

A Vow and A Blessing

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: Have you ever made a "vow" to God?

Q: What are the benefits of a "vow"?

Q: Why can vows be difficult?

Q: What are the benefits of blessing someone?

Table Time....

READ: Numbers 6:1-5 "And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ² "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When either a man or a woman makes a special vow, the vow of a Nazirite, to separate himself to the Lord, ³ he shall separate himself from wine and strong drink. He shall drink no vinegar made from wine or strong drink and shall not drink any juice of grapes or eat grapes, fresh or dried. ⁴ All the days of his separation he shall eat nothing that is produced by the grapevine, not even the seeds or the skins. ⁵ "All the days of his vow of separation, no razor shall touch his head. Until the time is completed for which he separates himself to the Lord, he shall be holy. He shall let the locks of hair of his head grow long."

Q: According to verse 2, what's the purpose of the "Nazirite Vow"? Why might that be helpful?

Q: According to verses 3-4, what's the first prohibition? Why might that be a prohibition during the time of the vow?

Q: According to verses 5, what's the outward recognition of the vow? (Study Idea: Head coverings and long hair and the ideas around "hair").

READ: Numbers 6:6-12 ""All the days that he separates himself to the Lord he shall not go near a dead body. ⁷ Not even for his father or for his mother, for brother or sister, if they die, shall he make himself unclean, because his separation to God is on his head. ⁸ All the days of his separation he is holy to the Lord. ⁹ "And if any man dies very suddenly beside him and he defiles his consecrated head, then he shall shave his head on the day of his cleansing; on the seventh day he shall shave it. ¹⁰ On the eighth day he shall bring two turtledoves or two pigeons to the priest to the entrance of the tent of meeting, ¹¹ and the priest shall offer one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering, and make atonement for him, because he sinned by reason of the dead body. And he shall consecrate his head that same day ¹² and separate himself to the Lord for the days of his separation and bring a male lamb a year old for a guilt offering. But the previous period shall be void, because his separation was defiled."

Q: What is the third requirement? What's THAT about?

Q: Does the end of verse 7, help us understand the no cutting of the hair prohibition?

Q: According to verses 9-12, what happens if he/she accidentally comes into contact with a dead person?

READ: Numbers 6:14-18, 21 "And this is the law for the Nazirite, when the time of his separation has been completed: he shall be brought to the entrance of the tent of meeting, ¹⁴ and he shall bring his gift to the Lord, one male lamb a year old without blemish for a burnt offering, and one ewe lamb a year old without blemish as a sin offering, and one ram without blemish as a peace offering, ¹⁵ and a basket of unleavened bread, loaves of fine flour mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers smeared with oil, and their grain offering and their drink offerings. ¹⁶ And the priest shall bring them before the Lord and offer his sin offering and his burnt offering, ¹⁷ and he shall offer the ram as a sacrifice of peace offering to the Lord, with the basket of unleavened bread. The priest shall offer also its grain offering and its drink offering. ¹⁸ And the Nazirite shall shave his consecrated head at the entrance of the tent of meeting and shall take the hair from his consecrated head and put it on the fire that is under the sacrifice of the peace offering...." This is the law of the Nazirite. But if he vows an offering to the Lord above his Nazirite vow, as he can afford, in exact accordance with the vow that he takes, then he shall do in addition to the law of the Nazirite."

Q: At the end of the vow, the person who made the vow was required to bring an offering and a sacrifice. How does that indicate the "cost" of his vow?

Q: Remember the Nazirite vow was voluntary. What might be some blessings from going through this willingly?

Q: Who were the "famous" Nazirites in the Bible?

READ: Numbers 6:22-27 "The Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²³ "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, ²⁴ The Lord bless you and keep 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 shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them."

Q: What sticks out to you as powerful about this blessing?

Q: Why would God want His people to have this blessing in their services?

Q: What's powerful about verse 27?

Q: Why do we need this?

Q: How might we incorporate blessing in our relationships?