



Message 5-19-18
Bamidbar-In the Wilderness
Numbers 1:1-4:20
Hosea 2:1-22
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Introduction

The book's English name, Numbers, comes from the Greek Septuagint word *arithmoi*. This refers to the census taken. In Hebrew, however, Numbers is known as *Bamidbar*, meaning "in the wilderness." This book recounts Israel's journey with God through the wilderness – and notes how all too often they walked without Him and suffered numerical attrition as a result. (*From the Holy Scriptures -The Tree of Life version*)

Numbers 3:44-51

44 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ⁴⁵ Take the Levites in place of all the first-born among the Israelite people, and the cattle of the Levites in place of their cattle; and the Levites shall be Mine, the LORD's. ⁴⁶ And as the redemption price of the 273 Israelite first-borns over and above the number of the Levites, ⁴⁷ take five shekels per head -- take this by the sanctuary weight, twenty gerahs to the shekel -- ⁴⁸ and give the money to Aaron and his sons as the redemption price for those who are in excess. ⁴⁹ So Moses took the redemption money from those over and above the ones redeemed by the Levites; ⁵⁰ he took the money from the first-born of the Israelites, 1365 sanctuary shekels. ⁵¹ And Moses gave the redemption money to Aaron and his sons at the LORD's bidding, as the LORD had commanded Moses. (TNK)

7910 Shekel

<shek'-'l>, <shek'-el>, <she'-kel>, <she'-kul> (Heb: *sheqel*): A weight and a coin. The Hebrew shekel was the 50th part of a mina, and as a weight about 224 grains, and as money (silver) was worth about 2 shillings 9d., or 66 cents (in 1915). No gold shekel has been found, and hence, it is inferred that such a coin was not used; but as a certain amount of gold, by weight, it is mentioned in 2 Ch 3:9 and is probably intended to be supplied in 2 Ki 5:5. The gold shekel was 1/60 of the heavy Babylonian mina and weighed about 252 grains. In value it was about equal to 2 British pounds and 1 shilling, or about \$10.00 (in 1915). See MONEY; WEIGHTS AND MEASURES. In the Revised Version (British and American) of Mt 17:27 "shekel" replaces "piece of money" of the King James Version, the translation of Grk: *stater*.

The Levites stand in for the firstborn of Israel because the firstborn was to be taken by God in place of the firstborn of Egypt who He had killed. Because the Levites heeded

Moses' call to come stand with him because of the sin of Israel at the Golden Calf, the Levites, who were the only ones who answered the call, would receive as their inheritance to serve God in the Sanctuary and later in the Temple. Aaron and his sons would serve as the first priests of Israel as would Aaron's descendants, and in turn the Levites and their descendants would serve the priests to help them in their duties. In this initial count, there were 273 Israelites more than the Levites. The Almighty instructed Moses to take five shekels per head of the overage and turn that money over to Aaron and his sons as the redemption price. The total was 1,365 sanctuary shekels. The value would have been roughly \$13,650.00 in 1915 value. So, add inflation in to that, and the requirement would have been the Levites would receive the tithes of the people and give a tithe to the priests, who in turn, would give a tithe to the Holy One. So, as we see, tithing is a Biblical command that even the Church holds to, but they reject the Torah as being done away with when the command for tithing is first recorded in the Torah. You cannot say that one part is valid, but another is obsolete. Either we do our best to live out Torah in lives because we are instructed by our Creator to do so, or we disobey and are cut off from Israel.

Romans 7:7 What then shall we say? That the Torah is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the Torah, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the Torah had not said, "You shall not covet." ⁸ But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the Torah, sin lies dead. ⁹ I was once alive apart from the Torah, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. ¹⁰ The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. ¹¹ For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹² **So the Torah is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.** ¹³ Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. (ESV)

The Apostle Shaul, who many claim did away with the Torah, is saying the exact opposite here. It is not the Torah that kills but the sin the Torah reveals. Why do we need the Torah? Because it is the instructions from our Creator about what He says is sin, and in knowing and understanding the Torah, we know what He says is sin. So, the Torah is not bad but good because it reveals sin and points in the direction of where we can find redemption. It is not death but life because through it we find the source of our salvation through Messiah Yeshua, the Son of God! This was the service of the priests and Levites, to serve God in helping the people be able to come into God's presence through the sacrificial system. We do it through our High Priest Yeshua. Animal sacrifice prefaced Messiah, but it was to teach us that no matter how animals were sacrificed, the shedding of their blood was only temporary until the final sacrifice was offered, and that would be Messiah.

Hosea 2:7-11

7 She shall pursue her lovers but not overtake them, and she shall seek them but shall not find them. Then she shall say, 'I will go and return to my first husband, for it was better for me then than now.' ⁸ And she did not know that it was I who gave her the grain, the wine, and the oil, and who lavished on her silver and gold, which they used for Baal. ⁹ Therefore I will take back my grain in its time, and my wine in its season, and I will take away my wool and my flax, which were to cover her nakedness. ¹⁰ Now I will uncover her lewdness in the sight of her lovers, and no one shall rescue her out of my hand. ¹¹ And I will put an end to all her mirth, her feasts, her new moons, her Sabbaths, and all her appointed feasts. (ESV)

Israel did not seek out the Lord but chased after Baal. They had turned their backs on their God and His covenant sealed in blood through the sacrifice of His Son Yeshua. They turned away from their God to follow a false God and even more false gods. In the wilderness, they had worshipped a Golden Calf, and they paid for it with their lives. Rather to live our lives dedicated to our Creator by following His covenant of Torah and not the covenant of man. We should not place our faith in any man. We must place our faith in only our Creator, Yeshua, and give our worship to His Father as the Son has told us to do.

John 4:21 Yeshua said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; **we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.** ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ **God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.**" ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Messiah). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶ Yeshua said to her, "I who speak to you am he." (ESV)

Yeshua revealed Himself to a Samaritan woman and told her that we are to worship God, who is spirit by our faith, which is truth revealed in the Torah and taught by the Messiah. Yeshua told the woman salvation is from the Jews. It is not just Messiah but the revealing of the Messiah in the Torah, Prophets, and the Writings.

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

1 For, brothers, I don't want you to miss the significance of what happened to our fathers. All of them were guided by the pillar of cloud, and they all passed through the sea, ² and in connection with the cloud and with the sea they all immersed themselves into Moshe, ³ also they all ate the same food from the Spirit, ⁴ and they all drank the same drink from the Spirit- for they drank from a Spirit-sent Rock which followed them, and that Rock was the Messiah. ⁵ Yet with the majority of them God was not pleased, so their bodies were strewn across the desert. ⁶ Now these things took place as prefigurative historical events, warning us not to set our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷ Don't be idolaters, as some of them were- as the *Tanach* puts it, "The people sat down to eat and drink, then got up to indulge in revelry." ⁸ And let us not engage in sexual immorality, as some of them did, with the consequence that 23,000 died in a single day. ⁹ And let us not put the Messiah to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by snakes. ¹⁰ And don't grumble, as

some of them did, and were destroyed by the Destroying Angel. ¹¹ These things happened to them as prefigurative historical events, and they were written down as a warning to us who are living in the *acharit-hayamim*. ¹² Therefore, let anyone who thinks he is standing up be careful not to fall! ¹³ No temptation has seized you beyond what people normally experience, and God can be trusted not to allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear. On the contrary, along with the temptation he will also provide the way out, so that you will be able to endure. (CJB)

The Exodus has so many lessons to teach us. It is not just a story about Israel or the Hebrews being freed from slavery in Egypt. It is so much more. It is redemption by the hand of God. Who is the hand of God? In Scripture the hand of God is the Messiah, the Son of the Father. The Apostle Paul equates Israel passing through the Red Sea as immersion into Moses. He is not speaking about the man Moses, but the Torah given to Moses by God on Mount Sinai. In the story of the trials and tribulations of Israel, we need to learn to see ourselves, so we do not repeat the sins of Israel. If we believe we won't, then we had better think again. The Apostle Paul or Shaul says the things that took place in the wilderness were historical events with a meaning. He said the things that happened were a warning to us who are living in the *acharit-hayamim*, the last days. If Shaul is right, we have been living in the last days for a very long time. Who knows how long we have before Messiah's return bringing His heavenly army with Him in the clouds. Do not take your salvation for granted because it is a very fragile thing. Plant it deep within your heart replacing a heart of stone with a heart of flesh. Allow Him to write the Torah within you. Open your heart to Him and embrace Him, spirit to spirit and enter into life everlasting.

Torah Man says, "Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important."

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

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