

Week 1—Numbers 6:1-21

Begin each day of your study by asking the LORD to speak to you through His Word.

Day 1

1. Read Numbers 6:1-21 and then Leviticus 21:1-24. Compare and contrast the guidelines for the Nazirites, priest and High Priest below:

Nazirite

Priests

High Priest

2. Who is the Nazirite closer to? What does this tell us about this vow? How does Exodus 19:6 relate to this? What about 1 Peter 2:9?

Day 2

1. Read Numbers 6:1-8. Who can take this vow? Why is that significant? How is this a foreshadowing of Galatians 3:28?

A special vow—According scholar Robert B. Allen in *The Expositor's Commentary on Numbers*, “This vow...does not describe a routine matter or even an expected act of devotion one might make from time to time. It is an act of unusual devotion to God, based perhaps on an intense desire to demonstrate to the Lord one's utter separation to Him.”

2. What are the three things a Nazirite cannot do? Why do you think it's specifically those three things?

3. In your opinion, why would someone want to take this vow? Who are some other Biblical characters who were Nazirites?

Dedication to the LORD—Again Allen is helpful here, “This is where the text lays its primary stress; the prohibitions were means of achieving the sense of separation. The Nazirite vow was not just an act of superior self-discipline, an achieving of a spiritual machismo; it was to be regarded as a supreme act of total devotion to the person and work of the Lord that would override certain normal and expected patterns of behavior.”

Day 3

1. Read Numbers 6:6-12. What do these verses say (see also Leviticus 5:2-5)? How does this make you feel?

2. What can this teach us about sin, even if it's unintentional? What does it teach us about God?

3. Can you think of any examples of unintentional sin we may fall into? Hint: Often these may be a part of the “principalities and powers” Paul writes about in Ephesians 6:12. I will give one example below to get you started...

a. consumerism that leads to systemic global poverty

b.

c.

d.

4. What does God want you to know about these things?

Day 4

1. If all the Bible points to Jesus, how does this passage show Jesus as “the final and perfect Nazirite” even though Jesus turned water into wine (John 2:1-11), and regularly touched corpses and brought them back to life (e.g. Luke 8:54, 55)?

2. How was Jesus “consecrated” (set apart) like a Nazirite? What was His purpose?

3. Read Numbers 6:13-21. What does the Nazirite get to do after their vow is completed? Though it was costly, why would they have considered this a special opportunity?

4. What will we get to do with God that a Nazirite could not as a result of Jesus not just offering His hair, but His whole body as a sacrifice? See Luke Matthew 22:1-14, Revelation 19:6-10;

Day 5

1. What would you say is the point of this passage for us today?

2. This vow required separation or *consecration*. How are followers of Jesus set apart or consecrated today? What does this mean for how we are to live?

3. What do the following verses say about what it means for followers of Jesus to be consecrated to Him?

Romans 12:1-2—

1 John 1:5-7—

1 Peter 1:13-16—

1 Peter 2:9-12

1 Peter 3:10-13

Ephesians 4:1-3

4. In your opinion, what difference would this make if we lived this way to the world around us?

Conclusion

1. What most stood out to you as you studied Numbers 6:1-21 this week? *Why* do you think this was the case?
2. What is the Holy Spirit prompting you to *do* as a result of this? Be prepared to share with your group!