

Cleansing the Camp (c. 2–19 Iyyar [May] 1445 BC)

Numbers 5:1–4

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

2 “Command the Israelites to expel from the camp every leper, everyone who has a discharge, and whoever becomes defiled by a corpse.

3 You must expel both men and women; you must put them outside the camp, so that they will not defile their camps, among which I live.”

4 So the Israelites did so, and expelled them outside the camp. As the LORD had spoken to Moses, so the Israelites did.

Case Law—Restitution When Defrauded Party Is Deceased (c. 2–19 Iyyar [May] 1445 BC)

Numbers 5:5–10

5 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

6 “Tell the Israelites, ‘When a man or a woman commits any sin that people commit, thereby breaking faith with the LORD, and that person is found guilty,

7 then he must confess his sin that he has committed and must make full reparation, add one fifth to it, and give it to whomever he wronged.

8 But if the individual has no close relative to whom reparation can be made for the wrong, the reparation for the wrong must be paid to the LORD for the priest, in addition to the ram of atonement by which atonement is made for him.

9 Every offering of all the Israelites’ holy things that they bring to the priest will be his.

10 Every man’s holy things will be his; whatever any man gives the priest will be his.”

Case Law—Suspicion of Unfaithfulness (c. 2–19 Iyyar [May] 1445 BC)

Numbers 5:11–31

The Case Presented

11 The LORD spoke to Moses:

12 “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘If any man’s wife goes astray and behaves unfaithfully toward him,

13 and a man has sexual relations with her without her husband knowing it, and it is hidden that she has defiled herself, since there was no witness against her, nor was she caught—

14 and if jealous feelings come over him and he becomes suspicious of his wife, when she is defiled; or if jealous feelings come over him and he becomes suspicious of his wife, when she is not defiled—

Preparation for the Ritual Ordeal

15 then the man must bring his wife to the priest, and he must bring the offering required for her, one tenth of an ephah of barley meal; he must not pour olive oil on it or put frankincense on it, because it is a grain offering of suspicion, a grain offering for remembering, for bringing iniquity to remembrance.

16 “Then the priest will bring her near and have her stand before the LORD.

17 The priest will then take holy water in a pottery jar, and take some of the dust that is on the floor of the tabernacle, and put it into the water.

18 Then the priest will have the woman stand before the LORD, uncover the woman’s head, and put the grain offering for remembering in her hands, which is the grain offering of suspicion. The priest will hold in his hand the bitter water that brings a curse.

The Oath-Imprecation

19 Then the priest will put the woman under oath and say to the her, “If no other man has had sexual relations with you, and if you have not gone astray and become defiled while under your husband’s authority, may you be free from this bitter water that brings a curse.

20 But if you have gone astray while under your husband’s authority, and if you have defiled yourself and some man other than your husband has had sexual relations with you....”

21 Then the priest will put the woman under the oath of the curse and will say to the her, “The LORD make you an attested curse among your people, if the LORD makes your thigh fall away and your abdomen swell;

22 and this water that causes the curse will go into your stomach, and make your abdomen swell and your thigh rot.” Then the woman must say, “Amen, amen.”

23 “Then the priest will write these curses on a scroll and then scrape them off into the bitter water.

24 He will make the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and the water that brings a curse will enter her to produce bitterness.

Execution of the Ritual Ordeal

25 The priest will take the grain offering of suspicion from the woman's hand, wave the grain offering before the LORD, and bring it to the altar.

26 Then the priest will take a handful of the grain offering as its memorial portion, burn it on the altar, and afterward make the woman drink the water.

27 When he has made her drink the water, then, if she has defiled herself and behaved unfaithfully toward her husband, the water that brings a curse will enter her to produce bitterness—her abdomen will swell, her thigh will fall away, and the woman will become a curse among her people.

28 But if the woman has not defiled herself, and is clean, then she will be free of ill effects and will be able to bear children.

The Case Summarized

29 "This is the law for cases of jealousy, when a wife, while under her husband's authority, goes astray and defiles herself, 30 or when jealous feelings come over a man and he becomes suspicious of his wife; then he must have the woman stand before the LORD, and the priest will carry out all this law upon her.

31 Then the man will be free from iniquity, but that woman will bear the consequences of her iniquity."

The Nazirite Vow (c. 2–19 Iyyar [May] 1445 BC)

Numbers 6:1–21

Introduction

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

2 "Speak to the Israelites, and tell them, 'When either a man or a woman takes a special vow, to take a vow as a Nazirite, to separate himself to the LORD, [cf. [Judg 13:5](#); [1 Sam 1:11](#); [Amos 2:11–12](#); [Luke 1:15](#); [Acts 21:23–27](#)]

Prohibitions for the Vow

3 he must separate himself from wine and strong drink, he must drink neither vinegar made from wine nor vinegar made from strong drink, nor may he drink any juice of grapes, nor eat fresh grapes or raisins.

4 All the days of his separation he must not eat anything that is produced by the grapevine, from seed to skin.

5 "All the days of the vow of his separation no razor may be used on his head until the time is fulfilled for which he separated himself to the LORD. He will be holy, and he must let the locks of hair on his head grow long.

6 "All the days that he separates himself to the LORD he must not contact a dead body.

7 He must not defile himself even for his father or his mother or his brother or his sister if they die, because the separation for his God is on his head.

8 All the days of his separation he must be holy to the LORD.

Purification from Corpse Defilement

9 "If anyone dies very suddenly beside him and he defiles his consecrated head, then he must shave his head on the day of his purification—on the seventh day he must shave it.

10 On the eighth day he is to bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons to the priest, to the entrance to the tent of meeting.

11 Then the priest will offer one for a purification offering and the other as a burnt offering, and make atonement for him, because of his transgression in regard to the corpse. So he must reconsecrate his head on that day.

12 He must rededicate to the LORD the days of his separation and bring a male lamb in its first year as a reparation offering, but the former days will not be counted because his separation was defiled.

Completion Rituals of the Nazirite Vow

13 "Now this is the law of the Nazirite: When the days of his separation are fulfilled, he must be brought to the entrance of the tent of meeting,

14 and he must present his offering to the LORD: one male lamb in its first year without blemish for a burnt offering, one ewe lamb in its first year without blemish for a purification offering, one ram without blemish for a peace offering,

15 and a basket of bread made without yeast, cakes of fine flour mixed with olive oil, wafers made without yeast and smeared with olive oil, and their grain offering and their drink offerings.

16 "Then the priest must present all these before the LORD and offer his purification offering and his burnt offering.

17 Then he must offer the ram as a peace offering to the LORD, with the basket of bread made without yeast; the priest must also offer his grain offering and his drink offering.

18 "Then the Nazirite must shave his consecrated head at the entrance to the tent of meeting and must take the hair from his consecrated head and put it on the fire where the peace offering is burning.

19 And the priest must take the boiled shoulder of the ram, one cake made without yeast from the basket, and one wafer made without yeast, and put them on the hands of the Nazirite after he has shaved his consecrated head;

20 then the priest must wave them as a wave offering before the LORD; it is a holy portion for the priest, together with the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the raised offering. After this the Nazirite may drink wine.'

Summary

21 "This is the law of the Nazirite who vows to the LORD his offering according to his separation, as well as whatever else he can provide. Thus he must fulfill his vow that he makes, according to the law of his separation."

High Priestly Blessing (c. 2–19 Iyyar [May] 1445 BC)

Numbers 6:22–27

22 The LORD spoke to Moses:

23 "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is the way you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

24 "The LORD bless you and protect you;

25 The LORD make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;

26 The LORD lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace."

27 So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."

Silver Trumpets Crafted (c. 2–19 Iyyar [May] 1445 BC)

Numbers 10:1–10

For Gathering and Disembarking the Camps

1 The LORD spoke to Moses:

2 "Make two trumpets of silver; you are to make them from a single hammered piece. You will use them for assembling the community and for directing the traveling of the camps.

3 When they blow them both, all the community must come to you to the entrance of the tent of meeting.

4 "But if they blow with one trumpet, then the leaders, the heads of the thousands of Israel, must come to you.

5 When you blow an alarm, then the camps that are located on the east side must begin to travel.

6 And when you blow an alarm the second time, then the camps that are located on the south side must begin to travel. An alarm must be sounded for their journeys.

7 But when you assemble the community, you must blow, but you must not sound an alarm.

For Rallying to Battle and Rejoicing in Festival Offerings

8 The sons of Aaron, the priests, must blow the trumpets; and they will be to you for an eternal ordinance throughout your generations.

9 If you go to war in your land against an adversary who opposes you, then you must sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies.

10 "Also in the time when you rejoice, such as on your appointed festivals or at the beginnings of your months, you must blow with your trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings, so that they may become a memorial for you before your God: I am the LORD your God."

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