

Numbers 5-6: Holiness & Blessing.

I. Holiness: 5-6:21

i. (1-4) Put Away The Unclean.

At this stage in Israel's progression to the Promised Land, they have been organized and ordered by God - now, they will be challenged to purity. God is looking to make Israel a Promised Land people - and that means a purified people.

ii. (5-10) Confess & Restore.

This is obviously a case of sinning against another person (such as with theft, Leviticus 5:14-6:7) or withholding from God that which belongs to Him - repaying that which was taken or withheld, and adding a 20% penalty.

If there is not a surviving kinsman to make restitution to, then the restitution payment must go to the LORD.

iii. (11-31) Concerning an Unfaithful spouse.

"This law was given partly to deter wives from adulterous practices, and partly to secure wives against the rage of their hard-hearted husbands, who otherwise might upon mere suspicions destroy them, or at least put them away." (Poole)

This offering was truly bitter, not sweet, because either a wife would be found guilty of adultery, or a husband found guilty of unfounded suspicion.

Marrieds are to be faithful, trustable and trustworthy.

1Corinthians 7:1-2 - *Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband.*

1Thessalonians 4:3 - *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;*

1Corinthians 6:18 - *Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.*

Adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bestiality, incest, masturbation, pornography...

iv. The Nazirite Vow (6:1-21).

The vow of the Nazirite was to express one's devotion to God.

There were several remarkable Nazirites in the Bible: Samson (Judges 13:5), John the Baptist (Luke 1:15), and Paul (Acts 18:18); Manoah's wife during her pregnancy with Samson (Judges 13:4).

The Nazirite was forbidden to eat or drink anything from grapes. The hair was to be allowed to grow all during the period of the vow. Dead bodies - even those of a close relative - were not to be approached during the vow of a Nazirite.

If one's vow was broken - perhaps by someone dropping dead next to the Nazirite! Then the Nazirite's hair was to be shaved off, sacrifice made, and the vow would begin all over again.

The vow of a Nazirite ended with a public ceremony, with extensive sacrifice: **One male lamb ... one ewe lamb ... one ram ... a basket of unleavened bread ... drink offerings.**

No wonder when Paul visited Jerusalem, he was invited to pay the expenses of some Christians who had taken a Nazirite vow and were ready to conclude it with this sacrifice (Acts 21:23-24). The Nazirite vow was not something that could be entered into lightly.

The priest and the Nazirite would sacrifice each item, and at the conclusion of the sacrifice, the vow would be completed.

Psalm 24:3-4 - *Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.*

1John 3:2-3 - *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.*

1 Peter 1:13-16 - *Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy.*

II. Blessing (6:22-27).

“The LORD bless you and **keep you**; The LORD make **His face shine upon you**, And be **gracious to you**; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you **peace**.” “So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.”

God loves to bless His people, and He loves to have leaders long that the people be blessed. This also recognizes that all blessing really comes from God; and without His blessing, all is futile.

Blessing included His presence, protection, grace, light and peace.

Genesis 1:22 - *And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”*

Genesis 12:2-3 - *I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

Numbers 22:12 - *And God said to Balaam, “You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.”*

Proverbs 10:22 - *The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.*

Who are blessed?

Those who; know and obey God, dwell in His presence, praise the LORD, trust in the LORD, are just, are righteous, are pure, are patient, are forgiven, are poor in spirit, are hungry, are grieved, are meek, are chosen for a particular purpose, walk by faith, are persecuted, are peacemakers, are merciful, are kind, die in the Lord and are invited to His Marriage Supper.