

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS
NUMBERS 19 – PURIFICATION
NUMBERS 20 – MIRIAM DIES, MOSES JUDGED, AARON DIES

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our study of the book of Numbers.

Numbers 19 – Purification of sin after defilement. In verses 1-10 is the burning of the red heifer to ashes and then taking the ashes through which water was poured in order to be purified by cleansing; the Bible tells us 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” Numbers 19:13, 20. The burning of the red heifer was burned outside the tabernacle and was symbolic of the death and sufferings of Jesus Christ and He was crucified outside the gate, Hebrews 13:12.

¹And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying (When instructions are for both, God speaks to both Moses and Aaron.),

²This 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 (The Bible tells us ¹⁸“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” I Peter 1:18-20.) :

³And ye shall give her unto Eleazar (Eleazar was the son of Aaron because Aaron was not to be ceremonially unclean until evening) the priest, that he may bring her forth without the camp (Was going to be a sin offering so done outside the tabernacle. The Bible tells us ¹²“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate” Hebrews 13:12), and one shall slay her before his face:

⁴And 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:

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

⁶And the priest shall take cedar wood (Cedar wood was used in the Temple of God; the Bible tells us “Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God” Psalm 92:13.), and hyssop (cleansing), and scarlet (The color of blood and was shed later on by the one who gave Himself for us, Christ. The Bible tells us ¹⁸“Come now, and let us reason

together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet (the color of Christ's robe bearing our sins), they shall be as white as snow (after repentance); though they be red like crimson (blood), they shall be as wool (restored)" Isaiah 1:18), and cast it into the midst of the burning of the heifer.

⁷Then 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

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

⁹And 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. (They would take a little of that water for purification. The Bible tells us "⁷But if we walk in the light (in the truth of God, in His Law and in His ways), as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin (but if we do not follow Him and repent we are not forgiven)" I John 1:7).

¹⁰And he that gathereth the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even (Unable to approach God in worship; the purification made them clean and then they could approach God and offer sacrifices and worship God.): and it shall be unto the children of Israel, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among them (which worships God), for a statute for ever.

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

¹²He 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.

¹³Whosoever 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.

¹⁴This 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.

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

¹⁶And 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.

¹⁷And for an unclean person they shall take of the ashes of the burnt heifer of purification for sin, and running water (symbolic of living water) shall be put thereto in a vessel: (This was a spiritual lesson to give life; stagnant water does not give life.)

¹⁸And 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:

¹⁹And 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 (symbolic of seven Days of Unleavened Bread).

²⁰But the man that shall be unclean, and shall not purify himself, that soul shall be cut off from among the congregation (assembly), because he hath defiled the sanctuary of the LORD: the water of separation hath not been sprinkled upon him; he is unclean. (Could not play games with the law of purity. The Bible tells us “¹¹And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified (by the Word of God), but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus (because you repented and now walk in the Law of God), and by the Spirit of our God” I Corinthians 6:11.)

²¹And 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.

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

Numbers 20

Say – Commentaries say this chapter is of the fortieth year of the Israelite’s wandering. Miriam dies in Zin and Moses strikes the rock and is judged and not allowed to go into the Promised Land nor Aaron. Aaron dies in Mount Hor.

¹Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam (means rebellion) died there, and was buried there (Miriam was a sister to Moses and Aaron; she was older than Moses and Aaron because the Bible tells us “And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him (Moses) three months. And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river’s brink. And his sister (Miriam) stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him.” Exodus 2:2-4. Miriam was a prophetess, Exodus 15:20, and led the female chorus who sang the song of Moses and danced, Exodus 15:20; the Bible tells us “For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron and Miriam” Micah 6:4.).

Say – The children of Israel wanted water for the congregation and they

went against Moses and Aaron. Verse 2-5 show their discontent.

²And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

³And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!

⁴And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there? (Unclean spirits were constantly with them; the Israelites were angry they were led through the wilderness and brought out of Egypt. They were not thinking correctly; they wanted bondage in comparison to the freedom of the Promised Land of Canaan.)

⁵And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.

⁶And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them (This is what the children of Israel should have done gone to God and ask Him but they complained to Moses and Aaron.)

⁷And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

⁸Take the rod (This was the rod of God; the Bible tells us “And Moses took his wife and his sons, and set them upon an ass, and he returned to the land of Egypt: and Moses took the **rod of God** in his hand” Exodus 4:20, “And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the **rod of God** in mine hand” Exodus 17:9.), and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes (God is saying don’t speak unto these unclean people.); and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink (Moses showed them God would give them good things like water from a rock and that rock was Christ; the water came out abundantly. God gave them water from a rock; the Bible tells us “And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual **Rock** that followed them: and that **Rock** was **Christ**” I Corinthians 10:4.).

⁹And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

(Moses and Aaron were so frustrated with the people.) ¹⁰And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock (The higher you are the greater the condemnation.), and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock (Moses and Aaron took the credit for the water; Moses was to point them to God not to themselves.)?

¹¹And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

¹²And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not (Imagine falling into this.), to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them (God was not a respecter of persons; the Bible tells us “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no **respecter of persons**” Acts 10:34.).

¹³This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove (quarreled) with the LORD, and he was sanctified in them (by the water miracle and not allowing Aaron and Moses to go into the Promised Land).

Say – Edom is called “the people of my curse” God said. The Bible tells us “⁵For my sword shall be bathed in heaven: behold, it shall come down upon Idumea (Edom and Esau, twin brothers of Jacob’s), and upon the people of my curse, to judgment” Isaiah 34:5.

¹⁴And Moses sent messengers from Kadesh unto the king of Edom. Thus saith thy brother Israel, Thou knowest all the travail that hath befallen us:

¹⁵How our fathers went down into Egypt, and we have dwelt in Egypt a long time; and the Egyptians vexed us, and our fathers:

¹⁶And when we cried unto the LORD, he heard our voice, and sent an angel (The angel of the Lord, the one in the bush, Jesus.), and hath brought us forth out of Egypt: and, behold, we are in Kadesh, a city in the uttermost of thy border:

¹⁷Let us pass, I pray thee, through thy country: we will not pass through the fields, or through the vineyards, neither will we drink of the water of the wells: we will go by the king's high way, we will not turn to the right hand nor to the left, until we have passed thy borders (Describing Esau/Edom as a fruitful land, not cursed yet.).

¹⁸And Edom said unto him, Thou shalt not pass by me (The nature of Edom to this very day; men of violence.), lest I come out against thee with the sword (All he would have had to say was no but the threat of war is a hateful attitude.).

¹⁹And the children of Israel said unto him, We will go by the high way: and if I and my cattle drink of thy water, then I will pay for it: I will only, without doing anything else, go through on my feet .

²⁰And he said, Thou shalt not go through. And Edom came out against him with much people, and with a strong hand.

²¹Thus Edom refused to give Israel passage through his border: wherefore Israel turned away from him.

²²And the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, journeyed from Kadesh, and came unto mount Hor (Israel went around Edom.).

Say – Aaron dies in Mount Hor.

²³And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in mount Hor, by the coast of the land of Edom, saying,

²⁴Aaron shall be gathered unto his people: for he shall not enter into the land which I have given unto the children of Israel, because ye rebelled against my word at the water of Meribah (Means bitter water. God’s people are to learn to fear God.).

²⁵Take Aaron and Eleazar his son, and bring them up unto mount Hor:

²⁶And strip Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son: and Aaron shall be gathered unto his people, and shall die there.

²⁷And Moses did as the LORD commanded: and they went up into mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation.

²⁸And Moses stripped Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there in the top of the mount: and Moses and Eleazar came down from the mount.

²⁹And when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, they mourned for Aaron thirty days, even all the house of Israel (2nd generation; entire nation mourned.).

MEMORY VERSE

“And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual **Rock** that followed them: and that **Rock** was **Christ**”

I Corinthians 10:4

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS

NUMBERS 20

COMMENTARIES SAY THIS CHAPTER IS OF THE FORTIETH YEAR OF THE ISRAELITES WANDERING.

IN THE BEGINNING OF THIS CHAPTER, MIRIAM DIES IN ZIN. MIRIAM WAS A SISTER TO MOSES AND AARON AND SHE WAS OLDER. THE BIBLE TELLS US "AND THERE WENT A MAN OF THE HOUSE OF LEVI, AND TOOK TO WIFE A DAUGHTER OF LEVI. AND THE WOMAN CONCEIVED, AND BARE A SON: AND WHEN SHE SAW HIM THAT HE WAS A GOODLY CHILD, SHE HID HIM (MOSES) THREE MONTHS. AND WHEN SHE COULD NOT LONGER HIDE HIM, SHE TOOK FOR HIM AN ARK OF BULRUSHES, AND DAUBED IT WITH SLIME AND WITH PITCH, AND PUT THE CHILD THEREIN; AND SHE LAID IT IN THE FLAGS BY THE RIVER'S BRINK. AND HIS SISTER, (MIRIAM) STOOD AFAR OFF, TO WIT WHAT WOULD BE DONE TO HIM." EXODUS 2:1-4

MIRIAM WAS A PROPHETESS, THE SISTER OF AARON, TOOK A TIMBREL IN HER HAND, AND ALL THE WOMEN WENT OUT AFTER HER WITH TIMBRELS AND WITH DANCES. AND MIRIAM ANSWERED THEM, SING YE TO THE LORD, FOR HE HATH TRIUMPHED GLORIOUSLY; "THE HORSE AND HIS RIDER HATH HE THROWN INTO THE SEA". REMEMBER THEY HAD JUST CROSSED THE RED SEA AND GOD HAD BURIED SIN IN THE RED SEA. PHAROAH AND ALL THE EGYPTIANS HAD COME AFTER THEM. "THE LORD OVER THREW THE EGYPTIANS IN THE MIDST OF THE SEA" EXODUS 14:27. THERE WAS NO WAY FOR THE PHARAOH AND EGYPTIANS TO ESCAPE.

THE BIBLE TELLS US "FOR I BROUGHT THEE UP OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, AND REDEEMED THEE OUT OF THE HOUSE OF SERVANTS; AND I SENT BERFORE THEE, MOSES, AARON AND MIRIAM" MICAH 6:4

WATER

THEN THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WANTED WATER AND "THEY GATHERED THEMSELVES TOGETHER AGIANST MOSES AND AGAINST AARON". NUMBERS 20:2

"THE LORD SPOKE UNTO MOSES, SAYING TAKE THE ROD, AND GATHER THOU THE ASSEMBLY TOGETHER, THOU, AND AARON THY BROTHER, AND SPEAK YE UNTO THE ROCK BEFORE THEIR EYES; AND IT SHALL GIVE FORTH HIS WATER, AND THOU SHALT BRING FORTH TO THEM WATER OUT OF THE ROCK; SO THOU SHALT GIVE THE CONGREGATION AND THEIR BEASTS DRINK."

"AND MOSES TOOK THE ROD FROM BEFORE THE LORD, AS HE COMMANDED HIM. AND MOSES AND AARON GATHERED THE CONGREGATION TOGETHER BEFORE THE ROCK, AND HE SAID UNTO THEM, HEAR NOW, YE REBELS; MUST WE FETCH YOU WATER OUT OF THIS ROCK" (The rod was the rod of God, Exodus 4:20, Exodus 17:9.)

"AND MOSES LIFTED UP HIS HAND, AND WITH HIS ROD HE SMOTE THE ROCK TWICE: AND THE WATER CAME OUT ABUNDANTLY, AND THE CONGREGATION DRANK, AND THEIR BEASTS ALSO."

"AND THE LORD SPAKE UNTO MOSES AND AARON, BECAUSE YE BELIEVED ME NOT, TO SANCTIFY ME IN THE EYES OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, THREFORE YE SHALL NOT BRING THIS CONGREGATION INTO THE LAND (Canaan) WHICH I HAVE GIVEN THEM."

THE BIBLE TELLS US "AND DID ALL DRINK THE SAME SPIRITUAL DRINK; FOR THEY DRANK OF THAT SPIRITUAL ROCK THAT FOLLOWED THEM: AND THAT ROCK WAS CHRIST". I CORINTHIANS 10:4

AARON DIES

"THE LORD SPOKE UNTO MOSES AND AARON IN MOUNT HOR...AARON SHALL BE GATHERED UNTO HIS PEOPLE FOR HE SHALL NOT ENTER INTO THE LAND WHICH I HAVE GIVEN UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, BECAUSE YE REBELLED AGAINST MY WORD AT THE WATER OF MERIBAH (WHERE THEY GOT THE WATER OUT OF THE ROCK)"

"TAKE AARON AND ELEAZAR HIS SON, AND BRING THEM UP UNTO MOUNT HOR: AND STRIP AARON OF HIS (priestly) GARMENTS, AND PUT THEM UPON ELEAZAR HIS SON: AND AARON SHALL BE GATHERED UNTO HIS PEOPLE, AND SHALL DIE THERE."

"AND MOSES DID AS THE LORD COMMANDED: AND THEY WENT UP INTO MOUNT HOR IN THE SIGHT OF THE CONGREGATION. AND MOSES STRIPPED AARON OF HIS (PRIESTLY) GARMENTS, AND PUT THEM UPON ELEAZAR HIS SON; AND AARON DIED THERE IN THE TOP OF THE MOUNT: AND MOSES AND ELEAZAR CAME DOWN FROM THE MOUNT. AND WHEN ALL THE CONGREGATION SAW THAT AARON WAS DEAD, THEY MOURNED FOR AARON THIRTY DAYS, EVEN ALL THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL." NUMBERS 20 23-29

MEMORY VERSE

"AND DID ALL DRINK THE SAME SPIRITUAL DRINK; FOR THEY DRANK OF THAT SPIRITUAL ROCK THAT FOLLOWED THEM: AND THAT ROCK WAS CHRIST".

I CORINTHIANS 10:4

*AND DID ALL DRINK THE SAME SPIRITUAL DRINK
FOR THEY DRANK OF THAT*

*SPIRITUAL ROCK
THAT FOLLOWED
THEM; AND THAT
ROCK WAS
CHRIST.*

1 CORINTHIANS 10:4

*HE OPENED THE ROCK,
AND THE WATERS
GUSHED OUT;*

*THEY RAN IN DRY PLACES
LIKE A RIVER
PSALM 105:41*