

## Numbers Chapter 15

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V: 1-2 “When” you go into the land: They’ve just been turned around and told to go away from the promise land as a result of their faithlessness.

- “When” – this means that it will happen. A word of encouragement and comfort; after this passes, then.

**2 Thessalonians 2:16-17** “<sup>16</sup>Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, <sup>17</sup>comfort your hearts, and establish you in every good word and work.”

- There are times when through our disobedience, our faithlessness that we seemingly circumvent God’s plans for us, His intentions – but His plan, His purposes will all come to pass.

**Ephesians 1:9-10** “<sup>9</sup>Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: <sup>10</sup>That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him.”

V: 3-16 When you go into the land, these are the sacrifices:

- Burnt offerings, free will offerings, meat offerings, drink offerings, peace offerings. The same law for all.
- Most notably there were the burnt offerings and the free will offerings; spontaneous acts of worship and thanks giving to God.
- The phrase “sweet savour” is mentioned 5X’s in this passage: meaning pleasing and acceptable to God.
- **This is the point, the admonition in these verses: to be pleasing to our God.**

V: 17-21 A type of “meat” offering, the first fruits of the dough for a “heave” offering, holding it up to the Lord, then burning it upon the altar.

V: 22-29 If – being generous, could just as easily be “when”.

- If they err / sin – fall short accidentally or in ignorance – this is the process to restoration the sacrifices required:
  1. Burnt offering: dedication or in this case re-dedication.
  2. Meat offering: representing the “Bread of Life” – Jesus.

3. Sin offering: again, representing Jesus, our atoning sacrifice.

- **The children are being instructed to seek the Lord.** When they sin, they are to come to the Lord with their sacrifice so that they'll be forgiven.

V: 25 & 26 “... *it shall be forgiven them...*”

V: 30-31 “But” – important contrast – the soul who does aught “presumptuously” / “willfully” – intentionally – that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

- To sin presumptuously is to sin without any fear of God.
- The Apostle Paul describes those whose throat is an open sepulcher; tongues of deceit, uttering curses, those who are swift to shed blood, destruction and misery are in their ways...

Then Paul says:

**Romans 3:18** “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

- He shall die, and he brought it upon himself.

**Numbers 14:44** “But they presumed to go up unto the hill top...”

- Where they were defeated and died at the hands of the enemy.
- To hear, to be told, to know what God's word says on a subject, then to ignore it and do the opposite – that which opposes – is to despise the word of the Lord.
- That soul shall be utterly cut off, it's on him; his blood is upon himself.
- **The admonition, the instruction here is to fear the Lord.**

V: 32-36 A practical example of someone who knew about God's word had to say about the Sabbath. This person went out anyway in violation of the Sabbath.

VV: 31 “Because he hath despised the word of the Lord, and hath broken His commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.”

- Because he had no fear of the Lord.

V: 37-41 Make fringes or tassels upon your garments as a reminder of the commandments, a way of remembering.

- Blue – a reminder of heaven.
- They would place these tassels on the four corners of their outer garments.

- Jesus observed this: When he was on the way Jairus' house to heal his daughter:

**Luke 8:43-44**

“<sup>43</sup>And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, <sup>44</sup>came behind Him, and touched the border of His garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanch'd / dried up.”

- It was to be throughout their generations; thus Jesus wore the tassels, and observant or orthodox Jews wear the “Tallit”, no longer as an outer garment, but it has the tassels which serve as a reminder to keep and fulfill the law of the Lord.
- **The point here is to remember the Lord, not to forget the word of the Lord.**

**Psalm 103:2**

“Bless the Lord, O my soul: and forget not all His benefits.”

“<sup>41</sup>*I am the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the Lord your God.*” – Authority!

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## *Numbers Chapter 16*

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V: 1 Korah: (bald), a Kohathite, a Levite. Korah's father Izhar was the brother of Amram, Moses & Aaron's father, meaning Korah, Moses, and Aaron were cousins.

- Dathan: (fountain) & Abiram: (my father is exalted) & On (richness) all Reubenites.
- Chart – 1 camp. Chart – 2 neighbors.

V: 2-3 Korah, Dathan, Abiram, On, and 250 chief “princes” / “men of renown” – leaders.

- Rose up against Moses and against Aaron.
- “You take too much upon yourself”
- “We're all just as holy as you are...”

This is chapter 12 Déjà vu all over again: Moses must think it's like ground hog day all over again.

**Numbers 12:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. <sup>2</sup>And they said, hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? Hath he not spoken also by us? And the Lord heard it.”

V: 4 Again Moses' first response is that he falls on his face – seeking the Lord 1<sup>st</sup>, then responding to the situation accordingly.

V: 5-11 Undoubtedly the things that Moses now speaks, chastening Korah and the group, is coming from God through Moses.

- V: 7 God turns it around to them; you take too much upon yourselves.
- Wasn't it enough that you had the privilege of taking care of the Holy things?

**1 Timothy 6:6** "But godliness with contentment is great gain."

- God is the One who appoints men to ministry, not men.

**Psalm 75:6-7** "6For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. 7But God is the judge: He putteth down one, and sitteth up another."

V: 12-14 Moses calls to Dathan and Abiram – and they refuse to comply.

- You brought us out of a land flowing with milk & honey = Egypt!?! (Distorted perspective)
- Now we get to it; "you didn't give us what we want. (Tantrum!)
- Blame shifting; now it's Moses and Aaron's fault that they didn't go into the promise land.

V: 15-17 After school, behind the back stop!

- Moses is angry, he says to the Lord "don't listen to them".
- Everyone is to bring their censor – smoking fire pot for incense.

V: 18-22 It is now the next day: Everybody shows up with their censors at the door of the Tabernacle.

- Leviticus Ch. 10, the incident with Nadab & Abihu having offered strange fire before the Lord, then fire coming out from the Lord and destroying these men, Aaron's sons should have been a clue.
- When Korah and company actually show up with their censors it's because they thought they were right, that somehow the evidence was on their side – knowing that they were about to stand before God's judgment.

**1 Corinthians 13:12** "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

- How many times did we think that we were right in something, only to find out later oh how wrong we were! Praise God for His grace and His mercy, and His patience, and His forgiveness.

- The glory of the Lord appears. The Lord speaks to Moses, “move away from this people so I can destroy them”.
- God is an excellent shot; He really doesn’t need Moses to move away, God could kill them easily without Moses having to move at all, they would just die all around him.
- This again brings Moses to that place of intercession on behalf of the people and on behalf of God’s reputation and name.
- Moses address God as: “... *the God of the spirits of all flesh...*”.

V: 23-30      Everyone get away from these “wicked” men, touch nothing of theirs less you be consumed with them.

- The people are warned to stay away from those with a rebellious spirit.
- Here’s how you’ll know that the Lord has sent me.
- If they die of old age, then God didn’t send me.
- They won’t die a normal death.
- The earth will open up and swallow them alive; they will go alive into the “pit”.
- “Pit” (H7585). she’ owl, or she’ol. Referring to Hades, the pit, the grave, the world of the dead – hell.

**Psalm 55:15**      “*Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.*”

V: 31- 35      “*And it came to pass...*”

- The ground opened up and swallowed them all up alive, and everyone connected to them, and they went straight to hell.
- Everyone even close to them began to run / panic; guilty conscience?
- Then God told the 250 men – “you’re fired.” Fire comes down from the Lord and consumes the 250 that were part of the rebellion.

**Romans 6:23**      “*For the wages of sin is death...*”

V: 36-40      Gather up the censers; they are holy because they were used to offer before the Lord.

- Make them into cover plates for the altar as a reminder to the people of what happened here today.

- Whenever the people saw the brazen plates upon the altar they would be reminded:

**Hebrews 10:31** “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

V: 41-45 The next day, “all” the people begin to murmur again!

- God said it would be 40 years in the dessert, but the people are seemingly intent on going much faster!
- The congregation gathers against Moses and Aaron; and God appears at the Tabernacle.
- Moses and Aaron instinctively draw near to God.
- The Lord again tells Moses to get out of the way.
- Moses and Aaron fall on their faces, seeking God’s face, interceding on behalf of the people.
- Notice that it’s always Moses and now Aaron falling on the faces; how come the people aren’t doing the same?

V: 46-50 There is an un-recorded part of this conversation where now Moses knows what is happening, and what to do about it.

- Moses instructs Aaron to take a censor, put fire from the altar into it – go into the midst of the people and make an atonement for them.
- Wrath / plague has broken out upon the people.
- As Aaron ran, then stood between the living and the dead, the plague was stayed.
- Aaron is holding the censor with the incense in it between the living and the dead; incense represents prayer – once again prayer makes the difference.

**Psalms 141: 2** “Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”

- 14,700 people die, along with those that died in connection to Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and the 250 leaders.
- The plague stopped because someone was willing to intercede.

Speaking of our Great High Priest Jesus:

**Hebrews 7:25-27** “<sup>25</sup>Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. <sup>26</sup>For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; <sup>27</sup>who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people’s: for this He did once, when He offered up Himself.”