several years. She has been to the ER on more than one occasion with broken ribs, black eye, bloody lip. The pastor counseled with the husband on several occasions but the

abuse continued. There is no suggestion that her husband has had sexual relations with anyone else, should she stay married?

Has someone ever given you a vow or promise and you knew, at the time it was given, that they wouldn't/couldn't keep it?

I have patients who are in relationships with someone who cheats on them, after the cheating they express remorse, confess their wrong, promise never to do it again, yet cheat again. What is going on?

When Peter promised to die before betraying Jesus, was Peter lying? Why didn't Peter keep his promise?

THURSDAY

The Reubenites and Gadites came to Moses before they crossed Jordan and asked for land on the East side of the Jordan because they had herds and flocks and there was much pasture land there. Moses responded with concern that they were going to discourage the people from crossing the Jordan and entering into the promised land and therefore God's anger would burn against them.

They responded that they would take up arms and enter Canaan and fight with the others until the land was subdued and all the other tribes had their inheritance and then they would return to the East side of the Jordan where their women, children and flocks had remained.

What do you think about this?

SABBATH

Read memory text: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Thoughts about this text? Is God a singularity with one individuality or is God a plurality with perfect unity?

- Notice the passage in English uses “Lord” and “God”. The reading of this passage with the Hebrew names for “Lord” and “God” would go like this: “Hear, O Isreal: *Yahweh* our *Elohim*, *Yahweh* is One.” Or,
- What is interesting is that the word *Elohim* in Hebrew is plural and is the same word used for God in Genesis 1:26. Thus an accurate English reading might go like this: “The One is more than One yet is One”
- In Hebrew there are two words for one, *Yacheed* and *Echad*. The first indicates singular unity as in one and only, the second indicates compound unity, as the oneness of two or more. In this text *Echad* is used along with the plural name of God *Elohim* indicating the oneness of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Old Testament teaches God is a plurality, not a singularity:

- Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness... Genesis 1:26
- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made... He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him... No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known. John 1:1-3, 10, 18

Who was the Word that became flesh? Jesus, and Jesus was with God from the beginning and it was through Jesus that all things were made:

- For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Col 1:16,17

Wouldn't this mean Jesus Himself is God? Jesus did claim to be God:

- "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" John 8:58
- I and the Father are one." John 10:30

For more on the Trinity question please see my blog in the comeandreason.com archives at:

http://www.comeandreason.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=227:trinity-more-questions&catid=52:tims-blog-archive&Itemid=70

FRIDAY

Read questions 1-3 and discuss