

“The Pentateuch”
Numbers 17-18
Wednesday Nov 17, 2010

The Book of Numbers – teaches one of the hardest lessons to learn: “Our need to trust God rather than our own reason.”

- 1. Numbers 1:1-10:10 – Order and Organization**
- 2. Numbers 10:11-22:1 – Testings and Failures**

Numbers 15 – The Authority of The Word:

Numbers 16 – The Authority of The Leaders:

Numbers 17:1-13 – God’s Final Test of Authority
Numbers 18:1-32 – Human Responsibility

Numbers 17:1-13 – God’s Final Test of Authority:

Numbers 17:1-5 – Final Test of Authority: Numbers 17:1-5

God is determined once and for all to settle the issue of Aaron’s Authority as priest!

Rod or Staff – was always a symbol of authority. A shepherd used it to guide and correct his sheep – Psalm 23:4

Ex. 17:9

Jesus Christ, God’s ultimate authority, God incarnate, is called a Rod – Isaiah 11:1-2

Numbers 17:6-13 – God’s Choice: Numbers 17:6-11

The Rod (Jesus God’s Authority) a jar of Manna (Provision, Jesus – The Bread of Life) and the 10 Commandments (Requirements, Jesus – The Fulfillment of the Law)

James 2:13

Lessons From The Budding Rod of Aaron:

1. God Determines who has the Authority of a Leadership Role:

1 Tim 3:1-2

1 Tim 3:2-7

2. There Will Be Proof of God's Leadership, Which Will be Fruit:
(Budding Rod, ripe almonds)

Matt 7:16-20

3. Good Fruit is Produced In His Presence: Even something as dead as an old tree branch could once again be fruitful to God.

John 15:4-5

Heb 13:17

Numbers 17:12-13

How Do We Approach Today?

1. Through Sacrifice Of Jesus Christ, We Have Open Access: Heb 10:19-20
2. We Must Come To God in Reverence: Heb 4:16

Numbers 18:1-32 – Human Responsibility:

Numbers 18:1-2 – Duties of The Priests: Num 18:1-2

Numbers 15-17 – Deals With Authority – you shall bear the guilt in connection with the sanctuary; There is a Biblical Principle that states; Luke 12:48 "To whom much is given, much is required"

Responsibility is the other side of the coin of Authority!

James 3:1

2 Cor 5:10

Numbers 18:3-7 – Duties of The Levites: Numbers 18:3

Numbers 17:13

Nadab & Abihu, Lev 10

The priesthood was to keep God's dwelling pure and protect it from the iniquity that may taint it.

Numbers 18:4

The Levites – were to serve the priesthood. They were to be “joined” with you; the name Levi means “attached” or “joined”

Numbers 18:5-6

Lev 10:6 – Aaron and to his sons Eleazar and Ithamar

Numbers 18:7

“but the outsider who comes near shall be put to death.”

1. If the Levites overstepped their bounds, judgment would come and they would die.
2. If the Priest allowed a Levite to practice the office of the priests. The priest would be judged and die.

Numbers 18:8-19 – The Priests Provision: Numbers 18:8-19

Numbers 18:19 – It is an everlasting covenant of salt

There are 3 meanings behind the image of the salt:

1. Salt is a Very Pure Compound – This covenant was to remain pure; nothing added or taken away.
2. Salt is a Preservative – This speaks of the covenant being an enduring one.
3. Salt was Expensive – This was a valuable covenant.

Gal 6:6

1 Cor 9:13-14

1 Tim 5:17-18

Numbers 18:20-24 – The Levites Support & Inheritance: Numbers 18:20-21

While the priests lived off the offerings, the Levites were to live off the tithes of the people.

Malachi makes it clear that when the people didn't bring their tithes, it wasn't the Levites they were robbing but God.

Numbers 18:22-24

Psalms 16:5

Psalms 142:5

John 4:34

Numbers 18:25-32 – Levites Required to Tithe: Numbers 18:25-26

The Levites were to offer a tithe of the tithe back to God.

Numbers 18:27-32

Application:

1. God Chooses His Servants and Their Tasks:
2. God's Witness to His Chosen Servants Is Fruit:
3. With God's Authority Comes Human Responsibility:
4. God's Promise of Provision For His Servants: