

Naso
“Make an Accounting”

Torah Reading: Numbers 4:22- 7:89

Haftarah Reading: Judges 13:2-25

Study Notes

Matters of Justice

Regret and Restitution Numbers 5:5-10

- Numbers 5 states “when a man or woman do any from all the sins of man” which is vague, however since the word restitution is used later it is implied that the sin involved lying or stealing.
- “that a person shall become guilty” The person that commits the sin should feel conviction and have feelings of regret.
- After the feeling of guilt we agree with God and confess our sin.
- Then we provide restitution to the one we have wronged, this is to be the value plus twenty percent. The twenty percent is so the transgressor would be less likely to commit the same offense again.
- If the offended has died and has no relatives to give the restitution to, then the money is given to the Lord through the Kohanim. This usually related to non-Jews that had joined the group, since this was a time that most Jews were solidifying their genealogies.

Jealousy Numbers 5:11-31

- Woman is suspecting of being unfaithful by the husband
- Shows compassion for both the husband and the wife
- God is providing a proper expression of a husband’s jealousies, it staves off a potentially harmful situation by not allowing the husband’s jealousy to go unchecked and destroying him if he is wrong, if he is right it brings the wife’s sin to light.
- If the wife is innocent it gives her the opportunity to clear her name, if she is not her sin is turned over to God and He deals with her. If she is innocent when she drinks the “Holy Water” nothing happens, if she is guilty a curse will come upon her and her stomach will swell and her thigh collapse.

Matters of Spirituality

The Nazarite Numbers 6:1-21

- Nazarites consecrated themselves to God, by taking a vow to abstain from grape products (wine, vinegar, grapes, raisins) no contact with dead things, and by letting their hair grow. Vow is for a minimum of 30 days to maximum of a lifetime.
- Why take this vow? The Hebrew text states, “That if a man or woman desires to cause something extraordinary to happen or to do an impossible thing, he may vow a vow of Nazir to the Lord.”
- Some rabbis considered Nazarites to be sinners going against the spirit of Judaism. Others believe the sin is not in becoming a Nazarite or in ceasing to be one, but what preceded the Nazarite vow.
- Read Judges 13:2-25. The story of the birth of Samson shows that being a Nazarite isn’t a sin, but serves a purpose in God’s master plan.
- Why did Samson’s mother have to follow the diet of a Nazarite?

“Aaronic Benediction” Numbers 6: 22-27.

- The blessing “to keep you” refers to protect or guard. All God planned difficult times for Israel they would ultimately be kept safe by God. Jeremiah 31:33-37.
- “Be gracious unto you”, the Lord will show favor He will forgive our sins according to his grace. Ephesians 1:7-8.
- “Turn His face toward you” God displays His grace to us, by not turning His back to us because of sin, but instead turning His face toward us because of His Son covering our sin.
- “And give you peace” Shalom, peace will be given not simply the end of wars but the proper balance between the needs of the body and the duty of the soul. A harmony between conflicting forces.
- Bearers of “My Name” God want us to be fully identified with Him. He is not ashamed to have us and wants everyone to know that we belong to Him.

*“The Lord bless you
and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.”*