

Session 26

Numbers III

15:37 Tassels on the prayer shawl. Represent the Law. Remember to keep them and to be holy.

Ch 16: rebellion by 250 men from tribe of Levi and Reuben. Reuben was Jacob's first son. Now Judah was government and Levi were the priests; why should Aaron be in charge? You've taken too much upon yourself....the congregation is *holy*. Why do you put yourself above them?

Rebelling against Aaron who is chief priest. Sarcastic comment about Moses leading the people. Won't meet with him.

Moses has them all come to the Tent with censors with incense. All the people are to watch. They have disregard for God and Moses.

Leaders of the rebellion are swallowed up alive by the earth as predicted by Moses as a sign. People are struck with awe. Then fire came from the Cloud and consumed the rest of the 250. Metal from those censors are beaten for a covering for the altar as a remembrance.

Next day the people murmured against Moses and Aaron. God strikes them with a plague. Aaron intercedes with incense and the plague stops. 14,700 are affected. He stands between the living and the dead.

God had shown complete support for the priesthood of Aaron.

Ch 17: Another demonstration of Aaron's authority. A rod from each leader of each tribe is put in the Tabernacle. The name of Aaron is put on the rod from the tribe of Levi.

Aaron's rod blossomed with buds and ripe almonds (watching tree from Jeremiah). God is watching, looking for fruit. Aaron's rod bore fruit. People are convinced.

Ch 18: Levites are a gift to Aaron-to take care of the sanctuary. Only Aaron can go behind the veil and touch the sacred vessels.

Offerings are holy. Aaron and his sons can eat them in a special place. The offerings belong to them; everything in the Land can be used by the priests.

Levites will have no inheritance of land when they get to Canaan. "I AM their inheritance and portion. Will be supported by tithes for the ministry they do for the people.

Levites are liberated from the work and cares of the world so they can devote themselves to service.

Levites have to give a tithe of the tithe to support the priests.

Ch 19 : Ashes of the red heifer. Purification. Sprinkled to cleanse people.

Ch 20: Miriam dies. Time is difficult to tell. Based on Deut 2:14, 38 years may have gone by. Most of the adults that left Egypt are dead.

People grumbled about lack of water: should have stayed in Egypt; no water, no food. Evil place.

Moses and Aaron fell on their faces and the Glory of the LORD appeared. He told them take the rod of Aaron and speak to the rock and water will come for everyone.

Moses acted hastily; spoke to the people and *struck* the rock. Water for all the people and animals came out.

Moses did not believe God. V12: Moses **will not** lead the people into the Land.

Meribah : contended with God about water.

Aaron also disobeyed at Meribah. He shall not enter the Land.

Arrive at Mount Hor. Moses, Aaron and Eleazer went to top of Mt. Hor. Moses took garments off Aaron and put them on Eleazer.

Aaron dies on Mt. Hor. Peaceful death; sees the camp and distant view of the Promised Land. All Israel mourned for 30 days.

Ch 21: unable to go through the land of Edomites. Have to go around; by the red Sea! People grumbled again; why did we ever leave Egypt, no water, no food, they loathe this

light bread. Cursed the manna even though it supported them all those years. People were very discourages about this journey after having been so close to Canaan.

V6 the LORD sent fiery serpents and many died. People then repented to Moses and he prayed for them. Moses is intercessor again.

Moses is told to make a bronze serpent and put it on a pole. If the people look at it they will be healed.

They must look individually. Corresponds to looking at the Cross individually. Another representation of sin and the “cure.” Shows that it is God’s Grace and not a natural cure.