

## HIM THAT TOUCHED A BONE

NUMBERS 18:1 – 19:22

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God is in a section of Numbers that is specifically related to the Aaronic priesthood. In chapters sixteen through nineteen, we are considering several interesting aspects of said God-appointed priesthood. We saw the sons of Korah and the ‘gainsaying of Korah.’ We saw what gainsaying is - as Korah falsely accused Moses and Aaron of usurping too much authority. We saw how Korah led a rebellion against the divinely constituted and appointed authority over the children of Israel. The judgment handed down on the family of Korah and their associates was severe and swift. The Lord won't be making any apologies for that. Korah's actions amounted to a rebellion against God and God dealt with it on His terms.

Then, chapter seventeen brought us Aaron's rod that budded. We saw princes from all twelve tribes of Israel bring a rod; and Aaron brought one for Levi. These “rods” were likely picked up in the desert somewhere and whittled into a shape; perhaps they were decorated – but they weren't growing. The rods were all dead wood and they were as inanimate as anything can possibly become. Remember, they put them in the tabernacle and the next morning Aaron's almond rod had budded and flowered. This was direct confirmational testimony from God that Aaron was His designated and anointed high priest over the people. No man taketh this honor unto himself but he that is called of God – and that was Aaron.

Aaron's rod that budded was one of three items placed in the ark. The tablets of stone, a pot of manna and the rod that budded - those were the three items in the ark. The rod budding speaks of resurrection, and it was confirmation that Aaron was the appointed high priest. The Lord Jesus Christ was not a priest down here on earth. The resurrection is what brought about His priesthood. It's important and reassuring to know that we have a Great High Priest in Heaven Who is making intercession for us right now. Christ is able to save to the uttermost all who will come to the

HIM THAT TOUCHED A BONE

NUMBERS 18:1 – 19:22

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Page 1 of 12

Father by Him. Christ ever liveth to make intercession for us today. We have a living Christ, but His earthly life is not what we rest upon. Only the resurrected life of Christ who identified with us and took our place and has now ascended back into Heaven can sit at the right hand of God.

So, this rebellion led to an upsetting period in the life of Israel as repercussions throughout the camp reverberated; in fact, we already saw a group in our last report who thought Moses had been too harsh with the men of Korah. Remember, Korah is the one who had led a rebellion against him and Aaron - and almost ended up getting them killed by an angry mob. Well, God opened the earth up and swallowed Korah - not Moses or Aaron. So, the people were, in essence, saying, ".... Moses and Aaron usurped too much authority, but we blame them for killing those who led a rebellion against them, in which God must have interceded for protection...." - and all when Moses didn't even want this job to begin with; and had also prayed that God would not destroy the children of Israel - as God had conferred with Moses about doing when they disobeyed God the first time. This is one confused, ignorant and contemptuous group of people, friends.

The sons of Korah were very wealthy and attractive men in the camp, and outstanding leaders – but they were filled with pride - and they lacked any semblance of spiritual discernment. Remember, they accused Moses and Aaron when Moses and Aaron weren't any more responsible for the act of God than Simon Peter was responsible for the death of Ananias and Sapphira! I think both Peter and Moses were, actually, frightened and unnerved at how it all went down, no pun intended. So, the children of Israel accuse the one man who stands between them and the judgment of God. Moses was, de facto, the intercessor of Israel at the time in which we are studying....

## **XVIII**

***1 And the LORD said unto Aaron, Thou and thy sons and thy father's house with thee shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary: and thou and thy sons with thee shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood.***

HIM THAT TOUCHED A BONE

NUMBERS 18:1 – 19:22

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Page 2 of 12

~ This is the confirmation of the priesthood in chapter eighteen, but we're not going to spend too much time at this ceremony. Aaron and his sons were held responsible for what happens around the tabernacle and, friends, you are responsible for your Christian testimony. We are also responsible for our families and churches. So many people want to look down on the apostasy in the church, and think they are something special. Well, the church is certainly in apostasy – but – if there is sin in our church, then you and I bear a certain amount of responsibility in dealing with it. We simply cannot escape dealing with sin in our lives and in the lives of those in our families. Aaron could have taken a very pious attitude at this point and called himself the elect and strutted proudly that he was the one God had chosen - but he didn't do that. One deciding factor of who's who amongst the men of God is that the man of God must walk in humility. We have already identified many ways in which Moses was the meekest man ever on earth - and we saw how Moses walked with God in a very definite way. In this section of Scripture, I hope you will carefully note God's highly detailed portion of the offering that belongs to the priesthood. God gave the priests no part in the land – no farms, no vineyards to keep up – no olives! The priests received the ordained portions of the offerings that were brought to the tabernacle - or they had nothing....

***2 And thy brethren also of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of thy father, bring thou with thee, that they may be joined unto thee, and minister unto thee: but thou and thy sons with thee shall minister before the tabernacle of witness.***

***3 And they shall keep thy charge, and the charge of all the tabernacle: only they shall not come nigh the vessels of the sanctuary and the altar, that neither they, nor ye also, die.***

***4 And they shall be joined unto thee, and keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, for all the service of the tabernacle: and a stranger shall not come nigh unto you.***

***5 And ye shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar: that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel.***

HIM THAT TOUCHED A BONE

NUMBERS 18:1 – 19:22

^^^^^^

Page 3 of 12

**6 And I, behold, I have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel: to you they are given as a gift for the LORD, to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.**

**7 Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for every thing of the altar, and within the vail; and ye shall serve: I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.**

**8 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Behold, I also have given thee the charge of mine heave offerings of all the hallowed things of the children of Israel; unto thee have I given them by reason of the anointing, and to thy sons, by an ordinance for ever.**

**9 This shall be thine of the most holy things, reserved from the fire: every oblation of theirs, every meat offering of theirs, and every sin offering of theirs, and every trespass offering of theirs, which they shall render unto me, shall be most holy for thee and for thy sons.**

**10 In the most holy place shalt thou eat it; every male shall eat it: it shall be holy unto thee.**

**11 And this is thine; the heave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings of the children of Israel: I have given them unto thee, and to thy sons and to thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: every one that is clean in thy house shall eat of it.**

**12 All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the firstfruits of them which they shall offer unto the LORD, them have I given thee.**

**13 And whatsoever is first ripe in the land, which they shall bring unto the LORD, shall be thine; every one that is clean in thine house shall eat of it.**

**14 Every thing devoted in Israel shall be thine.**

HIM THAT TOUCHED A BONE

NUMBERS 18:1 – 19:22

^^^^^^

Page 4 of 12

**15 Every thing that openeth the matrix in all flesh, which they bring unto the LORD, whether it be of men or beasts, shall be thine: nevertheless the firstborn of man shalt thou surely redeem, and the firstling of unclean beasts shalt thou redeem.**

**16 And those that are to be redeemed from a month old shalt thou redeem, according to thine estimation, for the money of five shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs.**

**17 But the firstling of a cow, or the firstling of a sheep, or the firstling of a goat, thou shalt not redeem; they are holy: thou shalt sprinkle their blood upon the altar, and shalt burn their fat for an offering made by fire, for a sweet savour unto the LORD.**

**18 And the flesh of them shall be thine, as the wave breast and as the right shoulder are thine.**

**19 All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer unto the LORD, have I given thee, and thy sons and thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: it is a covenant of salt for ever before the LORD unto thee and to thy seed with thee.**

~ Salt sealed the covenant by which God distributed portions of the offering to the priests. Friends, let me say this clearly: pay your preacher! Those who bring you spiritual food with their hard work and effort must be paid. The man who is bringing you the Word of God cannot go out and farm; it's impossible, friends. That man cannot go out and work in a field or an office or even in a factory. The most tragic aspect of any ministry is any man that has to take a secular job, because both cannot be done correctly – it is not possible. The ministry will always be the endeavor to suffer when that happens...

**20 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel.**

HIM THAT TOUCHED A BONE

NUMBERS 18:1 – 19:22

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Page 5 of 12

~ It's a wonderful thing to look to the Lord; but there are definite problems, particularly for those of us with little faith. David said, "... the Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup; Thou maintainest my lot. The lines have fallen unto me in pleasant places, yeah, I have a goodly heritage." You can have God as your Paymaster and you can look to Him for all of your needs. It is truly a glorious position to be in. See, friends, these deep spiritual truths are only found in Holy Writ - in the Word of God. That extremely close position with God was the position of the Levites - and it meant walking by faith. A priest in Moses' day walked in faith - or they didn't walk with God....

***21 And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.***

***22 Neither must the children of Israel henceforth come nigh the tabernacle of the congregation, lest they bear sin, and die.***

***23 But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they have no inheritance.***

***24 But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.***

***25 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,***

***26 Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe.***

~ The priests were also to give from that which they had received by the Hand of the Lord. We are all to give, to be sure. Of course, we aren't under any rules or regulations about giving today, but every believer should give something to the place where they receive a blessing. Do these so-called safari reports bless you? Some people should give much more than ten percent, too; in fact, ten percent would be an insult to God for many people. However, some people cannot give nearly that much. Maybe all they have is service. Most of God's true servants have very, very little material wealth. It's shameful that proper, correct and complete Bible teaching is not supported – but – it isn't. See, the world isn't really interested in that which is good and righteous and true - although they say they are. Even the church today has come to call good evil and evil good. As a result, the cause of Christ suffers tremendously. God's work needs resources, tools and supplies that they generally don't receive - even in this modern era of abundance....

***27 And this your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress.***

***28 Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest.***

***29 Out of all your gifts ye shall offer every heave offering of the LORD, of all the best thereof, even the hallowed part thereof out of it.***

***30 Therefore thou shalt say unto them, When ye have heaved the best thereof from it, then it shall be counted unto the Levites as the increase of the threshingfloor, and as the increase of the winepress.***

***31 And ye shall eat it in every place, ye and your households: for it is your reward for your service in the tabernacle of the congregation.***

***32 And ye shall bear no sin by reason of it, when ye have heaved from it the best of it: neither shall ye pollute the holy things of the children of Israel, lest ye die.***

## **XIX**

**1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,**

**2 This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD hath commanded, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer without spot, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke:**

**3 And ye shall give her unto Eleazar the priest, that he may bring her forth without the camp, and one shall slay her before his face:**

**4 And Eleazar the priest shall take of her blood with his finger, and sprinkle of her blood directly before the tabernacle of the congregation seven times:**

**5 And one shall burn the heifer in his sight; her skin, and her flesh, and her blood, with her dung, shall he burn:**

**6 And the priest shall take cedar wood, and hyssop, and scarlet, and cast it into the midst of the burning of the heifer.**

**7 Then the priest shall wash his clothes, and he shall bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp, and the priest shall be unclean until the even.**

**8 And he that burneth her shall wash his clothes in water, and bathe his flesh in water, and shall be unclean until the even.**

**9 And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: it is a purification for sin.**



**10 And he that gathereth the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: and it shall be unto the children of Israel, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among them, for a statute for ever.**

**11 He that toucheth the dead body of any man shall be unclean seven days.**

**12 He shall purify himself with it on the third day, and on the seventh day he shall be clean: but if he purify not himself the third day, then the seventh day he shall not be clean.**

**13 Whosoever toucheth the dead body of any man that is dead, and purifieth not himself, defileth the tabernacle of the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from Israel: because the water of separation was not sprinkled upon him, he shall be unclean; his uncleanness is yet upon him.**

**14 This is the law, when a man dieth in a tent: all that come into the tent, and all that is in the tent, shall be unclean seven days.**

**15 And every open vessel, which hath no covering bound upon it, is unclean.**

**16 And whosoever toucheth one that is slain with a sword in the open fields, or a dead body, or a bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days.**

**17 And for an unclean person they shall take of the ashes of the burnt heifer of purification for sin, and running water shall be put thereto in a vessel:**

**18 And a clean person shall take hyssop, and dip it in the water, and sprinkle it upon the tent, and upon all the vessels, and upon the persons that were there, and upon him that touched a bone, or one slain, or one dead, or a grave:**

**19 And the clean person shall sprinkle upon the unclean on the third day, and on the seventh day: and on the seventh day he shall purify himself, and wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and shall be clean at even.**

~ We come now to the very interesting and unusual offering of the red heifer. This is the first time we have had a female specific offering. The priest that offered this sacrifice could wash themselves and return into the camp unclean – which is very, highly and strangely unusual. When the children of Israel were out there marching, and a man sinned, they didn't just stop and set up the tabernacle and make offerings. They took the ashes from this red heifer mixed with running water and applied it with hyssop to an individual who had sinned. This example has an extreme message for us today, my beloved.

The first thing Jesus did in the upper room was wash the disciple's feet with water. John says Jesus did this in view of the fact that He had come from the Father, and He was going back to the Father! Well, Jesus sure has gone back alright, and the basin of water is the Word of God. The Holy Spirit is the only One Who can apply it to your life. The hyssop speaks of faith! When you and I sin, well, let's just say that Christ is not going to be dying again. If we walk in the light as He is in the light, then we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Christ continually cleanses us from all unrighteousness. That light is the Word of God and when we walk in that light, we'll see when we get dirty.

That's why many people refuse to look into the Word of God. We need cleansing every day - but they don't want to bathe. Most don't even think they're dirty. If you give a child a choice - they'll refuse to take a bath. This is how the Holy Spirit of God convicts us. If we are to have fellowship with God, we must be washed by the Word of God and have the blood applied to us by the Holy Spirit to open our understanding. It is only when we confess our sins that He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us. So, this has a real meaning for us down here where Jesus died for us to save us. Christ lives up in Heaven today to keep us saved. When Christ died for our

sins, He died for the sins from the time of the cross up until the day He gives us a crown; as in, past, present and future.

There is no end to a debate with certain church members who think they have reached sinless perfection. This is an area that many Christians totally ignore these days; and it falls under the category of being washed by the Word. Sanctuaries and the congregation within may smell better than they ever have, but they aren't clean. We have more soaps, colognes and perfumes being used than ever before, but the spiritual smell stinks to high Heaven; and the problems are gossip, dirty eyes, dirty ears, dirty hands and feet – yet they act like everything is alright – when it's not alright. Unless Christ washes us, we have no part with Him!

Does all of this type and words just look like so much black and white to you? If so, then you need a bath - a spiritual bath. Why don't you turn to Christ for cleansing today? I take a bath every day – sometimes two. This offering of the red heifer is sweet, and it's what kept the children of Israel sweet on their wilderness march. This was the spiritual deodorant that kept them close to God! If we say we do not sin we walk in darkness and we lie; and, if you say you don't sin, that's just more confession that will be required before you can get right with God in your life. My friends, why don't you stop playing around with Him and turn to Him and trust Christ as your Savior today? What is stopping you from confessing all the sins in your life in prayer? God already knows about them anyways....

***20 But the man that shall be unclean, and shall not purify himself, that soul shall be cut off from among the congregation, because he hath defiled the sanctuary of the LORD: the water of separation hath not been sprinkled upon him; he is unclean.***

***21 And it shall be a perpetual statute unto them, that he that sprinkleth the water of separation shall wash his clothes; and he that toucheth the water of separation shall be unclean until even.***

***22 And whatsoever the unclean person toucheth shall be unclean; and the soul that toucheth it shall be unclean until even ~***

HIM THAT TOUCHED A BONE

NUMBERS 18:1 – 19:22

^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^ ^

Page 11 of 12

\* \* \* \* \*