



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 8, Day 1 --- Leviticus 19-21

Week 8, Day 2 --- Leviticus 22-23

Week 8, Day 3 --- Leviticus 24-25

Week 8, Day 4 --- Leviticus 26-27

Week 8, Day 5 --- Numbers 1-2

Week 8, Day 6 --- Numbers 3-4

Week 8, Day 7 --- Numbers 5-6

Week 8, Day 1 --- Leviticus 19-21

These laws can seem very restrictive, but what kind of community would exist if all these laws were kept? Which of these laws would you find hardest to obey? What would have to change for it to be easy to obey?

The punishments may seem harsh, but remember there were no prisons. In fact, the people were going to be living in tents and wandering in the desert for 40 years. There were two basic methods for keeping the people pure. One was the death of the offender. This applied to idolatry in any form and sexual sin. The second was restitution which was applied in any case of theft or negligence that caused material damage.

Week 8, Day 2 --- Leviticus 22-23

How do you treat something that is special? Special things get special treatment. God wants the people to recognize that He is special. He is unique and He is pure. The laws may seem difficult to understand and hard to follow, but they were a constant reminder that Jehovah God was different from all the gods of Egypt or any other people they might encounter.

It is easy when reading through Leviticus to think of God as a person who always says no. This isn't true. The celebrations in chapter 23 are a great illustration that God wants to say yes. Three times a year the Israelites were to gather as an entire people to celebrate God's provision for them. The first celebration came in the spring, around the time that we celebrate Easter, and was to remember the escape from Egypt and the Passover. The festivals begin and end with a special Sabbath when the people were to do no work. In between was a big party with much food and drink.

The second celebration was of the harvest. It came 50 days after the Passover celebration. It was to be a reminder that God provides. The third celebration came in the autumn. It is a long celebration that includes the Day of Atonement. After the Day of Atonement the people lived in tents or booths for a week. This celebration was to keep the people from forgetting that their ancestors lived in tents for a long time when they first came out of Egypt.

All of these celebration look up to God as the provider for Israel. They also look back at historical events to keep alive the memory of God's rescue of the people from Egypt.

Week 8, Day 3 --- Leviticus 24-25

God's desire was that the Israelites be a holy nation. The punishment in chapter 24 may seem extreme, but it should give you an idea how serious the offense was in God's eyes. Today people use the name of God or the name of Jesus so casually and negatively that it is hard to imagine a time when people were actually afraid to pronounce God's name. Stoning is a very personal form of execution. I think the reason for this form is that it involves the community in the process. Everyone who participated would be working to prevent this situation from occurring again in order to prevent having to go through another execution.

God owns everything. That is the basic principle of chapter 25. The Sabbath year for land is very good farming practice and the Amish people continue to use it to this day. Land needs rest just like people need rest. The year of Jubilee was a great concept. As far as I can tell from the Old Testament the Israelites never really practiced it. It required a great deal of trust and that never seems to have lasted very long with these people.

#### Week 8, Day 4 --- Leviticus 26-27

As you read through chapter 26 think about what kind of future the Israelites would have. If you were given these clear choices in terms of God's action toward you and your family, what would you do?

Chapter 27 is a bit of a mystery. There are no examples in the Old Testament of the Israelites doing what God instructs, so we don't understand exactly what is being described in this chapter. The principle that seems clear is that we can't give things to God and then take them back any time we want without paying a price. The other thing is that the price is greater than the value of the thing.

We are introduced to the concept of redemption and this is a very important concept. To redeem is to buy back. When we sin we are sold into slavery to Satan. The price to buy us back is the life of Jesus. That is how much we are worth to God.

#### Week 8, Day 5 --- Numbers 1-2

It would seem that during their first year in the desert the Israelites camped anywhere they wanted. The big thing was that when they started out Moses and Joshua lived outside the camp and God's presence with them was also outside the camp. In the beginning of their second year in the desert God begins to prepare them for conquering the land and organizes them. He also moves Himself from the outside of the camp to the center of the camp. This is where God should be in our lives – right at the center.

The tribes of Israel are listed in various ways throughout the Bible. Jacob had 12 sons and so 12 tribes. For some reason there is no tribe of Joseph. Instead, we have the half tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. They are as large as the other tribes, but only count as a half a tribe each. I find it interesting that even after several hundred years the sons of Rachel (Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin) camp together instead of being mixed in with their brothers.

This is a hard book to read because there are many difficult names and much repetition. I encourage you to stay with it. There are some wonderful and important stories in this book mixed in with all the counting.

#### Week 8, Day 6 --- Numbers 3-4

Have you noticed how organized everything is? God has a plan for everything. Look at the way the camp is organized. In the middle is the tabernacle. Around the tabernacle is the tribe of Levi. These are the priests and workers in the tabernacle. Priests are to be a bridge between God and the people and here are the Levites between the presence of God in the tabernacle and that people. Outside the circle of the Levites are the rest of the tribes.

What are some practical reasons for organizing the people this way?

#### Week 8, Day 7 --- Numbers 5-6

How do you get rid of jealousy? At this time women were definitely second-class citizens. That isn't God's design, but it was the reality. The testimony of a woman was not valid in court. So, if a husband suspected his wife of adultery there was nothing she could do to convince him otherwise. God provided a way. God provided a super-natural way for a woman to prove her innocence. This doesn't mean that the husband automatically would forget his jealousy. It does mean that in the community she would be proven faithful. It is important to remember this section because it explains why it was so hard on a woman to be without a child. The assumption would be that she was under a curse.

I have no idea why anyone would voluntarily take the Nazirite vow. However, there are several examples in the Old Testament of people who take this vow. The key is that when you make a vow to God you had better keep it.

The final thing is a blessing from God to His people.

#### Number 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

I pray this blessing for you and I pray that you will turn your face toward God so that you can see and experience His grace and have peace.