

INTRODUCTION: NUMBERS 6

- Last time we introduced the Book of Numbers as a betrothal
- A betrothal is a time of preparation where a bride is being prepared to spend an eternity with her husband and the husband is preparing a place for his wife
- We looked at the difference between a betrothal and an engagement in that a betrothal is an agreement to marriage where the wife agrees to be separate to her husband
- Thus she is no longer single, but she's not yet married... she is in a state of becoming, a state of transformation of preparation for the future

According to Jewish law, marriage is a 2 step process

- The first step is called "kiddushin" which is the betrothal
- The word "kiddushin" means "holiness" or "set apartness"
- The second step is known as "nisu' in" or the marriage ceremony
- The word "nisu' in" means "to take" and the root word "nasa" means "to lift up"... thus there is an elevation in status when you get married
- When a bride is betrothed to her husband it is by mutual consent
- Once the betrothal is accepted, the terms of the marriage were given in the form of a "ketubah"
- The "ketubah" was a legally binding document that contained the conditions and requirements of the groom and bride to each other
- The inventory of the bride's estate was included
- The price paid for the bride (usually 50 shekels) (Deut. 22:28-29)
- The dowry ("mohar") – the price paid by the groom's father to the bride's father in the event something happened and the father found himself taking care of the bride once again
- In addition to the "mohar" the groom would give a gift to the bride called a "mattan" as a sign of his commitment... usually a ring
- Then the bride and groom would stand under a chuppah and the groom would give the "gift" to his bride
- The ketubah would be signed and the bride and groom were legally betrothed to one another
- In a "kettubin" ceremony... the rabbi would speak a blessing over the bride and groom

Now... where do we see this in the Book of Numbers

- In Leviticus, Israel accepts God's invitation to establish an eternal relationship with God

- Thus when we come to Numbers 1... we begin with the Ketubah

First, God commands Moses to take an inventory of the bride's estate

Numbers 1:2 (NKJV)

²“Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by their families, by their fathers' houses, according to the number of names, every male individually,

- All the assets of the bride were to be given to the groom
- But what makes this unique is that when something is given to God, it's not merely a change in ownership... but a change in status

Paul says...

Ephesians 2:4–7 (NKJV)

⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, ⁷that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

- My status is no longer as a citizen of this world... but I am seated with Jesus in heavenly places
- My status has been upgraded

Second, the price paid for the bride is written down

Numbers 3:45–47 (NKJV)

⁴⁵“Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel, and the livestock of the Levites instead of their livestock. The Levites shall be Mine: I *am* the LORD.

- The price that is paid is a Levite for all the firstborn among the children of Israel...
- Remember... God said the Levites belong to Him
- Thus He pays a life for a life...

Paul writing to the Corinthians said...

2 Corinthians 5:14–15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

- What is the price Jesus paid for His bride? His own life!
- Thus Paul says... if Jesus paid the price for His bride by dying for all... then we should no longer live selfish lives but live for Jesus who not only died for us but rose again... which means He is alive!

Third a dowry is given to the bride's Father

Numbers 3:49–51 (NKJV)

⁴⁹ So Moses took the redemption money from those who were over and above those who were redeemed by the Levites. ⁵⁰ From the firstborn of the children of Israel he took the money, one thousand three hundred and sixty-five *shekels*, according to the shekel of the sanctuary. ⁵¹ And Moses gave their redemption money to Aaron and his sons, according to the word of the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses.

- The dowry is represented by the redemption money
- The redemption money was the money paid to redeem 273 of the firstborn of the children of Israel
- God gives this money to Aaron and his sons
- Why Aaron and his sons? Because they were the representatives of God the Father to the children of Israel

Jesus paid the dowry with His own blood

Revelation 5:8–9 (NKJV)

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

Then in Chapter 5 God gives the conditions of being married

- First... they were to remove defilement

Numbers 5:1–2 (NKJV)

5 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ² "Command the children of Israel that they put out of the camp every leper, everyone who has a discharge, and whoever becomes defiled by a corpse.

- The word “defiled” means unclean, polluted, tainted, impure
- They were to remove all defilement from the camp

We are to do the same thing

Mark 7:20–23 (NKJV)

²⁰ And He (Jesus) said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man.

²¹ For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, ²² thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

- We are to remove anything that will defile us from our lives

Second... they were to remove offenses

Numbers 5:6–7 (NKJV)

⁶ “Speak to the children of Israel: ‘When a man or woman commits any sin that men commit in unfaithfulness against the LORD, and that person is guilty, ⁷ then he shall confess the sin which he has committed. He shall make restitution for his trespass in full, plus one-fifth of it, and give *it* to the one he has wronged.

- The word sin is the word for the willful breaking of God’s law and it was an act of unfaithfulness against the LORD
- If you broke the law and injured someone, in order to re-establish peace and justice you were to make restitution in full plus 20%
- By doing this, you were removing all the offenses

Paul said...

Acts 24:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ This *being* so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

- Remove the offenses... deal with them

Third... they were to remove jealousy

Numbers 5:29–31 (NKJV)

²⁹ ‘This *is* the law of jealousy, when a wife, *while* under her husband’s *authority*, goes astray and defiles herself, ³⁰ or when the spirit of jealousy

comes upon a man, and he becomes jealous of his wife; then he shall stand the woman before the LORD, and the priest shall execute all this law upon her. ³¹ Then the man shall be free from iniquity, but that woman shall bear her guilt.’ ”

- Jealousy is so destructive
- It undermines love, trust and faith... and the Bible says without faith it's impossible to please God...

How are we to deal with jealousy in the New Testament?

Ephesians 4:30–32 (NKJV)

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. ³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Fourth... they were to be separated to God alone in Numbers 6

Numbers 6:21 (NKJV)

²¹ “This is the law of the Nazirite who vows to the LORD the offering for his separation, and besides that, whatever else his hand is able to provide; according to the vow which he takes, so he must do according to the law of his separation.”

- The purpose of the Nazirite vow was to separate himself, to willingly set aside time to seek the LORD
- This really has to do with love and devotion for God alone

John wrote...

1 John 2:15–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

- We live in this world, but we are not of this world... we are a heavenly people and thus we shouldn't be caught up in the things of the world
- Everything here is temporary... it's not going to last

- Only God is eternal and abides forever

Now... at the end of the Ketubah, God speaks a blessing to us

Numbers 6:24–27 (NKJV)

²⁴ “The LORD bless you and keep you; ²⁵ The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.” ’ ²⁷ “So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.”

Let’s break this down...

- It says the LORD (YHWH) bless you which literally means may the LORD show divine favor to you
- And keep you... guard over you
- May His face shine upon you... Face always represents Presence... may His Presence illuminate you
- Be gracious to you... show kindness or grace to you
- The Lord lift up His countenance upon You... remember God wanted to put His Presence on their face so they would know His will
- And give you peace... shalom which is peace in relationships, financial peace, emotional peace, peace on your business, peace in your home, peace with God
- Now... the power of this blessing is this... this is what the LORD WILL DO
- Not what He might do... but what He will do and all we have to do it receive it

Notice vs. 27... they will put My name on the children of Israel

- This is the one part of the blessing that requires participation... we are to put God’s name... which means we are to teach our children to follow the LORD
- When we do... God will bless our children
- Parents... if you want your kids to be blessed... raise them up in the name of the LORD... let your family be known for Jesus in your midst