

Numbers 27-30

December 11, 2011

Today we are going to look at Numbers **chapters 27 through 30**.

27:1-11 Who can tell us what we learn from chapter 27 verses 1 to 11?

- A family from the descendants of Manasseh (Joseph's son) has lost all of its males. The property among the tribes of Israel was passed down to the males. The women ask Moses to grant them their father's land, and he does. He then establishes a law of inheritance that describes how property is passed along if the father/owner has no sons or they have died.

27:12-14 What does God tell Moses in verses 12 to 14?

- God tells Moses to go up on a certain mountain from which he would see the **Promised Land**. He would not enter the land because of his disobedience when he struck the rock after God had instructed him to speak to the rock (**Numbers 20:1-12**).

27:15-23 What takes place in verses 15 to 23?

- Moses asks God about who will lead the people once he is gone. God tells him to appoint **Joshua** as his successor. Moses visually gives authority to Joshua by laying his hands on Joshua, a symbol of giving authority to him.

27:20 Do you notice anything unusual in verse 20?

- Moses would put "some" of his authority on Joshua. It seems that Joshua would not have all of the authority that Moses carried.

What do we learn about the leader/follower relationship in verse 20?

- The followers were to obey the leaders. **See Hebrews 13:17**. [17 obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with **joy** and not with **sorrow**. That would certainly not be for your benefit. **NLT**]

28 & 29 In chapters 28 and 29 we learn about several of the offerings that the Jews were to make. Why do you think that God had these annual offerings at these predetermined times?

- Having these offerings throughout the year would be a way of always bringing the people back to their relationship with God.

When did these offerings take place?

- There were daily offerings (**28:1-8**). There were Sabbath offerings (**28:9-10**). There were offerings at the beginning of each of the months (**28:11-15**). There were the Passover offerings on the **14th day** of the first month (**28:16-25**) in which seven days were devoted to the Lord. There were the first-fruit offerings on the first day of harvest that led into the Feast of Weeks (**28:31**). There was an offering on the first day of the seventh month (**29:1-6**), on the tenth day of the seventh month (**29:7-11**), and eight days of offerings beginning on the **15th day** of the seventh month (**29:12-40**).

Notice that during these times there were days when work was forbidden. You see this in 28:18,25, & 26 and in 29:1,12, & 35. (Continue)

Notice that during these times that the people would gather for "holy convocations". We see this in 28:18,25, &26 and in 29:1,7, & 12.

In 29:35 we hear for the first time about a “solemn assembly” which was a time of repentance and crying out to the Lord. See Joel 1:14 [14 Announce a time of fasting; call the people together for a solemn meeting. Bring the leaders and all the people of the land into the Temple of the Lord your God, and cry out to him there.] **And Joel 2:12-17.** [12 That is why the Lord says, “Turn to me now, while there is time. Give me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping, and mourning. 13 Don’t tear your clothing in your grief, but tear your hearts instead.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish. 14 Who knows? Perhaps he will give you a reprieve, sending you a blessing instead of this curse. Perhaps you will be able to offer grain and wine to the Lord your God as before. 15 Blow the ram’s horn in Jerusalem! Announce a time of fasting; call the people together for a solemn meeting. 16 Gather all the people, the elders, the children, and even the babies. Call the bridegroom from his quarters and the bride from her private room. 17 Let the priests, who minister in the Lord’s presence, stand and weep between the entry room to the Temple and the altar. Let them pray, “Spare your people, Lord! Don’t let your special possession become an object of mockery. Don’t let them become a joke for unbelieving foreigners who say, ‘Has the God of Israel left them?’”]

There was a reoccurring phrase throughout these two chapters that described the animals being offering up for sacrifice. What was it?

- The animals were to be “without defect” (28:3,9,11,19, & 31 and 29:2,8,13,17,20,23,26,29,32 & 36).

Why did these animals have to be “without defect”?

- They were pictures of **Jesus** who would be without any sin and would die on our place on the cross.

Look up and read the following passages:

Matthew 1:21: (21 And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.) **John 1:29:** (29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!) **John 10:11,17-18,** (11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. (17 “The Father loves me because I sacrifice my life so I may take it back again. 18 No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.”) **John 19:36-38,** (36 These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, “Not one of his bones will be broken,” 37 and “They will look on the one they pierced.” 38 Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus’ body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away.) **Luke 4:13,** (13 When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came.) **Hebrews 4:15,** (15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do; yet he did not sin.) **1 Peter 2:22,24** (22 He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. 24 He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.) & **3:18,** (18 Christ suffered* for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.) **Romans 5:6-8,** (6 When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. 7 Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. 8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.) **Hebrews 7:23-28** (23 There were many priests under the old system, for death prevented them from remaining in office. 24 But because Jesus lives forever, his priesthood lasts forever. 25 Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf. 26 He is the kind of high priest we need because he is holy and blameless, unstained by sin. He has been set apart from sinners and has been given the highest place of honor in heaven. 27 Unlike those other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices every day. They did this for their own sins first and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus did this once for all when he offered himself as the sacrifice for the people’s sins.

28 The law appointed high priests who were limited by human weakness. But after the law was given, God appointed his Son with an oath, and his Son has been made the perfect High Priest forever.) & **Hebrews 9:11-14**. (11 So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. 12 With his own blood—not the blood of goats and calves—he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever. 13 Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow could cleanse people’s bodies from ceremonial impurity. 14 Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.)

30:1-16 Chapter 30 talks about making vows and keeping them. Is there a different standard for males and females when they make vows?

- Yes! If a male makes a vow to God or a promise to others (a “binding obligation”), then he must do whatever he vowed or promised; he cannot fail to keep his word. If a woman who is under authority makes a vow, though, her father or husband can excuse her from that vow if he does so at the moment he learns that his wife or underage daughter has made the vow.

30:15 What do we learn about the husband (and presumably the father) in verse 15?

- If he fails to void the vow when he learns about it and then tries to do so later, then he shall be the one “guilty” of breaking that vow.

Turn with me to Psalm 15. Let’s read the entire chapter and notice the end of verse 4. What do these words mean?

1 Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord? Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? 2 Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts. 3 Those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends. 4 Those who despise flagrant sinners, and honor the faithful followers of the Lord, and keep their promises even when it hurts. 5 Those who lend money without charging interest, and who cannot be bribed to lie about the innocent. Such people will stand firm forever. There we learn the characteristics of a man who lives in God’s presence and is not shaken by the storms of life.

- This refers to someone who makes a promise and then later discovers that his promise will cost him more than he meant to pay. Because he has promised, though, he does what he said that he will do.

Turn with me and let’s read Ecclesiastes 5:4-6 (4 When you make a promise to God, don’t delay in following through, for God takes no pleasure in fools. Keep all the promises you make to him. 5 It is better to say nothing than to make a promise and not keep it. 6 Don’t let your mouth make you sin. And don’t defend yourself by telling the Temple messenger that the promise you made was a mistake. That would make God angry, and he might wipe out everything you have achieved.) What do these verses say about vows?

- We are to keep our vows and promises. It is a big deal to God when we don’t. The God who is on our side stands against us when we fail to keep our word.

Turn with me and let’s read Matthew 5:33-37 (33 “You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the Lord.’ 34 But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, ‘By heaven!’ because heaven is God’s throne. 35 And do not say, ‘By the earth!’ because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. 36 Do not even say, ‘By my head!’ for you can’t turn one hair white or black. 37 Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one.) What do we learn here?

- The essence of what Jesus is saying here is “Always keep your word. If you always keep your word, then you won’t have to ‘swear’ to get people to believe that you are being truthful this time.” It used to be said of people “their word was their bond”. This statement meant that you could always count on this person keeping his word.