

Numbers 15-16 – Reminders & Rebellion.

These are reminders about the sacrificial law that was already given, which they were supposed to continue with after they get into the Promised Land.

I. 1-21: Grain, Drink & Wave Offerings.

The grain with the drink offering of wine are meant to accompany the blood sacrifices (ram, bull) in a burnt offering, fulfilling a vow, out of personal willingness, during appointed feasts, a peace offering or a wave/heave (thanksgiving) offering.

II. 22-31: Sin Offerings.

Unintentional sins needed blood atonement; a bull had to be sacrificed with the nation as a whole was guilty, and a female goat had to be sacrificed when an individual was guilty.

Presumptuous/intentional sin is outright rebellion against God, was punishable by death.

III. 32-36: Sabbath Violation & Penalty.

This was an immediate example of dealing with someone who sinned presumptuously; God commanded the execution of this presumptuous sinner, that all might fear.

IV. 37-40: Blue Tassels

These were intended to remind Israel to Whom they belonged; they were God's people.

“However, man's instinctive pride always has a way of perverting such good and holy commands of God; in Jesus' day, He directly rebuked the abuse of this command among the religious elite, speaking of how they would *enlarge the borders of their garments* in Matthew 23:5, making the tasseled area as conspicuous as possible, as an ostentatious display of their "holiness.””

Deuteronomy 8:1-3 - *“Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers. And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger,*

and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

V. 16:1-50: Rebellion.

Korah leads a gang against Moses and Aaron, accusing them of self-exaltation in executing their priestly duties and failure to lead them successfully into the Promised Land.

Korah, a descendant of Kohath, one of the sons of Levi were to take care of the Tabernacle furniture, but coveted a priestly position. **“Korah acted as if he is represented the people and fought for their interests. The truth was that he desired a following and a position for himself.”**

As anyone would expect, Moses and Aaron were angry and heart broken, so they forwarded the matter to the LORD; they were required to appear before the LORD so He would clarify on their duties, though some wouldn't.

1 Peter 2:1-3 - *Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,*

How to treat leaders:

i. Pray for them

1 Timothy 2:1 – *Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.*

ii. Do not bring a baseless accusation

1 Timothy 5:19-20 - *Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.*

iii. Respect

1 Timothy 5:17 - *Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of **double honor**, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.*

iv. Obedience

Hebrews 13:17 - *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*