

In The Wilderness

Numbers 28-29

- With every new generation comes the very same old problems of the last generation, and that is forgetfulness, people tend to not remember the past as they forge ahead into the future. **Jer 6:16** says > **“This is what the Lord says: Stand by the ways and see, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it, then you will find rest for your souls, but they said, we will not walk in it”**. I have heard many bible teachers make the quote **“if it is new, it’s not true, and if it’s true, it is not new”** and folks that is the truth.
- Well, a new generation has cropped up and the Lord is going to make sure that first and foremost their spiritual life is the priority in the hearts and minds of the people. From the very beginning of their journey out of Egypt, the secret of Israel’s success was always a right relationship with the Lord, that was demonstrated by their faith and obedience to the Lord.
- Therefore chapters **28-29** are a reminder of what was written in the book of Leviticus that dealt with the sacrifices, holy days, and festivals, that Israel was required to have. So we will see the Lord mention the daily sacrifices, weekly offerings, and monthly festivals. These were all done so that Israel would remember that they were different from the other nations, who had invented their own forms of worship, but they worshipped The Lord God Almighty.

V1-31

- **V1-10** each morning and each evening the priests were to offer a lamb as a burnt offering, but on the Sabbath days they were to offer two lambs each morning and evening. The burnt offering typified total dedication to the Lord, and it symbolized how we should begin and end each day by giving ourselves completely to the Lord > **Rom 12:1-2**- the Christians life is **“a continual burnt offering”** except that we are living sacrifices not dead ones.
- Scripture says that **Jesus sacrifice** is a sweet smelling aroma to God The Father **Eph 5:2**, **our prayers** are a sweet smelling aroma **Ps 141:2**, **my life 2 Cor 2:14-16**, **my actions Philip 4:18**. So don’t ever believe the lie that you don’t matter, what you do, what you say, how you live, all these things not only will impact others, but they go all the way up to heaven before the Lord, having a smell that is either pleasant to Him, or a stench that’s rejected by Him.
- **V11-15** now the monthly offerings are addressed, Israel followed a lunar calendar according to **Lev 23** that was based on roughly **29 ½** days a month and **354** days for a year, rather than a regular calendar year of **365** days except on leap year like this year. So on the first day of every month along with the continual burnt offering, the priests were to offer an additional sacrifice of two bulls, a ram, and seven male lambs a year old, along with meal and drink offerings, this was a sin offering, for a new start, with each new month for the nation.

- Later on in Israel's history "**new moon festivals**" became opportunities for excess and sinful behavior > **Is 1:13-15**- their festivals had become corrupt, for instead of sincere worship it had turned into tradition and a free pass for sin, church can also be that for some people, who only come to check the box but afterward live their lives on their own terms and not God's Word, to them God is only to be acknowledged on Sunday and no other day. In **Col 2:14-17** tells us that Christ has set us free from new moons, festivals and Sabbaths.
- **V16-25** we see five different annual events named here starting with the Passover and Feast of unleavened bread- it celebrated Israel's exodus from Egypt and also marked the nation's religious year. On the **14th** day of the month the head of each household brought a lamb to be slain, roasted and eaten, and on the **15th** day the priests had to offer on the altar sacrifices identical to those offered on the new moon > a ram, two young bulls, seven male lambs, a male goat, and identical sacrifices were repeated each day for a week.
- During this time the Jews would remove all traces of yeast from their homes which represented sin, this was them celebrating both Passover and the feast of unleavened bread. For the believer these feasts have a spiritual connotation to it, as the Passover speaks of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, and the yeast is a picture of sin that God's redeemed people no longer willingly indulge in as God has called us out of its bondage.
- **V26-31 Pentecost**- celebrated fifty days after Passover counting from the feast of first fruits which was the day after the Sabbath following the Passover, I know it can be confusing. The priests offered sacrifices identical to the ones he offered for the new moon and Passover, Pentecost was the day that the Holy Spirit came and baptized believers filling them with power for ministry in **Acts 2**, its often referred to as the day of new beginnings for believers.

Chapter 29

V1-40

- Chapter 29 continues with the annual feasts > **Feast of Trumpets V1-6**- it happened on the seventh month and signaled the beginning of a new civil year, like a new years day parade, as they blew the trumpets signifying that everyone come together. On that day the people were not to work, and the priests were to offer a burn offering of one bull, one ram, one male goat, and seven male lambs. Many look at this feast as symbolic to the trumpet sound that the church is awaiting that'll announce the return of our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ >1Thess 4.
- Day of Atonement V7-11- was Israel's highest and holiest day, its when the people fasted, prayed, and abstained from work. The priests offered sacrifices that were identical to those offered on the first day of the month, but it was the only day of the year that the high priest would go beyond the veil into the holy of holies, bringing with him burning incense and sacrificial blood.

- The people would tie a rope around him with a bell because if God didn't accept his offering for the people's sin, then he would die on the spot and since no one could enter in to go get him there would be no way to bring him out, hence the rope just in case. So not only was this Israel's highest and holiest of days it was also the priests most intense day.
- The fest of Tabernacles **V12-40**- this was one of Israel's most joyous celebrations, as it started on the **15th** day of the **7th** month, and ended on the **22nd** day, so it lasted for a week. It happened only five days after the day of atonement and during this week the priests would offer over two hundred sacrifices including daily burnt offerings of two lambs, which was doubled on the Sabbath. This feast celebrated God taking care of them in the wilderness, keeping them safe and provided for, and also it looks forward to God keeping His Kingdom promise as well.
- It's been calculated that in order to obey these commands Israel had to sacrifice a year, 1,086 lambs, 113 bulls, 32 rams, more than a ton of flour, 1,000 bottles of oil and wine. When you read these chapters we should have a greater appreciation of what **Heb 10:3-7** says that despite all those sacrifices day by day, week by week, month by month, and year by year, their sins still remained, until Jesus Christ came and died only once, delivering us all from sin and death, accomplishing eternal salvation for us once and for all > **Heb 10:12-14**. |