

March 1 Answers

- 1) The law of jealousy and the Nazirite vow. The law of jealousy was designed to deal with a husband's accusation of **adultery** against his wife. At that time, a husband's **authority** over his wife was absolute, and he could ruin her life if he grew tired of her or disliked her. God's command for **oversight** by a priest showed His kindness and justice. If the woman was guilty she would be stricken with a wasting disease, but if she was innocent she would be vindicated and able to bear children. This teaches us how much God cares about those who are vulnerable to mistreatment and **abuse**. God wants us to treat them with kindness, respect and **impartiality**. The Nazirite vow (*nazir*: 'to **separate**') was unique, for it was made by a person who wanted to give **themselves** to God, rather than the normal offerings (Num 6:2). During the period of the vow, the individual was to abstain from grapes and grape by-products (including seeds and skins). They were to refrain from cutting their hair which was the symbol of their separation. They also could not go near a dead body (even father or mother). At the end of the vow, they were to offer the prescribed sacrifices, and then they were to shave their head and place their hair into the fire of the peace offering (Num 6:18–19). The Nazirite vow teaches us that we can show our love and dedication to God through **self-denial**. God is **pleased** when His people want to consecrate themselves to Him and are willing to **refrain** from normal activities and pleasures in order to show their love for Him. The Nazirite vow could be taken by a **woman**, showing that gender makes no difference when it comes to dedication and holiness. In this way it foreshadowed the unity men and women have in Christ, for all believers are part of a spiritual **priesthood** (Gal 3:28; 1 Pet 2:5).