

A Study in the Book of Numbers



By Cecilia Perh



Entrusting the Word
to the Faithful

Numbers in the Pentateuch

Genesis	Exodus	Leviticus	Numbers	Deuteronomy
ORIGINS of the nation	DELIVERANCE of the nation	LIFE of the nation	TEST of the nation	REMINDERS to the nation
THEOCRACY BORN	THEOCRACY ESTABLISHED		THEOCRACY TESTED AND PREPARED FOR THE NEW HOME	

COVENANT
IS AMPLIFIED
“Keep my covenant to be a peculiar treasure:
“Kingdom of priests”
“holy nation”
(Exo. 19:5-6)

LAWS
ARE
PRESCRIBED
“which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD”
(Lev. 18:5)

Irvin L. Jensen, p 102
(Jensen’s Survey of the OT)

The theme of Numbers is the consequence of disbelief and disobedience to the holy God. The Lord disciplined His people but remained faithful to His covenant promises in spite of their fickleness.

Numbers displays the patience, holiness, justice, mercy, and sovereignty of God toward His people.

It teaches that there are no shortcuts to His blessings – He uses trials and tests for specific purposes.

Numbers was written to trace the history of Israel’s wanderings from Sinai to Moab. But the fact that there was almost no record of the 38 years of wandering shows that Numbers is a very thematic history. It selects those events that are important to the development of God’s redemptive program. The sins of the first generation were written as a reminder and a warning to the second generation. They must implicitly trust God before they can possess the land of blessing.

Theme and Purpose

The Generation of Those Who Had Come Out of Egypt

Preparation

- organization
- consecration
- instruction

The Test

- of faith
- of obedience

The Judgment

- wandering
- death

Wilderness

SINAI

KADESH

A New Generation

Reorganisation

- repair

Plains of Moab

MOAB





Crisis Time at Kadesh-barnea

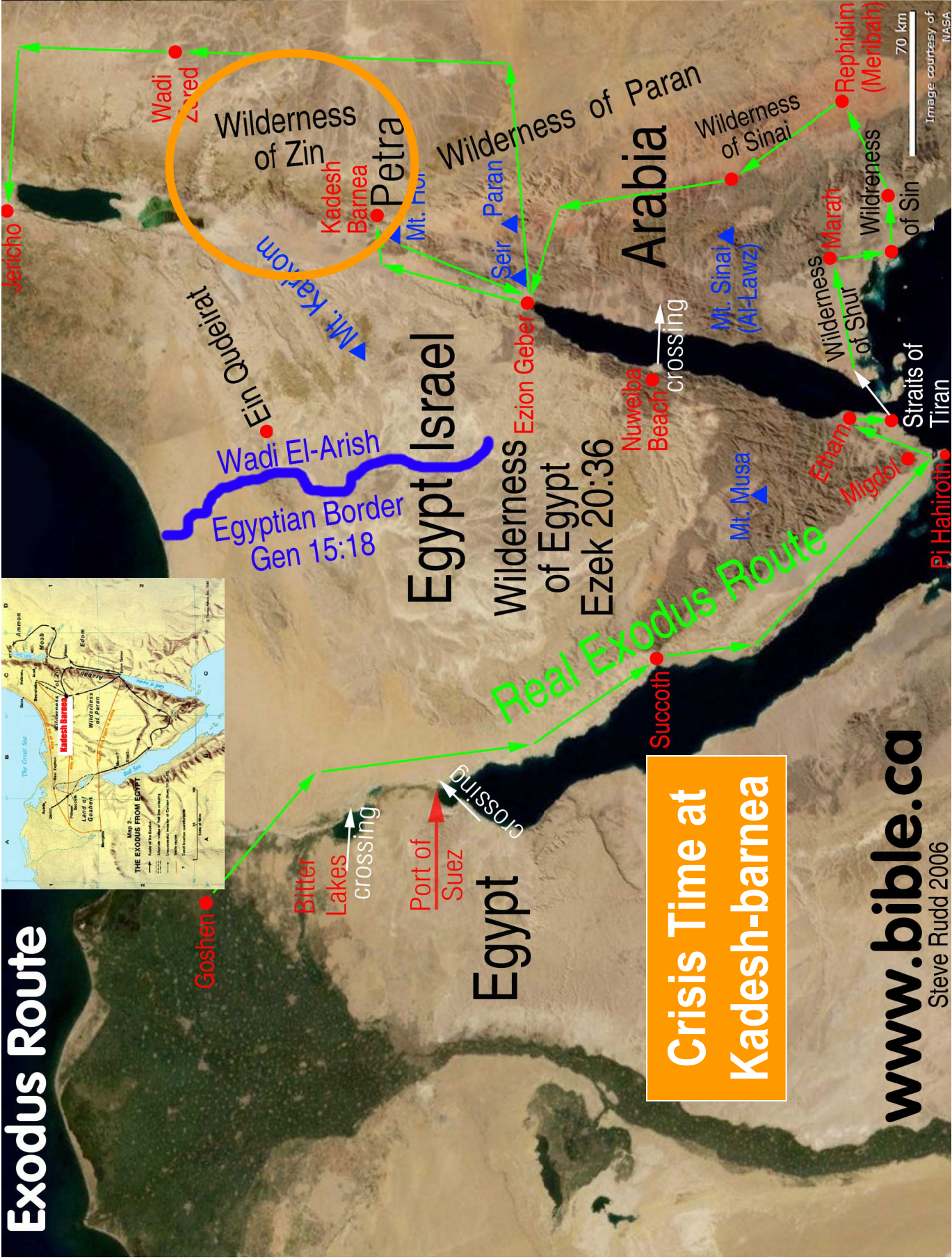
Israel committed at least 5 blatant sins and God's children today can commit these same sins and suffer the same kind of shameful defeat:

1. **Doubting God's Word (13:1-29)**
2. **Discouraging God's People (Num 13:31-33; Deut 1:26-28)**
3. **Defying God's Will (Num 14:1-10)**
4. **Deserving God's Judgment (Num 14:11-38)**
5. **Disobeying God's Command (Num 14:39-45; Deut 1:41-46)**

Kadesh-barnea = defeat and lost opportunities



Exodus Route



**Crisis Time at
Kadesh-barnea**

www.bible.ca

Steve Rudd 2006

BIRTH PANGS

GOSPEL PREACHED INTO WHOLE WORLD

And then... the End shall come!

BIRTH

SAINTS WILL BE PURGED, PURIFIED and REFINED

Crisis Time for the whole world

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE TIMES

- religious deceivers
- wars, rumors of wars, disturbances
- famines, earthquakes, plaques
- terrors, great signs from heaven
- persecution of believers
- apostasy
- false Christs and false prophets
- lawlessness increased
- love of many grow cold

Michael shall arise

THE GREAT TRIBULATION or THE TRIBULATION
Days cut short for the elect's sake

Little horn will devour, tread down, crush the whole earth, He wages war with saints overpowers them wears them down alters time and law Dominion will be annihilated Destruction is decreed

- destroyed without human agency

10 horns
Little horn

- uproots 3 horns
- battles with kings of the South and the North
- other countries, the Beautiful Land, and Egypt
- Edom, Moah and Ammon rescued
- destroys many who are at ease

Covenant made for one week

ISRAEL BECOMES A NATION
ISRAEL TAKES ISRAEL JERUSALEM

THRONES SET UP ANCIENT OF DAYS SON OF MAN

• Rescue
• Resurrection
• Reward

Stone cut without hands
God's eternal indestructible Kingdom
• the Highest One
• saints
• people of the saints

TRIBUTES MOURN



1948 1967

1290 days 1335 days

Power of Holy People Blessedness Shattered (Dan 12:7)

Sacrifice and Grain Offering stopped Abomination of Desolation

Complete destruction on one who makes desolate (Dan 12:7)

Not drawn to scale

- **The entire experience at Kadesh-barnea teaches us that there is no substitute for faith in God's promises and obedience to His commandments.**
- **Faith is simply obeying God in spite of how we feel, what we see, or what we think might happen.**
- **When God's people trust and obey Him, the Lord delights in doing wonders for them, because they glorify His name.**
- **“Real true faith is man's weakness leaning on God's strength” (D L Moody). It is taking God at His Word and proving it by obeying what He tells us to do.**

Kadesh-barnea = defeat and lost opportunities



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

The Old Generation			The Tragic Transition				The New Generation																						
1	4	5	10:10	10:11	14	15	16	17	20	21	25	26	30	31	33	34	36												
Counting and Ordering of the People			Cleansing of the People			Complaints and Disbelief of the People			Instructions for Life in Canaan			The Rebellion of Korah			Aaron, the Levites and Moses			Serpent of Brass and Story of Balaam			Second Census and Laws of Israel			Settling east of Jordan			Preparations for Settling in Canaan		
Preparation			Preparation			Postponement			Postponement			Promise			Promise			Promise			Promise			Promise					
Waiting			Waiting			Wandering			Wandering			Waiting			Waiting			Waiting			Waiting			Waiting					
Census, Instruction, Travel			Census, Instruction, Travel			-			-			-			-			-			-			-					
At Sinai			At Sinai			To Moab			To Moab			To Moab			To Moab			To Moab			To Moab			To Moab					
Sinai to Kadesh			Sinai to Kadesh			Wilderness			Wilderness			Wilderness			Wilderness			Wilderness			Wilderness			Wilderness					
Preparation for the Journey			Preparation for the Journey			The Journey			The Journey			The Journey			The Journey			The Journey			The Journey			The Journey					
About 2 months (39%)			About 2 months (39%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)			38 years (17%)					
Mobilizing the People Numbers 1-9			Mobilizing the People Numbers 1-9			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19			Displeased with His People Numbers 10-19					
Getting Ready to Possess the land			Getting Ready to Possess the land			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD			Steps to Disqualify Self from Serving the ORD					
Structuring			Structuring			Testing			Testing			Testing			Testing			Testing			Testing			Testing					
Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring			Enduring					

Numbers 15 - This chapter, which is mostly concerning sacrifice and offering, comes in between the story of two rebellions (one ch. 14, the other ch. 16), to signify that these legal institutions were typical of the gifts which Christ was to receive even for the rebellious, Psa 68:18. In the foregoing chapter, upon Israel's provocation, God had determined to destroy them, and in token of his wrath had sentenced them to perish in the wilderness. But, upon Moses' intercession, he said, "I have pardoned;" and, in token of that mercy, in this chapter he repeats and explains some of the laws concerning offerings, to show that he was reconciled to them, notwithstanding the severe dispensation they were under, and would not unchurch them. Here is,

- I. The law concerning the meat-offerings and drink-offerings (Num_15:1-12) both for Israelites and for strangers (Num_15:13-16), and a law concerning the heave-offerings of the first of their dough (Num_15:17-21).
- II. The law concerning sacrifices for sins of ignorance (Num_15:22-29).
- III. The punishment of presumptuous sins (Num_15:30, 31), and an instance given in the sabbath-breaker (Num_15:32-36).
- IV. A law concerning fringes, for memorandums, upon the borders of their garments (Num_15:37, etc.).

Matthew Henry on Numbers Chapter 15



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

v1-31 Various Offerings

1 **Now** the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, 'When you enter the land where you are to live, which I am giving you, 3 then make an offering by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering or a sacrifice to fulfill a special vow, or as a freewill offering or in your appointed times, to make a soothing aroma to the LORD, from the herd or from the flock.

4 And the one who presents his offering shall present to the LORD a grain offering of one-tenth of an ephah of fine flour mixed with one-fourth of a hin of oil, 5 and you shall prepare wine for the libation, one-fourth of a hin, with the burnt offering or for the sacrifice, for each lamb.

Numbers 15:141 – Laws for the Promised Land



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

- **15:1–41 Even though the Israelites had rebelled against the Lord and were under His judgment, the Lord still planned to give the land of Canaan to them. These laws assumed Israel’s entrance into the Land (15:2, 17).**

Why Speak of these Offerings?

 **E**ntrusting the Word to the Faithful

v1-31 Various Offerings

6 'Or for a ram you shall prepare as a grain offering two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with one-third of a hin of oil; 7 and for the libation you shall offer one-third of a hin of wine as a soothing aroma to the LORD. 8 And when you prepare a bull as a burnt offering or a sacrifice, to fulfill a special vow, or for peace offerings to the LORD, 9 then you shall offer with the bull a grain offering of three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with one-half a hin of oil; 10 and you shall offer as the libation one-half a hin of wine as an offering by fire, as a soothing aroma to the LORD.

15:4 ephah = to 4 to 6 gallons

15:4 hin = 6 to 8 pints

Numbers 15:1-41 – Laws for the Promised Land



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Supplementary Grain and Drink Offerings

Burnt and Freewill Offerings

Supplementary Offerings

All offerings 2 quarts of flour mixed with 1 quart of oil

Lamb 1 quart of wine

Ram 4 quarts of flour mixed with 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ quarts of oil and 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ quarts of wine

Bull 6 quarts of flour mixed with 2 quarts of oil and 2 quarts of wine

One ephah = $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel, about 8 quarts

These burnt and freewill offerings were not sin or guilt offerings, since their form and content were invariable (Lev. 4:1-6:7); these were votive, fellowship, and thank or praise offerings (Lev. 1-3). All the people of Israel were enjoined to make these offerings whether they were native-born or alien (Num_15:13-16).



v1-31 Various offerings

11 'Thus it shall be done for each ox, or for each ram, or for each of the male lambs, or of the goats.

12 According to the number that you prepare, **so you shall do for everyone according to their number.** **13 All who are native shall do these things in this manner, in presenting an offering by fire, as a soothing aroma to the LORD.**

NUMBERS 15:1-41 – LAWS FOR THE PROMISED

 **E**ntrusting the Word to the **F**airtnful **L**and

- **Please the Lord (15:1-21) – “a soothing aroma to the Lord” (v3,7,10, 13-14)**
 - the 5 basic offerings were the burnt, grain and peace offerings (soothing aroma offerings), sin and guilt offerings (not soothing aroma offerings because they deal with sin and guilt)
- The burnt offering typified the worshiper’s complete devotion to God, for the animal was totally consumed on the altar.
- The grain offering spoke of the worshiper’s dedication of his labour to the Lord.
- The peace offering represented joyful fellowship and thanksgiving to God for His blessings.
- These sacrifices were spontaneous expressions of love and gratitude to God.

The “Soothing Aroma Offerings”

- Christians today see in the “fine flour” a picture of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life (John 6) who offered Himself to God for as “as a fragrant aroma” (Eph 5:2).
 - The flour also acknowledges God as the generous source of all our food.
 - The oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit (Zech 4).
 - The wine reminds us of the joy of the Lord (Ps 104:15).
- It pleases the heart of God when His people spontaneously thank Him for the material and spiritual blessings that He sends so faithfully and bountifully.
- The drink offering, poured out at the base of the altar, symbolized life poured out for God.
- Jesus “poured out Himself to death” (Isaiah 53:12) so that those who trust Him might have eternal life.
- As we serve the Lord sacrificially, we’re like a “drink offering”, poured out in the service of others and to the glory of God (Phil 2:17; 2 Tim 4:6).

The “Soothing Aroma Offerings”

v1-31 Various offerings

14 And **if** an alien sojourns with you, or one who may be among you throughout your generations, and he wishes to make an offering by fire, **as a soothing aroma to the LORD, just as you do, so he shall do.**

15 **As for the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the alien who sojourns with you, a perpetual statute throughout your generations; as you are, so shall the alien be before the LORD. 16 There is to be one law and one ordinance for you and for the alien who sojourns with you."**

Numbers 15:1-41 – Laws the Promised Land



- **The aliens who lived among the Jews were permitted to bring “soothing aroma” offerings to the Lord (v14-16), but nothing is said here about them being circumcised (Ex 12:48)**
- **Even the Jewish boys weren’t given the mark of circumcision during Israel’s years of wandering because the nation had rebelled against God and broken His covenant.**
- **The males in the new generation were marked with the covenant sign when they entered the Promised Land (Joshua 5:1-8)**

The Resident Aliens

v1-31 Various Offerings

17 **Then** the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 18 "Speak to the sons of Israel, and say to them, 'When you enter the land where I bring you, 19 then it shall be, that when you eat of the food of the land, you shall lift up an offering to the LORD. 20 Of the first of your dough you shall lift up a cake as an offering; as the offering of the threshing floor, so you shall lift it up. 21 From the first of your dough you shall give to the LORD an offering throughout your generations."

Numbers 15:1-41 – Laws for the Promised Land



Num 15:1-21 Here we have,

- I. Full instructions given concerning the meat-offerings and drink-offerings, which were appendages to all the sacrifices of animals. The beginning of this law is very encouraging: *When you come into the land of your habitation which I give unto you, they you shall do so and so, Num_15:2.* This was a plain intimation, not only that God was reconciled to them notwithstanding the sentence he had passed upon them, but that he would secure the promised land to their seed notwithstanding their proneness to rebel against him....
- II. Natives and strangers are here set upon a level, in this as in other matters (Num_15:13-16): “*One law shall be for you and for the stranger that is proselyted to the Jewish religion.*” Now,
 1. This was an invitation to the Gentiles to become proselytes, and to embrace the faith and worship of the true God. In civil things there was a difference between strangers and true-born Israelites, but not in the things of God; *as you are, so shall the stranger be before the Lord*, for with him there is no respect of persons. See Isa_56:3.
 2. This was an obligation upon the Jews to be kind to strangers, and not to oppress them, because they saw them owned and accepted of God. Communion in religion is a great engagement to mutual affection, and should slay all enmities....

Matthew Henry on Numbers 15:1-21



III. A law for the offering of the first of their dough unto the Lord. This, as the former, goes upon the comfortable supposition of their having come into the promised land, Num_15:18. Now that they lived upon manna they needed not such an express acknowledgment of God's title to their daily bread, and their dependence upon him for it, the thing spoke for itself; but in Canaan, where they should eat the fruit of their own industry, God required that he should be owned as their landlord and their great benefactor. They must not only offer him the first-fruits and tenths of the corn in their fields (these had already been reserved); but when they had it in their houses, in their kneading trough, when it was almost ready to be set upon their tables, God must have a further tribute of acknowledgment, part of their dough (the Jews say a fortieth part, at least, of the whole lump) must be heaved or offered up to God (Num_15:20, Num_15:21), and the priest must have it for the use of his family. Thus they must own their dependence upon God for their daily bread, even when they had it in the house with them; they must then wait on God for the comfortable use of it; for we read of that which was brought home, and yet God did blow upon it, and it came to little, Hag_1:9. Christ has taught us to pray not, Give us this year our yearly harvest, but Give us this day our daily bread. God by this law said to the people, as the prophet long afterwards said to the widow of Sarepta (1Ki_17:13), Only make me thereof a little cake first. This offering was expressly kept up by the laws of Ezekiel's visionary temple, and it is a commandment with promise of family-mercies (Eze_44:30): You shall give unto the priest the first of your dough, that he may cause the blessing to rest in thy house; for, when God has had his dues out of our estates, we may expect the comfort of what falls to our share.

Matthew Henry on Numbers 15:1-21



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

v1-31 Various Offerings

22 **But** when you unwittingly fail and do not observe all these commandments, which the LORD has spoken to Moses, 23 even all that the LORD has commanded you through Moses, **from the day when the LORD gave commandment and onward throughout your generations, 24 then it shall be, if it is done unintentionally, without the knowledge of the congregation, that all the congregation shall offer one bull for a burnt offering, as a soothing aroma to the LORD, with its grain offering, and its libation, according to the ordinance, and one male goat for a sin offering.**

Numbers 15:1-41 – Laws for the Promised Land



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

v1-31 Various Offerings

25 **Then** the priest shall make atonement for all the congregation of the sons of Israel, **and they shall be forgiven; for** it was an error, and they have brought their offering, an offering by fire to the LORD, and their sin offering before the LORD, for their error. 26 **So all the congregation of the sons of Israel will be forgiven, with the alien who sojourns among them, for it happened to all the people** through error.

Numbers 15:1-41 – Laws for the Promised Land



v1-31 Various Offerings

27 'Also if one person sins unintentionally, **then** he shall offer a **one year old** female goat for a sin offering.

28 And the priest shall make atonement before the

LORD for the person who goes astray when he sins

unintentionally, making atonement for him **that he may**

be forgiven. 29 You shall have one law for him who

does anything unintentionally, for him who is native

among the sons of Israel and for the alien who sojourns

among them.

Numbers 15:1-41 – Laws for the Promised Land

 Etrusting the Word to the Faithful

Num 15:22-29 - The third category concerns **sin** offerings. These were made in atonement for the failure to keep any of the Lord's commandments unwittingly; that is, by unintentional neglect or omission. When **the whole community** was collectively guilty, they were to **offer a young bull as a burnt offering... along with the prescribed** accompanying offerings of **grain and drink**, and a **goat as the sin offering**.

The difference between the regulations here and those pertaining to the sin offerings in Lev_4:13-21 is that here the sins were of omission while those in Leviticus were of commission. Moreover, this passage in Numbers requires the offering of both a bull as a burnt offering and a male goat as a sin offering while Leviticus mentions only the bull as a sin offering. The reconciliation perhaps lies in the fact that in Numbers the bull as a sin offering was presupposed and was augmented by another bull offered as a burnt offering. The goat is mentioned with the bull but only in anticipation of the sin offering to be made for the individual ruler (not specifically mentioned here) who sins unwittingly. Leviticus also prescribes a male goat for the sin of the ruler (Lev_4:22-26) so there is really no conflict. As for an ordinary individual citizen, his sin of omission required the **offering of a female goat** (Num_15:27-29) precisely as stipulated in Lev_4:27-31.

Bible Knowledge Commentary on Numbers 15:22-29



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Seek the Lord (15:22-29)

Leviticus 1-7 deal with sins of commission but the instructions here deal with unintentional sins of omission, things the people should have done but didn't do.

The sin might be corporate and involved the entire nation (Num 15:24-26) or it might be the transgression of an individual (Num 15:27-29). Even though the people who sinned didn't realize their failure, what they didn't do was still a sin and had to be dealt with. "I didn't know" is not a valid excuse before God.

Sometimes we sin against the Lord by what we do, and sometimes by what we don't do (Luke 7:36-50). Sins of ignorance aren't automatically forgiven just because we unintentionally forget God's commands; these sins must be confessed to the Lord just as we confess sins of commission (1 John 1:9). The fact that God forgave sins of omission didn't mean that He was "easy on sin", because blood still had to be shed before the sinner could be forgiven.

The Authority of God's Word (15:1-41)



v1-31 Various Offerings

30 **'But** the person who does *anything* defiantly, whether he is native or an alien, that one is blaspheming the LORD; and that person shall be cut off from among his people. 31 **Because** he has despised the word of the LORD and has broken His commandment, **that person shall be completely cut off; his guilt shall be on him."**

Numbers 15:1-41 – Laws for the Promised Land



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Num 15:30-31 - The last regulation deals with a case of defiant sin, committed knowingly and deliberately. Such sin is described as blasphemous because it was an arrogant act of insubordination, a challenge to the lordship of Yahweh and His covenant demands. Anyone guilty of this kind of sin **must be cut off from his people.** As elsewhere, this means both excommunication and death (cf. Gen_17:14; also see comments on Lev_7:20; and comments on Lev_17:4).

Bible Knowledge Commentary on Numbers 15:30-31

v32-36 Sabbath Breaking Punished

32 **Now while** the sons of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering wood **on the sabbath day.**

33 And those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation;

34 and they put him in custody **because** it had not been declared what should be done to him.

Numbers 15:1-41 – Laws for the Promised Land



v32-36 Sabbath Breaking Punished

35 Then the LORD said to Moses, **"The man shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp."** **36** So all the congregation brought him outside the camp, and stoned him to death with stones, **just as the LORD had commanded Moses.**

Numbers 15:1-41 – Laws for the Promised Land



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

15:30-36 There was no offering for the sin of presumption — that is, for willful, defiant rebellion against the word of the Lord. All who committed such a sin were to be **cut off** (vv. 30, 31). An example of presumptuous sin is given in verses 32-36. **A man was found . . . gathering sticks on the Sabbath** in clear violation of the Law. It was known that he should be put to death (Exo 31:15), but the mode of execution had never been stated. The Lord now declared that he should be **stoned . . . to death outside the camp**

Believer's Bible Commentary on Numbers 15:30-36



Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

To sin presumptuously means to disobey God’s law deliberately and arrogantly, knowing full well the danger involved. The Hebrew literally means “to sin with a high hand” as though the person were shaking his or her fist in the face of God, daring God to do something. Presumptuous sins are committed by people who have “no fear of God before their eyes” (Rom 3:18).

God commanded that such sinners be cut off from the nation, which means they were stoned to death. Not only had they disobeyed God’s law, but they did it in such a way that they defied God’s will and despised God’s Word. No sacrifices were provided for deliberate high-handed sins, so there was no forgiveness offered at the altar.

The Authority of God’s Word (15:1-41)



26 For if we go on sinning willfully **after** receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27 but** a certain terrifying expectation of judgment, and the fury of a fire which will consume the adversaries. **28** Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on *the testimony* of two or three witnesses. **29** How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded **as** unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? **30 For** we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge His people." **31** It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:26-31

- **It is a dangerous thing for Christians to say, “I’ll go ahead and sin, because afterward, I can ask God to forgive me.”**
- **Professed Christians who repeatedly and deliberately sin probably aren’t Christians at all (Rom 6; 1 John 3:7-10; 5:1-5,18) and true believers who adopt that careless attitude will be chastened by the Father until they submit to His will (Heb 12:3-15).**

Application

v37-41 Tassels As Reminder to Obey God

37 The LORD also spoke to Moses, saying, 38 "Speak to the sons of Israel, and tell them that they shall make for themselves tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and that they shall put on the tassel of each corner a cord of blue. 39 And it shall be a tassel for you to look at and remember all the commandments of the LORD, so as to do them and not follow after your own heart and your own eyes, after which you played the harlot, 40 in order that you may remember to do all My commandments, and be holy to your God. 41 I am the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt to be your God; I am the LORD your God."

Numbers 15:1-41 – Laws for the Promised Land

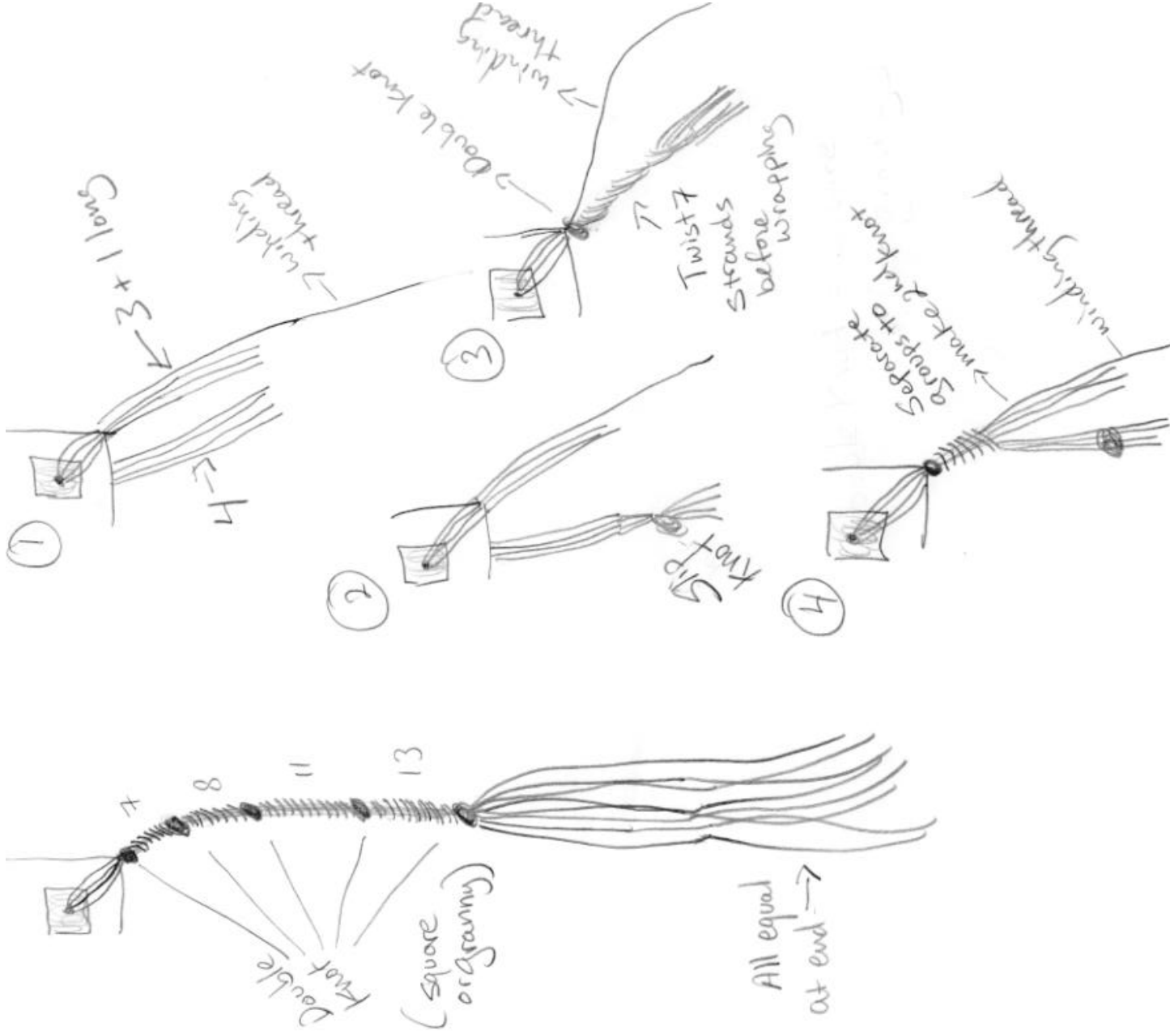
 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

- **White = because it's a reminder that our sins are covered**
- **Stripes of blue – on this side of the line shall be holy, on that side is the world.**
- **Many stripes because I keep crossing the line and God keeps extending His mercy and forgiveness to me**
- **Silver thread and Gold – belonging to the king**



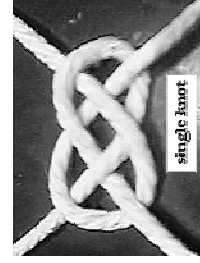
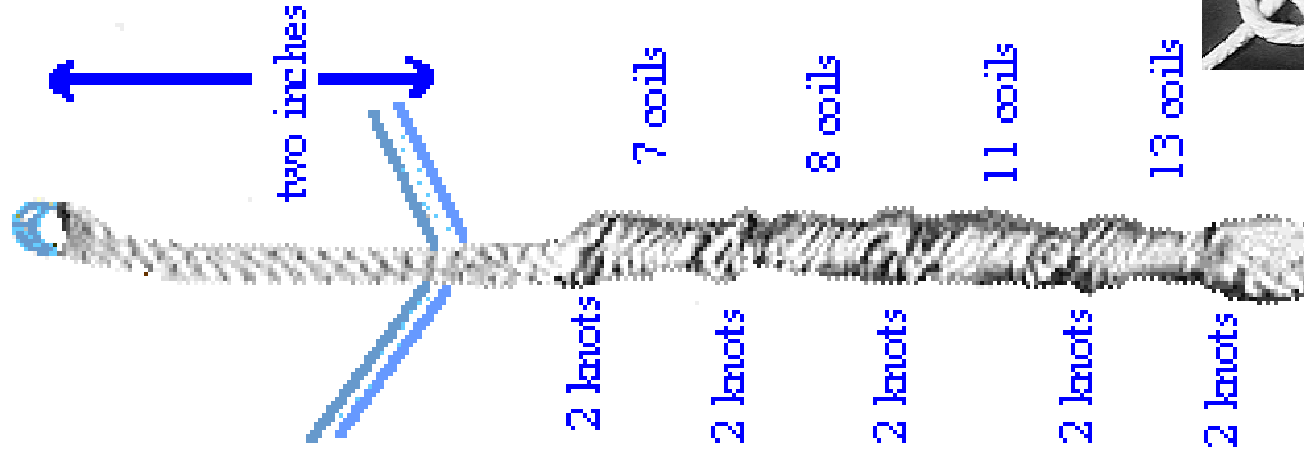
The Prayer Shawl

 **Entrusting the Word to the Faithful**



A Sephardic variation ends each turn with a hitch knot. This creates a spiral ridge going around the wrap. Another count is 10 wraps, then 5, 6, and 5,. The numbers of the wraps correspond directly to the numeric equivalent of the yud and heh and vav and heh that spell the Name of God. There is also a spiral wrap usually associated with the techelet (blue) thread which uses both a blue and a white shamash, or winding thread, though the regular wrap can also be done with the blue as the winder.

Although you can spin or devise your own tzitzit strands, it is easier to buy a tzitzit pack, which is available at most Hebrew bookstores. There will be sixteen strands in the pack (four long ones and twelve short ones; four off 60 inches and twelve at 40 inches). Separate these into four groups with one long and three short in each. The longer strand is called the shamash and is the one used for the winding. Even up the four strands at one end and push the group through one of the corner holes in the tallit. Even up seven of the eight strands (the four being doubled) and leave the extra length of the shamash hanging to one side. With four strands in one hand and the other four in the other hand, make a double knot near the edge of the material. In order to fulfill the mitvah of tzitzit, it is customary for you to say "l'shem mitzvat tzitzit," "for the sake of performing the mitzvah of tzitzit," each time you tie a knot. Take the shamash and wind it round the other seven strands in a spiral (seven turns). Be sure you end the winding where you began, otherwise you may end up with 7½ or 6½ winds. Make another double knot at this point (four over four). Spiral the shamash eight times around. Double knot. Spiral the shamash eleven times around. Double knot. Spiral the shamash thirteen times around. Final double knot. This is the common, and halakhically precise type of tying.



The thing about tying tzitzit is the numbers. There are seven turns of the wrapping thread, then eight, which added together equal yod and hey, the first two letters in God's Name. Next are eleven turns and thirteen turns; eleven for the final vav and hey in the Name, and thirteen for aleph, chet, dalet, which spells "One", giving the phrase "God is One". Further, in the numerology, the word tzitzit comes out to six hundred, and there are eight strands with five knots each, for a total, 613, equal to the traditional count of mitzvot in Torah. The five knots also stand for the five books of the Torah, and several other important fives.



Tying the Tzitzit

 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

- **The Tassels or tzitzit are a reminder of the 613 commandments**
- **The shamash is the servant cord**
- **8 strands and 5 knots = 13**
- **tzitzit = 600**
- **the last knot is not tightened because when you put it on every day, one of your duties is to cinch it tight => that it will take some effort to obey the Lord.**



The Prayer Shawl

 **Entrusting the Word to the Faithful**

The Prayer Shawl



- **Anyone attending an orthodox synagogue today will see that the men are all wearing prayer shawls. It is a very important part of Jewish life. Learning about this sacred garment will teach many exciting lessons from other Bible stories, even in the New Testament!**
- **The Jewish people say that the Talis (Prayer Shawl) is a religious symbol, a garment, shroud, canopy, cloak which envelops the Jew both physically and spiritually, in prayer and celebration, in joy and sorrow.**
- **It is used at all major Jewish occasions: circumcisions, bar mitzvahs, weddings and burials. It protects the scrolls of the Torah when they are moved.**

Prayer Shawl and Bible Manners and Customs

<http://www.honeofisrael.net/tallis.htm>



- It inspired the Jewish flag. Three separate people had the same idea. They just unfurled the prayer shawl and added the Shield of David and created the flag of Israel.
- The dead are wrapped in it when they are buried.
- The wearing of the "tallit" (pronounced tal-eet), also called the "tallis" or "prayer shawl," was commanded by God in Deuteronomy 22:12 and Num. 15:37-40: *"Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the Lord."*
- In biblical times the Jewish men wore the prayer shawl all the time - not just at prayer.

Prayer Shawl and Bible Manners and Customs

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Prayer Closet

TALITH contains two Hebrew words; TAL meaning tent and LITH meaning little. Thus, you have LITTLE TENT. Each man had his own little tent. Six million Jews could not fit into the tent of meeting that was set up in the Old Testament. Therefore, what was given to them was their own private sanctuary where they could meet with God. Each man had one! His Prayer Shawl or Talith. They would pull it up over their head, forming a tent, where they would begin to chant and sing their Hebrew songs, and call upon God. It was intimate, private, and set apart from anyone else -- enabling them to totally focus upon God. This was their prayer closet!

Prayer Shawl and Bible Manners and Customs

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 Entrusting the Word to the Faithful

Detailed Outline of the Book of Numbers

I. Preparations for Travel (Numbers 1:1-10:10)

- A. The First Census (chapter 1)
- B. The Order of the Tribes (chapter 2)
- C. The Census and Duties of the Levites (chapters 3-4)
- D. Cleansing and Consecration (chapters 5-6)
- E. The Tabernacle Service (chapters 7-8)
- E. The Supplementary Passover (chapter 9:1-14)
- F. The Fiery Cloud and the Silver Trumpets (chapters 9:15-10:10)

II. The Journey to Kadesh Barnea (Numbers 10:11-14:45)

- A. The Departure from Sinai (chapters 10:11-36)
- B. The Rebellion of the People (chapter 11)
- C. The Rebellion of Miriam and Aaron (chapter 12)
- D. Spying out the Promised Land (chapter 13)
- E. God's Judgment on Unbelief (chapter 14)

III. The Journey to the Plains of Moab (Numbers 15:1-22:1)

- A. **Covenant Statutes Reviewed (chapter 15)**
- B. The Rebellion of Korah (chapter 16)

- C. The Budding of Aaron's Rod (chapter 17)
- D. The Responsibility of Priests and Levites (chapter 18)
- E. The Red Heifer Sacrifice (chapter 19)
- F. The Waters of Meribah, Edom, Aaron's death (chapter 20)
- G. Journey to Moab (chapters 21:1-22:1)
- F. Balak and Balaam (chapters 22:2-24:25)
- G. The Idolatry of Israel (chapter 25)

IV. Final Preparations for Entering Canaan (Numbers 26:1-36:13)

- A. The Second Census (chapter 26)
- B. Daughters of Zelophehad (chapter 27:1-11)
- C. Joshua appointed as Moses' Successor (chapter 27:12-23)
- D. Laws concerning Offerings and Vows (chapters 28-30)
- E. The War against Midian (chapter 31)
- F. Inheritance of Eastern Tribes (chapter 32)
- G. Resume of the journey from Egypt (chapter 33:1-49)
- H. Final Instructions about Conquest and Inheritance (chapters 33:50-36:13)