

NUMBERS 5



- About clean and unclean
- 3 types of ritually unclean people dealt with:
- Person with Tzara'at
- Person with genital discharge
- Person who has touched a corpse

“UNCLEAN” STILL EXISTS!



- 2 fluids flowed from Christ
- Living Water and Blood
- Blood is for atonement
- Living Water is for purification

➤ ***NAS 1 Corinthians 5:9 I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; 10 I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world, or with the covetous and swindlers, or with idolaters; for then you would have to go out of the world. 11 But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one. 12 For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church? 13 But those who are outside, God judges. Remove the wicked man from among yourselves.***



- ***NAS Revelation 21:25 And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed; 26 and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 27 and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.***

IF UNCLEAN IS GONE, THEN WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BELIEVERS AND THE WORLD?

- Jesus came to “save the world”. Is all the world saved?
- Yeshua cleansed BELIEVERS from uncleanness, He didn't abolish uncleanness from the world.
- He atoned for our sin, He didn't END sin.
- We are called not to sin, because sin introduces uncleanness into our lives!
- **UNCLEANNESS IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH HOLINESS**

WE ARE NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY UNCLEANNESS

- **NAS Romans 11:19** You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." **20** Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; **21** for if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you. **22** Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.
- If we continue in faith, then we continue in God's kindness
- If we do NOT, then we will be cut-off
- If we seek after unclean things, or if we do not protect ourselves from unclean things, at the least our relationship with Yehoveh will be harmed



AN INTENTIONAL SIN

- Numbers 5:5 - 10 Progressive revelation
- This is about committing a fraud, and then lying to God about it
- Concept of CONFESSION is introduced
- *Ve-hitvadu* means “declare”
- Confession is key in the forgiveness of sins, because without confession we are saying we have NOT committed a trespass

THE 'ASHAM: REPARATION



- Deals with SINS of the worshipper
- Aware of sin: a Ram PLUS money
- NOT aware of sin: ONLY a Ram
- Inadvertent VS. intentional seems to define the SERIOUSNESS of a sin
- If victim had died, payment goes to kin
- If no kin, then goes to Priesthood

THE WIFE SUSPECTED OF ADULTERY

- Numbers 5:11 – 31
- Exact words to be used in ritual procedure are detailed
- Adultery was a common occurrence
- 2 – 3 million people suddenly forced to live together in tents made modesty difficult
- “Breaking faith” a term used for lying to God, AND, adultery
- Tabernacle and marriage are physical models of spiritual principles and realities



EVEN PAGANS DISAPPROVED OF ADULTERY



- Mari documents
- Law of Hammurabi
- Saw adultery NOT as a crime, but as a religious/personal matter
- An affront to the gods
- Husband had the right to kill his wife if he caught her in the act
- Usually did NOT kill her



FOR ISRAEL, ADULTERY WAS TO BE A CRIME!

- ONLY possible punishment was death
- NO option of mercy
- In Numbers 5, guilty woman does NOT get put to death
- MUCH redaction with Num. 5
- In Leviticus it is assumed that the wife was caught in the act
- MEN saw the act, so MEN could condemn her under the Law



IN NUMBERS 5, THE WIFE CLAIMS INNOCENCE

- No witnesses
- Husband is SUSPICIOUS (jealous)
- The Num. 5 water-ordeal makes God the judge
- Husband is NOT allowed to kill his wife
- God shows His decision and Will by what happens to the woman as a result of her drinking the concoction

THE WATER ORDEAL



- Magic and sacred water is common
- Golden Calf incident with drinking the gold ground-up in the water
- Framework: water-ordeal plus a sworn oath
- If guilty, bad things happen
- Bad things NOT happening was proof of innocence

THE LAW OF SUSPECTED ADULTERY

- Husband's suspicion begins the water-ordeal for the wife
- Numbers 5 is God's Law, so we can't just ignore it
- This chapter represents echoes of pagan practices
- Israel was thoroughly pagan in their thinking
- God DECLARED Israel holy, but they didn't necessarily behave holy



GOD DIDN'T CHOOSE ISRAEL BECAUSE THEY WERE FAITHFUL



- There was NO merit in Israel
- Same pattern for Believers
- We were just as evil and weak as everyone else
- Israel accepted Yehoveh, but still followed their old ways
- Christians will accept Christ and often still live just as before
- We must accept Scriptures in TOTAL, and just as they are
- Scriptures tell the unvarnished truth, but it isn't nice or pretty

THE WATER-ORDEAL RITUAL

- 1) Suspected wife is brought to Priest
- 2) She is placed in front of the Tabernacle, called “before the Lord”
- 3) Holy Water put into cup, then dust from the Tabernacle floor is added
- 4) Priest places Barley in woman’s hands, unbinds her hair
- 5) Priest recites and oath, woman agrees
- 6) Priest writes down oath, washes the inked letters off into the water and dust

- 7) Barley is taken back from the woman, Priest burns it on the Altar
- 8) Woman drinks mixture of Holy Water, dust and ink
- 9) If guilty woman has things happen to her, if innocent, nothing happens

Says “thigh will sag, belly will swell”. Means her reproductive organs will shrivel up.

Thigh = usually means “genitals” in the Bible