

NUMBERS 18-21

THE JOURNEY

Chapter 18 Duties And Support Of Priests And Levites

Summary: God gives the duties of priests and Levites in the Tabernacle; the priests alone handle the furnishings and altar of burnt offerings (1-7). In return for their service, the priests receive a portion of the peoples' offerings (8-20). God provides for the Levites through the Israelites' tithe (10%) (21-24). The Levites in turn tithe to the priests (25-32).

Lesson: *As we as priests serve God, He meets our needs through Jesus.*

Chapter 19 The Laws Of Purification

Summary: Certain experiences render Israelites ceremonially unclean. Purification provides free fellowship with the Lord and His people. We see how contamination can occur and how to effect ceremonial cleansing. The laws of purification cover (1) the ashes of the red heifer (1-8), (2) the water of purification (9-13), and (3) the laws for sprinkling (14-22).

Lesson: *In Jesus "our hearts [are] sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water" (Heb. 10:22).*

Chapter 20 Trials In The Wilderness

Summary: In the 40th year Israel arrives at Kadesh. The people complain of no water. The Lord tells Moses to speak to the rock, but he strikes the rock twice in anger. His and Aaron's disobedience forfeits entrance to the Promised Land (1-13). Edom refuses to let Israel travel through its land, so they must detour to the east (14-21). Aaron dies on Mt. Hor (22-29).

Lesson: *"To whom much is given...much will be required" (Lk 12:48).*

Chapter 21 Victories In The Wilderness

Summary: The Israelites have victory over the Canaanites (1-3). Their complaining brings poisonous snakes and death from God. Victory over sin and healing come through their look of faith toward the bronze serpent on a pole (4-9). Jesus likens this to the believer's look of faith toward Him on the cross for complete salvation [Jn. 3:14-16]. They then have victory over Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, king of Bashan (10-35).

Lesson: *Look to Jesus for victory over all enemies and all sins.*