

God teaches His people to be Holy in their Worship of Him!

- In chapter 1 they counted the people to see who would be able to go to war
 - They were the males that were 20 years old and up
 - They were the ones that were able to go out to war
 - They were numbered in their armies
 - The Levites were not counted
- There was order in the camp
 - There was a division of labor
 - They were one with God and each other and God was at the center of their camp
 - God is a God of order **I Corinthians 14:40** *Let all things be done decently and in order.* **14:33** *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*

1. Offering Strange Fire [Numbers 3:4](#) And **Nadab and Abihu died before the Lord,** when they **offered strange fire** before the Lord, in the wilderness of Sinai, and **they had no children:** and Eleazar and Ithamar ministered in the priest's office in the sight of Aaron their father.

- a. It was not their job or place to handle the sacrifice--it was for the high priest Aaron [Exodus 30:7-10](#)
- b. They used the wrong instruments to make the sacrifice [Exodus 40:9](#)
- c. They acted at the wrong time --only the Day of Atonement [Leviticus 16:1](#)
- d. They weren't given authority nor did they seek authority to make the sacrifice
- e. They used strange fire or unauthorized and wrong [Leviticus 16:12](#)

f. They had wrong motives instead of seeking God's glory and doing what He wanted **they wanted glory**

Leviticus 10:3

g. They may have been consuming alcohol and so under control of the wrong spirit [Ephesians 5:18](#)

[Leviticus 10:9-10](#)

h. How do we offer strange fire today

i. We judge everything by the Word of God

ii. Take the Bible, see if the ministry, the preaching, etc is in the Bible

iii. Much that is done in the Charismatic churches is strange fire

iv. Tongues, Baptizing babies, etc

v. Examine God's Word to know if you can or should be doing or believing something

2. God took the Levites instead of the firstborn

[Numbers 3:12](#) And I, behold, **I have taken**

the Levites from among the children of Israel

instead of all the firstborn that

openeth the matrix among the children of Israel:

therefore the Levites shall be mine; **13** **Because all the firstborn *are* mine; for on the day that I smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hallowed unto me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast: mine shall they be: *I am* the Lord.**

a. Everyone was to be serving God as a priest

Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: **6** And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

i. The Levites were a gift from God

- ii. They served as substitutes for the rest of the nation
 - iii. They weren't to be seen as a burden but rather a gift
- b. God had not counted the Levites when He told them to take the previous census
- c. Now He wants the Levites counted **15 Number the children of Levi** after the house of their fathers, by their families: **every male from a month old and upward shalt thou number them.**
- i. These males would be counted as substitutes for the firstborn of everyone else in Israel **44 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 45 Take the Levites instead of all** the firstborn among the children of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of their cattle; and the Levites shall be mine: I *am* the Lord. **46 And for those that are to be redeemed of the two hundred and threescore and thirteen of the**

firstborn of the children of Israel, which are more than the Levites;

1. So God allowed them to have the Levites and their possessions to themselves as a substitute for their children
 2. They could keep their children and their firstborn animals as long as they took care of the Levites
- ii. For the firstborn above the number of Levites they were to give an offering, a redemption to free their children **47** Thou shalt even take five shekels apiece

by the poll, after the shekel of the sanctuary shalt thou take *them*: (the shekel is twenty gerahs:) **48**

And thou shalt give the money, wherewith the odd number of them is to be redeemed, unto Aaron and to his sons. **49** And Moses took the redemption

money of them that were **over and above** them that were redeemed by the Levites:

- d. They took another census of the Levites to see who could do the work **4:2** Take the sum of the sons of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, after their

families, by the house of their fathers, **3** From **thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old**, all that enter into the host, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.

- i. These men would do the hard work in the service of the Lord
- ii. Some would move the Tabernacle and all that was part of it
- iii. They were given detailed instructions about who did what and how
 1. Different families took care of different parts of the Tabernacle
 2. They couldn't look on the Holy Things
 3. They would take care of the sacrifices
- e. They apparently had a 5 year training program
Numbers 8:24 *This is it that belongeth unto the Levites: from twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service of the tabernacle of the congregation:*
- f. They were to serve and worship like God wanted

- g. Today we are more like **Judges 17:6** *In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*
- h. We should be doing things like God wants
- i. God's work is done God's way, in obedience to God's truth, it will never lack God's blessing.

3. God's people were to be a clean people

- a. God lived among them **5:3** *Both male and female shall ye put out, without the camp shall ye put them; that they defile not their camps, **in the midst whereof I dwell.*** **Exodus 29:45** *And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God.* **Leviticus 26:12** *And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.*
- b. The cleanliness rules were more about holiness and recognizing sin than just pure cleanliness
- c. They were to quarantine the lepers which were those that had some sort of infectious skin disease as well as those that had touched the dead or had some sort of discharge **5:2** *Command the children of Israel, that*

they put out of the camp every leper, and every one that hath an issue, and whosoever is defiled by the dead:

- i. See the wisdom of separating those that might be contagious so that disease wouldn't spread
- ii. There were great lessons in this separation because diseases are contagious and so is sin
- iii. They were learning how to deal with what was spiritually unclean also [II Corinthians 7:1](#) Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
- d. They were to realize that sin costs [5:5](#) And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, [6](#) Speak unto the children of Israel, When a man or woman **shall commit any sin that men commit**, to do a trespass against the Lord, and that person be guilty; [7](#) Then they shall **confess their sin** which they have done: and he shall **recompense his trespass with the principal** thereof, and add unto it the **fifth**

part thereof, and give *it* unto *him* against whom he hath trespassed.

- i. They were to confess their sin
 - ii. Make full restitution
 - iii. Add 20% to it
 - iv. It wasn't enough to just say that they were sorry
 - v. Sin costs
- e. Being clean meant being faithful in marriage
- i. Adultery was a capital offense-it got the death penalty [Deuteronomy 22:22](#) **If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, then they shall both of them die, both the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: so shalt thou put away evil from Israel.** ²³ **If a damsel that is a virgin be betrothed unto an husband, and a man find her in the city, and lie with her;** ²⁴ **Then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she**

cried not, *being* in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife: so thou shalt **put away evil from among you.**

- ii. If a man suspected his wife of being unfaithful he brought her to the priest **11** And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, **12** Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If **any man's wife go aside, and commit a trespass against him,** **13** And a man lie with her carnally, and **it be hid from the eyes of her husband,** and be kept close, and she be defiled, and *there be* **no witness** against her, neither **she be taken with the manner;** **14** And the **spirit of jealousy** come upon him, and he be jealous of

his wife, and **she be defiled:** or if the spirit of jealousy come upon him, and he be jealous of his wife, and **she be not defiled:** **15** Then shall the man bring his wife unto the priest, and he shall **bring her offering for her,** the tenth *part* of an ephah of barley meal; he shall pour no oil upon it, nor put frankincense thereon; for it *is* an **offering of jealousy,** an offering of memorial, bringing iniquity to remembrance. **16** And the priest shall bring her near, and **set her before the Lord:** **17** And the priest shall take **holy water** in an earthen vessel; and of the **dust** that is in the floor of the tabernacle the priest shall take, and **put *it* into the water:** **18** And the priest shall **set the woman before the Lord,** and **uncover the woman's head,** and put the **offering of memorial in her hands,** which *is* the **jealousy**

offering: and the priest shall have in his hand the **bitter water** that causeth the curse: 19

And the priest shall **charge her by an oath,** and say unto the woman, If no man have lain with thee, and if thou hast not gone aside to uncleanness *with another* instead of thy husband, be thou **free from this bitter water** that causeth the curse: 20 **But if** thou hast gone aside *to another* instead of thy husband, and if thou be defiled, and some man have lain with thee beside thine husband: 21 Then the priest shall charge the woman with an **oath of cursing,** and the priest shall say unto the woman, **The Lord make thee a curse and an oath among thy people, when the Lord doth make thy thigh to rot, and thy belly to swell;** 22 And this water that causeth

the curse shall go into thy bowels, to **make *thy* belly to swell, and *thy* thigh to rot:**

And **the woman shall say,**

Amen, amen. 23 And the priest shall write

these curses in a book, and he shall blot *them* out

with the bitter water: 24 And he shall **cause the**

woman to drink the bitter water that

causeth the curse: and the water that causeth the

curse shall enter into her, *and become* bitter. 25

Then the priest shall **take the jealousy**

offering out of the woman's hand,

and shall wave the offering before

the Lord, and offer it upon the

altar: 26 And the priest shall take an handful of

the offering, *even* the memorial thereof, and burn *it*

upon the altar, and afterward shall **cause the**

woman to drink the water. 27 And when

he hath made her to drink the water, then it shall come to pass, *that*, **if she be defiled,** and have done trespass against her husband, that the water that causeth the curse shall enter into her, *and* **become bitter, and her belly shall swell, and her thigh shall rot: and the woman shall be a curse among her people.** 28 And if the woman be not defiled, but be clean; **then she shall be free, and shall conceive seed.** 29 This *is* the **law of jealousies,** when a wife goeth aside *to another* instead of her husband, and is defiled; 30 Or when the spirit of jealousy cometh upon him, and he be jealous over his wife, and shall set the woman before the Lord, and the priest shall execute upon her all this law. 31 **Then shall the man be guiltless**

from iniquity, and this woman shall bear her iniquity.

1. It would be a public event for others to see and hear
 2. God would be the judge
 - iii. The priest took water and dust and mixed them
 - iv. He let her hair down, head uncovered
 - v. Offering was in her hands
 - vi. She was made to take an oath
 - vii. The curse was written down and washed off
 - viii. She drank the water
 - ix. The priest took the offering from her hands and gave it to the Lord
 - x. Either she would lose the baby, get very sick or get the blessings of God
- f. What is happening in this story
- i. This would be an obvious roadblock, hindrance to someone wanting to commit adultery
 - ii. It would also hinder a husband from accusing his wife since it would be so public

- iii. Taking your wife to this kind of trial would reveal your heart towards your wife, you would be wanting to hurt her and humiliate her
- iv. What if she wasn't guilty then the husband would look like a fool
- v. The major lesson is that God wants purity in our marriages
- vi. Husbands nor wives can escape the bitter consequences of a lack of faithfulness
- vii. Take care of your marriage