LAW OF JEALOUSIES

N U M B E R S 5:1 – 6:7

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God marches on with the children of Israel through the dessert wilderness in this report; and I know this isn't the most thrilling section of the Bible we could consider. Only the sincerest of sincere Bible students ever travel through the Book of Numbers. I have tried to give you dear readers a little bit of water out here in the wilderness, but I see some of you have changed your minds concerning this expedition. I think some people have headed back for Egypt. Well, for those of you persevering, I hope you have changed your minds about the Book of Numbers. I don't find it quite as boring as it was to me years ago. It can be quite thrilling. I regret I probably cannot make it that for you - but I'll try. It's not a particularly complicated and difficult book, either - but we certainly need a guide through it. Let's all ask the Holy Spirit in prayer to guide us in our understanding.

Not only do I find the material in Numbers interesting when laid out properly, but I find the message very pertinent for us as believers today. The orderly preparation in the arrangement of the camp of the children of Israel is remarkable - and we have considered it closely in the first four chapters. If you have not read our first three reports, I highly suggest you go back and do so now. There had to be preparation and order in a nation this size if they were to continually relocate each day. The application and truth we have before us in this leg of our expedition becomes deeply spiritual; and it's only for the genuine Christian today who is in the direct will of God. That's why most people stopped reading this report a LONG time ago! Recognizing the need for the things of Christ is critical for a believer as he or she traverses this world.

Everything and everyone in the camp of the children of Israel had a responsibility in the plan and purpose of the walk, work, warring and worshipping of the Lord God. Displaying God Almighty to the world was God's plan and Israel's purpose in life and in this world; just as we do as

LAW OF JEALOUSIES NUMBERS 5:1-6:7 Page 1 of 11 believers in the wilderness of the world today. Unfortunately for some, we have a nasty little matter of business concerning the dead to tend to before we depart from here. It's not nice, and it doesn't seem very God-like. We have taken these issues head-on previously, and we have determined a final reasonable conclusion concerning them in the Book of Leviticus, which we will not establish again on safari. God is a Holy God, and we serve Him and it is He Who establishes the criteria for cleansing in Israel. Period. That's the axiom we declare. The leper, the sick and those defiled by the dead are to be shut out! There is no discussion - God isn't asking for a vote; that's the law....

V

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

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:

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.

~ If we are going to walk with God and if we are to have fellowship with Him, we are simply going to have to have - there MUST be - continual cleansing in our lives. God simply refuses to walk with you in your sin. Some people talk about the homosexual Christian and the alcoholic Christian – I doubt it, friends. I know I don't give them five cents for their testimony. God is no fool, kids! If you have unconfessed sins in your life, then you are very, very – VERY far from God; it's actually worse than that – God is nowhere near YOU! God is a consuming fire according to Scripture. And again, the Scripture saith, God is greatly to be feared! Psalms tells us we serve in fear and rejoice in trembling. The assembly of His saints in a clean and sober environment that is reverent to Him all-around, and in every articulated way, is mandatory.

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Let's be real here: the reason there is so much sadness and sickness and suffering and starvation and political problems and social difficulties and personal heartache in this world is because Christians refuse to deal with the sin in their life! The church shuts its eyes to sin, and they don't even speak of it. Apostates say they can't sin. Atheists say there is no such thing. God says, there just happen to be certain ones who MUST - MUST be put out of the camp. Joshua is going to report to us real soon that he couldn't get the victory at Ai because of Achan covering up his sin; see, his sin had to be brought out in the open and dealt with according to the way God said to deal with it. It wasn't nice – not at all. In Leviticus we saw the Lord dwelling in the tabernacle, but here we see God saying that He also dwells within their midst, out there in the midst of the camp in the tents of the children of Israel in the dessert. It's personal. Well, having God in your home requires a clean environment, my friend. And THAT is why these sick and polluted people are to be put out of the camp – so that HE can be in there amongst His people! It won't be both ways in your life, spiritually speaking!

The first ones put out of the camp were the lepers; and we have exhaustively concluded from Leviticus that leprosy is the symbol for sin in the life of a believer, spiritually speaking. It represents an outburst from within the body when there is an issue inside of it. Sins of the flesh, I will say it again, must be dealt with. The number two problem that will prevent any form of revival from happening today is that most people simply refuse to deal with or even recognize the prevalence of sins in their lives. God is not blessing us until the sin question is thoroughly and wholly dealt with, friends; our number one sin being a complete and total ignorance of the Word of God. The next man mentioned to be put out is defiled by touching the dead; and the world is certainly the place of death, also spiritually speaking - but also physically speaking now. This world is one frighteningly large graveyard, my beloved. Death is the deepest mark upon the world we live in, to be sure. Death is the seal of approval from a sin-cursed earth. God just happens to have pronounced the judgment of death on this earth. We're going to bear down on this until our pencil lead breaks and the paper tears in the next chapter....

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4 And the children of Israel did so, and put them out without the camp: as the LORD spake unto Moses, so did the children of Israel.

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.

~ This is what Zacchaeus had in mind when he spoke to the Lord about restoring people from the mafia-style tax collection system he had exacted upon them; Zacchaeus was offering to deal with the sin in his life. When Zacchaeus made the vow to restore "four-fold" that is actually going further than the Mosaic Law demanded. Well, restitution had to be made. Repentance is a whole lot more than offering an apology, people. A relationship between God and an individual cannot be made proper until that person is right with all the other individuals in his life and in his lifestyle - public and private.

2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death ~

I know many people feel that if they shed a few crocodile tears and have a fleeting moment of heart-hurtful conviction and reflection, then they have had a repentant moment. Well, repentance is a whole lot more than that. It's about making things right with people - and that can mean restitution - but it's also about permanently turning away from doing that thing. The individuals you have injured must be restored as if unto the faith. God says if your brother has something against you then leave your gifts at the altar and go and make things right with that brother – and then return to worship; how 'ya doing with that one, friends? A quick kneel down and stand-up thinking everything is alright is insincere. Godly sorrow worketh

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NUMBERS 5:1-6:7 *Page 4 of 11* repentance to salvation not to be repented of. If all you have are some tears or a Rosary – it works death – it's meaningless! Many people are like that today; they don't go on with God and they never turn from their sin....

8 But if the man have no kinsman to recompense the trespass unto, let the trespass be recompensed unto the LORD, even to the priest; beside the ram of the atonement, whereby an atonement shall be made for him.

9 And every offering of all the holy things of the children of Israel, which they bring unto the priest, shall be his.

10 And every man's hallowed things shall be his: whatsoever any man giveth the priest, it shall be his.

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:

~ This is what is called the jealousy offering. I am totally inadequate to teach this section of Scripture and our Spiritual Safari will not plum the

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NUMBERS 5:1-6:7 ^^^^^ Page **5** of **11** depths of it completely; but, as we jump in the safari submarine, I'll take her down as low as she will possibly go without imploding. You may want to hold your breath while you take this little dose of safari medication – because it's unusually potent; and I don't have any sugar to wash it down with. No, I'm not kidding. In fact, I should probably suggest you just stop reading this report altogether.

When verse fourteen says "defile" that would be impregnated. Now, if she were not impregnated, then we have this little test that the priests administered. This water mix that the woman was to drink must have had one tremendous psychological effect; especially if they were guilty! The man is not mentioned here as having to take the test, but the Bible does not teach a double standard. A husband could certainly be guilty of this. We have already seen the Mosaic Law specifically stated that if a man and a woman were taken in adultery then BOTH were to be put to death. What we are looking at here is a figure of Christ in the church in the Word of God. There is no suspicion of Christ but there are a whole lot of suspicions of the church, I assure you! I know the church a whole lot better than most people realize. Do you believe God is a jealous God? He says He loves us and that He is a jealous God right here. God doesn't want us to give our time and affections to the things of this world. It's the same jealousy of the one that you love and, brothers and sisters, if you're not jealous of the one you love - then something is radically wrong in your relationship.

The figure carries on out because if the woman was innocent then she was exonerated. This is a protective law, and it works on her behalf in that respect in a very meaningful way – it is protective from the jealous husband! I hope you take the time to read and re-read all of this Scripture before moving on now. There are some tremendous truths for this day and age in which we find ourselves. The Word of God is very clear on this matter of fidelity and honor to the marriage vow – as in, one man and one woman – faithful to each other in said vow. Today, we see the institution of marriage broken down into total and complete meaninglessness; and the mindless offering of vows are taken with no regard whatsoever of honoring them, and with no apparent consideration that God is going to hold them to this standard. The problems of this world begin in the home. It's just that

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NUMBERS 5:1-6:7 ^^^^^ Page 6 of 11 simple - and I am just that dogmatic about it. They spread out from the home and have infiltrated every crack and cranny in the world with uncontrollable problems. Yes, friends – societal problems ALL begin with wedding vows being violated. God will not – cannot – bless a nation that perverts, manipulates and destroys the sanctity of the institution of marriage....

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:

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NUMBERS 5:1-6:7 ^^^^ Page **7** of **11** 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.

VI

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

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NUMBERS 5:1-6:7 ^^^^^ Page 8 of 11 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the LORD:

3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried.

4 All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk.

5 All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the LORD, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow.

6 All the days that he separateth himself unto the LORD he shall come at no dead body.

7 He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God is upon his head.

~ We end this leg of our Spiritual Safari with the vow of a Nazarite and the triune blessing associated with taking that vow. The Nazerite vow was a temporary vow, and it was completely voluntary. Any Israelite male could become a Nazarite for life or for any certain specified period of time. God does not command this. We see the three things that the Nazerite is forbidden from doing. Anything whatsoever that came from the vine was forbidden. We aren't going to debate whether it's right or wrong to drink wine. The Christian standard is not a standard of right and wrong. The question God has is: what is the purpose for doing the thing that you are doing? Is your life pleasing to Christ? Do you CARE if your life is well-pleasing to God? DO you really WANT and DESIRE to live for Him? Those are the things God is going to be asking. We will do well to have correct answers. Wine is a symbol of earthly cheer. I don't debate the account of

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NUMBERS 5:1-6:7 ^^^^^ Page **9** of **11** water being made into wine – it says the best was saved for last! The question we should ask ourselves is: do we find our joy in the Lord Jesus Christ and in the knowledge and wisdom and judgment of the Word of God in our lives - or in something else?

Many, many, many people who claim to be Christians live recklessly and hurt the cause of Christ every time they open their mouth. They're spiritual beggars waiting for crumbs to fall from the Lord's Table. People attend a church banquet where a few very pious verses of Scripture are read, and some sweet things are said, and everyone leaves feeling very spiritually smug - and helped or helpful and self-satisfied for the night. Then, the next afternoon they are challenged, and they drop back from everything they've learned and live like they always have before. Where do you find your joy, friends? It's a very personal question. Does it take a worldly stimulant in order for you to even enjoy Christian things? Does Bible study and prayer really and truly bring you joy, or do they turn you off? So many of us think we are being spiritual when all we have done is bring a polluted world into our Christian activities.

Well, for however many days his separation was vowed for, the Nazarite didn't get a haircut, either; so, this would have been one shaggy man real fast! Paul says in first Corinthians that it's a shame for a man to have long hair today. Maybe we should post that at the barber shops? It really is shameful to have long hair; I had very, very long hair at one time, so I am qualified to make that statement. Well, these men were willing to bear shame and surrender their dignity for Christ. Men with long hair today aren't bearing that shame for Him; they're just shameful. Christ said He was no man – but a worm! Are you REALLY willing to take that place? Really? I'm afraid the Word of God is nothing but a toy to most people; it's like a good-luck charm and nothing else. If they could wear it around their neck they would. It means absolutely nothing to them in their lives. What about you, friends?

The third prohibition for a Nazarite was that they were not to touch a dead body under any circumstances - and that makes sense because the person who did so was to be put out of the camp. We already read about the

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reason and the symbolism – we are to put Christ first! When the Word of God says that we are to forsake father and mother and follow Christ – that means Christ comes first in our lives all the way around! The Lord Jesus gets top priority - but this is all voluntary. This is not a command today but, friends – read carefully – if you want to take a vow and dedicate your life to Him BEWARE it is going to cost you something - and that something will be everything ~

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