

MADE BY FIRE

NUMBERS 28:3 – 30:16

^^^ ^^ ^^

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God takes off into the spiritual skies in this report as we fly over the final section of the Book of Numbers. I don't want anyone to think I am cutting any corners on our expedition because I'm not. I am not cheating by grouping the remaining chapters of this book into this report and one more. What we are looking at here is the new generation of the Children of Israel and their preparations to enter into the Promised Land and, quite frankly, there's a whole lot that does not need to be said – certainly not by me – so I suggest you pray for wisdom, judgment and spiritual discernment, and then read the text in your own Bible very carefully. Then, read this report. Then read your Bible text again and, friends, you'll be amazed at how much information is really here.

We examined the first census of the nation Israel that was conducted by Moses in the first chapter of Numbers. The second census taken forty years later revealed a negative gross sum in population; they had not gone forth and multiplied, as commanded, but, rather, they had decreased as a nation overall due to unbelief. After that, we saw women's rights initiated under the Mosaic Law, which brought women equal to man regarding inheritance and property. In our previous report, we saw the beginning of the law of offerings - and I strongly encourage you to spend some time reading the details of the rest of the Book of Numbers. The fact that God spent so much time with these commands, recording tedious manners of worship, is absolutely remarkable – at least it is to me, anyways. We don't offer these bloody offerings today, but just think about how repetitiously monotonous and over-bearing the details really are. Try to picture yourself doing this ritual. It's mind boggling to me. I think it would end in a total consumption of all your time and energy; in fact, I KNOW it would. Things are laid out so meticulously regarding these offerings because they all speak of the Lord Jesus Christ!

MADE BY FIRE

NUMBERS 28:3 – 30:16

^^^ ^^ ^^

Page 1 of 15

The sweet savour offerings are what God is emphasizing. These things speak to the Person of Christ. The burnt offerings ascended upward and that is how God sees Christ – precious – and as having ascended up into Heaven. Everything about the Lord Jesus goes up to Heaven! Friends, God is satisfied with what Christ did for us because that was His command! These offerings are made unto Him! The way God views Christ is what is ALL important in our beginning with God after redemption. Most people are simply not satisfied with what God has done for us, but we should be. If we aren't, then we aren't saved. That is the aspect of these instructions that must be firmly accepted as we study them. All of this points forward to the sacrifice that taketh away the sins of the world.

Chapter twenty-nine contains the instructions for a sin offering. The sin offerings speak to the work of Christ on the cross. We have given this set of instructions so much time in Leviticus that I do not see the value in our safari re-examining it again under a microscope. Everything we are reading was fulfilled in Christ. The burnt and the trespass offering were given on the numerous holy days that God had commanded the children of Israel to observe. Every single one of these feast days was a time of rejoicing. God wants His people to come before Him with joy! None of them were ever to be a time of mourning – with the exception of one – the Great Day of Atonement. That is the day the sin offering was made, and the whole emphasis is on the sin offering on that day. On that day, they were to “afflict their souls.” They were also to make an offering made by fire unto God! You might want to compare that law back in the twenty-third chapter of Leviticus. This is all repeated here in chapter twenty-nine at verse seven. The point is: this day reminds them they are sinners! Notice they also made sacrifices for “sins of ignorance” because, friends – you’re a sinner – even if you aren't aware of it! Pay close attention to the Word of God and you’ll get the message that you are a sinner. If you’re honest from there you’ll admit you need a Savior.

We don't hear much about sin today. When we do hear about sin in the church, it is always the sins of the world they focus on. Well, what about OUR sins? Isn't that what we're supposed to deal with? The children of Israel were told to mourn because sin is what has brought all the sorrows,

MADE BY FIRE

NUMBERS 28:3 – 30:16

^^^^^^

Page 2 of 15

all the pain, all the heartache, all the hate, all the suffering and all of the tears we have in this present world. God says, "I hate that!" God hates sin because sin has robbed you and me of a relationship and fellowship with Him! I am sure glad that's the way He feels, too. I am glad that God is moving forward in His plan with no deviation from what He said He would do. I happen to love my unhesitating and uncompromising God. How about you, friends? Do you really love the Lord that intends to drive sin fully out of His universe? God does not compromise, and He does not accept the white flag of truce. Sin will quickly be rid of in this world and every atom of matter in our physical environment will one day be sin-free.

Let's be real: when is the last time you heard anyone weep over their sins? When is the last time you wept over yours? Have you really presented yourself as the failure you are to God, friends? Does coldness and indifference absolutely shut you out from the Father in fellowship? I think we could all use some genuine confession today that we are separated from God by our sin. It's not because He is high and we are low and it's not because He is Great and we are small – nor because He is infinite and we are finite – it is SIN and Sin alone that separates us from God today, nothing else.

That should be a good enough predication for weeping. Look back over your life. Do you see your own failures in a glaring and haunting way? I have failed God so many times and in so many ways I have to thank Him for even allowing my confessions. When I think back on times that I allowed sins to separate me from Him, I see those were the times I absolutely hated my life. There are occasions even to this day for mourning over my sins. I don't think hearts are really moved any more by the Word of God in this age of disinformation. Well, that's one sad note we're going to depart from the Book of Numbers on....

XXVIII

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

MADE BY FIRE

NUMBERS 28:3 – 30:16

^^^^^^

Page 3 of 15

2 Command the children of Israel, and say unto them, My offering, and my bread for my sacrifices made by fire, for a sweet savour unto me, shall ye observe to offer unto me in their due season.

3 And thou shalt say unto them, This is the offering made by fire which ye shall offer unto the LORD; two lambs of the first year without spot day by day, for a continual burnt offering.

4 The one lamb shalt thou offer in the morning, and the other lamb shalt thou offer at even;

5 And a tenth part of an ephah of flour for a meat offering, mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil.

6 It is a continual burnt offering, which was ordained in Mount Sinai for a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD.

7 And the drink offering thereof shall be the fourth part of an hin for the one lamb: in the holy place shalt thou cause the strong wine to be poured unto the LORD for a drink offering.

8 And the other lamb shalt thou offer at even: as the meat offering of the morning, and as the drink offering thereof, thou shalt offer it, a sacrifice made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.

9 And on the Sabbath day two lambs of the first year without spot, and two tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, and the drink offering thereof:

10 This is the burnt offering of every Sabbath, beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering.

11 And in the beginnings of your months ye shall offer a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, seven lambs of the first year without spot;

12 And three tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, for one bullock; and two tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, for one ram;

13 And a several tenth deal of flour mingled with oil for a meat offering unto one lamb; for a burnt offering of a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD.

14 And their drink offerings shall be half an hin of wine unto a bullock, and the third part of an hin unto a ram, and a fourth part of an hin unto a lamb: this is the burnt offering of every month throughout the months of the year.

15 And one kid of the goats for a sin offering unto the LORD shall be offered, beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering.

16 And in the fourteenth day of the first month is the Passover of the LORD.

17 And in the fifteenth day of this month is the feast: seven days shall unleavened bread be eaten.

18 In the first day shall be an holy convocation; ye shall do no manner of servile work therein:

19 But ye shall offer a sacrifice made by fire for a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, and seven lambs of the first year: they shall be unto you without blemish:

20 And their meat offering shall be of flour mingled with oil: three tenth deals shall ye offer for a bullock, and two tenth deals for a ram;

21 A several tenth deal shalt thou offer for every lamb, throughout the seven lambs:

22 And one goat for a sin offering, to make an atonement for you.

MADE BY FIRE

NUMBERS 28:3 – 30:16

^^^^^^

Page 5 of 15

23 Ye shall offer these beside the burnt offering in the morning, which is for a continual burnt offering.

24 After this manner ye shall offer daily, throughout the seven days, the meat of the sacrifice made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD: it shall be offered beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering.

25 And on the seventh day ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work.

26 Also in the day of the firstfruits, when ye bring a new meat offering unto the LORD, after your weeks be out, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work:

27 But ye shall offer the burnt offering for a sweet savour unto the LORD; two young bullocks, one ram, seven lambs of the first year;

28 And their meat offering of flour mingled with oil, three tenth deals unto one bullock, two tenth deals unto one ram,

29 A several tenth deal unto one lamb, throughout the seven lambs;

30 And one kid of the goats, to make an atonement for you.

31 Ye shall offer them beside the continual burnt offering, and his meat offering, (they shall be unto you without blemish) and their drink offerings.

XXIX

1 And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you.

2 And ye shall offer a burnt offering for a sweet savour unto the LORD; one young bullock, one ram, and seven lambs of the first year without blemish:

3 And their meat offering shall be of flour mingled with oil, three tenth deals for a bullock, and two tenth deals for a ram,

4 And one tenth deal for one lamb, throughout the seven lambs:

5 And one kid of the goats for a sin offering, to make an atonement for you:

6 Beside the burnt offering of the month, and his meat offering, and the daily burnt offering, and his meat offering, and their drink offerings, according unto their manner, for a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD.

7 And ye shall have on the tenth day of this seventh month an holy convocation; and ye shall afflict your souls: ye shall not do any work therein:

8 But ye shall offer a burnt offering unto the LORD for a sweet savour; one young bullock, one ram, and seven lambs of the first year; they shall be unto you without blemish:

9 And their meat offering shall be of flour mingled with oil, three tenth deals to a bullock, and two tenth deals to one ram,

10 A several tenth deal for one lamb, throughout the seven lambs:

11 One kid of the goats for a sin offering; beside the sin offering of atonement, and the continual burnt offering, and the meat offering of it, and their drink offerings.

12 And on the fifteenth day of the seventh month ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work, and ye shall keep a feast unto the LORD seven days:

13 And ye shall offer a burnt offering, a sacrifice made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD; thirteen young bullocks, two rams, and fourteen lambs of the first year; they shall be without blemish:

14 And their meat offering shall be of flour mingled with oil, three tenth deals unto every bullock of the thirteen bullocks, two tenth deals to each ram of the two rams,

15 And a several tenth deal to each lamb of the fourteen lambs:

16 And one kid of the goats for a sin offering; beside the continual burnt offering, his meat offering, and his drink offering.

17 And on the second day ye shall offer twelve young bullocks, two rams, fourteen lambs of the first year without spot:

18 And their meat offering and their drink offerings for the bullocks, for the rams, and for the lambs, shall be according to their number, after the manner:

19 And one kid of the goats for a sin offering; beside the continual burnt offering, and the meat offering thereof, and their drink offerings.

20 And on the third day eleven bullocks, two rams, fourteen lambs of the first year without blemish;

21 And their meat offering and their drink offerings for the bullocks, for the rams, and for the lambs, shall be according to their number, after the manner:

22 And one goat for a sin offering; beside the continual burnt offering, and his meat offering, and his drink offering.

MADE BY FIRE

NUMBERS 28:3 – 30:16

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Page 8 of 15

23 And on the fourth day ten bullocks, two rams, and fourteen lambs of the first year without blemish:

24 Their meat offering and their drink offerings for the bullocks, for the rams, and for the lambs, shall be according to their number, after the manner:

25 And one kid of the goats for a sin offering; beside the continual burnt offering, his meat offering, and his drink offering.

26 And on the fifth day nine bullocks, two rams, and fourteen lambs of the first year without spot:

27 And their meat offering and their drink offerings for the bullocks, for the rams, and for the lambs, shall be according to their number, after the manner:

28 And one goat for a sin offering; beside the continual burnt offering, and his meat offering, and his drink offering.

29 And on the sixth day eight bullocks, two rams, and fourteen lambs of the first year without blemish:

30 And their meat offering and their drink offerings for the bullocks, for the rams, and for the lambs, shall be according to their number, after the manner:

31 And one goat for a sin offering; beside the continual burnt offering, his meat offering, and his drink offering.

32 And on the seventh day seven bullocks, two rams, and fourteen lambs of the first year without blemish:

33 And their meat offering and their drink offerings for the bullocks, for the rams, and for the lambs, shall be according to their number, after the manner:

34 And one goat for a sin offering; beside the continual burnt offering, his meat offering, and his drink offering.

35 On the eighth day ye shall have a solemn assembly: ye shall do no servile work therein:

36 But ye shall offer a burnt offering, a sacrifice made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD: one bullock, one ram, seven lambs of the first year without blemish:

37 Their meat offering and their drink offerings for the bullock, for the ram, and for the lambs, shall be according to their number, after the manner:

38 And one goat for a sin offering; beside the continual burnt offering, and his meat offering, and his drink offering.

39 These things ye shall do unto the LORD in your set feasts, beside your vows, and your freewill offerings, for your burnt offerings, and for your meat offerings, and for your drink offerings, and for your peace offerings.

40 And Moses told the children of Israel according to all that the LORD commanded Moses.

~ Jesus was made sin Who knew no sins – but I know sin – and you do, too. Still, we might have the righteousness of Christ made over unto us. Christ took our place down here and gave us His place up in Heaven. I just can't explain how wonderful the Lord Jesus Christ really is. If you are truly saved, then you have as much right to a place in Heaven as Christ has. Christ has given you His rights to be there. If you do not lay hold of those rights and appropriate them, then you will find you have no business in Heaven. In fact, I have some bad news: you won't be there. We can stand ONLY in

MADE BY FIRE

NUMBERS 28:3 – 30:16

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Page 10 of 15

Christ, and we are accepted ONLY in the Beloved! That is how God receives us because that cannot be improved upon....

XXX

1 And Moses spake unto the heads of the tribes concerning the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded.

2 If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.

3 If a woman also vow a vow unto the LORD, and bind herself by a bond, being in her father's house in her youth;

~ In this section of Scripture, we have another law concerning vows - but this one pertains specifically to women. We have already seen women given their rights in the Bible. So, women also have responsibility. We had an entire chapter on womanhood and an entire chapter on vows in the Book of Leviticus. Apparently, from this chapter in Numbers, our reasonable conclusion is the two are inextricably intertwined. We saw the utmost importance God attaches to vows that we make to Him. We need to be very careful when we make vows to God. Don't make a foolish vow because God will hold you to it, I promise you that.

I think many Christians promise the Lord too much too fast. I would never recommend a person make, and I would never ask about or even discuss another person's vows to God; because people go down to the altar and make commitments after commitments, time after time, but that vow is broken before the week is out – sometimes before the day is out. Well, friends, God is having no part of that. God never asks you to make a vow in the first place, so I think He is quite annoyed when we don't live up to them. Verse two says, "he shall not break his word." There are no if's, and's or but's about it. We are going to have to do according to all that we say.

MADE BY FIRE

NUMBERS 28:3 – 30:16

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Page 11 of 15

I am sure this point is completely lost amongst Christians today that have every busy-body excuse under the sun not to keep an appointment; or to be late for an activity with the self-justification that results in no concerns for their fellow man. This indifference is a huge – malignant and growing problem amongst Christians. Paul says in Romans, “.... if we believe we make confession with the mouth.” That passage has been greatly misused today when it is not applied to our vows toward God! It’s more than what our mouths say that matter in our lives – it’s what the heart believes. Those two being brought into agreement are the key to a healthy psychology. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness. We don’t believe with our mouth because we say many things we don’t mean. However, we still need the mouth because with the mouth confession is made.

The only thing that separates us from the animals are WORDS. We have words for one reason: to be able to communicate WITH GOD! Animals do not communicate to each other except primitive functions and extremely basic instincts. Anyone that tells you animal communication is on some high level – you know what? – Maybe – But I know for sure that words are NOT given to us so that you and I can communicate thoughts and ideas between us, although we can do that. Words are given so that the Lord can communicate salvation unto us. There is really no other reason for words, as far as I can tell. They tend to, actually, get in the way....

4 And her father hear her vow, and her bond wherewith she hath bound her soul, and her father shall hold his peace at her: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she hath bound her soul shall stand.

5 But if her father disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows, or of her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand: and the LORD shall forgive her, because her father disallowed her.

6 And if she had at all an husband, when she vowed, or uttered ought out of her lips, wherewith she bound her soul;

7 And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her in the day that he heard it: then her vows shall stand, and her bonds wherewith she bound her soul shall stand.

8 But if her husband disallowed her on the day that he heard it; then he shall make her vow which she vowed, and that which she uttered with her lips, wherewith she bound her soul, of none effect: and the LORD shall forgive her.

9 But every vow of a widow, and of her that is divorced, wherewith they have bound their souls, shall stand against her.

10 And if she vowed in her husband's house, or bound her soul by a bond with an oath;

11 And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her, and disallowed her not: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she bound her soul shall stand.

12 But if her husband hath utterly made them void on the day he heard them; then whatsoever proceeded out of her lips concerning her vows, or concerning the bond of her soul, shall not stand: her husband hath made them void; and the LORD shall forgive her.

13 Every vow, and every binding oath to afflict the soul, her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void.

14 But if her husband altogether hold his peace at her from day to day; then he establisheth all her vows, or all her bonds, which are upon her: he confirmeth them, because he held his peace at her in the day that he heard them.

15 But if he shall any ways make them void after that he hath heard them; then he shall bear her iniquity.

16 These are the statutes, which the LORD commanded Moses, between a man and his wife, between the father and his daughter, being yet in her youth in her father's house.

~ So, a woman makes a vow, and the husband can allow it or disallow it; this can get very practical in terms of women loving their husbands. Many women today marry for money, you know. It's just about always true when a young woman marries an older man. After she has his name, he must take very definite steps to keep her from taking just about everything he has. If he does not take those precautions, then he is vulnerable to whatever she decides to do. That happens every day in the world, and it happens every day amongst Christians, too. Someone has said God made women beautiful and dumb. Well, they have to be beautiful for the man to marry them, but they have to be dumb to marry the man, so – yes, probably in the secular realm. Most of the Christian women I know are very smart.

I think the matter of vows is extremely intense and interesting because God wants men and women that will be good when giving their word. Again, and again, we find God taking an oath – to Abraham, Jacob and David later on; and most of us expect God to be good on His Word. Jesus Himself makes oaths all the way through His ministry. God gave us His Word that He gave us His Son – there comes a point when we have to make this decision: is this the Word of God or not. I say His Word stands when He says He will save us if we trust Christ! That isn't subjective theoretical conjecture, either friend's - it's a tried-and-true practice with a LONG history of success.

Our next report will be our final report in the Numbers leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God, and we will witness a fight against Midian where we see the children of Israel get the victory. Midian was deep in the desert. I think we can safely spiritualize Midian as representing the things of the world. Moving forward, the last chapters in this Book of Numbers contain the last official and public acts of Moses. Deuteronomy's final chapters will include the last private acts of Moses. So, before we get too personal with Moses, and after one final report from

MADE BY FIRE

NUMBERS 28:3 – 30:16

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Page 14 of 15

Numbers, we will take refuge in the, at once, comforting and alarming Gospel of John. If you are new to this so-called safari, I urge you to read along in the Gospel of John every single day. It will bless your life like you have no idea ~

* * * * *

MADE BY FIRE

NUMBERS 28:3 – 30:16

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Page 15 of 15