

Wednesday, 9/17

**Read:** Numbers 6:1-21; First Samuel 1:1-28

**Ask yourself or one another:** What was involved in a Nazirite vow? What is an implication of his/her special vow to abstain from alcohol?

**Review the names of the sons of Israel.**

**Pray:** “Lord, teach us what it means to be holy and consecrated to You. Lead us in holiness that we might be in the world, but not of the world. Break us from our self-righteousness and make us bold in our sacrifice for You.”

Thursday, 9/18

**Read:** Numbers 5:11-31; John 4:1-42

**Ask yourself or one another:** How does Jesus interrogate the adulterous woman? What if any parallels do you see with Numbers?

**Sing:** *Before the Throne of God Above*

**Pray:** Ask God to reveal the grace of the gospel in your life. Where do you deserve judgment, but receive life instead? How do you rejoice? Ask Him to restore the joy of His salvation in your life.

Friday, 9/19

**Read:** Numbers 4:1-49

**Ask yourself or one another:** Do we really understand God as holy?

**Meditate on the holiness of God:** “so that they may not touch the holy objects and die.” (v. 15)

**Pray:** Ask God to reveal His holiness to you and to us as His people. Beg Him to teach us what it means to be holy as He is holy.

Saturday, 9/20

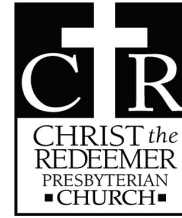
**Read:** Numbers 6:1-27 in preparation for tomorrow’s gathered worship.

**Ask yourself or one another:** What does it mean for the Lord to bless someone? What is involved in calling upon God’s name? How does God bless people?

**Sing:** *Before the Throne of God Above*

**Pray:** “Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand; Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; let the fire and the cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through; strong Deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death, and hell’s destruction, land me safe on Canaan’s side; songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee.” (Williams)



# PURE INTIMACY

Sermon Notes from 9/14/08

**Numbers 5:11-31**

Rev. Douglas D. Warren

Book Overview

**Numbers/Into the Wilderness:** God has prepared the Promised Land for Israel as an inheritance where they are to dwell together with Him in their midst enjoying unprecedented intimacy and delight. While the first generation brought up out of Egypt failed to trust Him and so died in the wilderness, they are to press on in faith and obey His Word in every regard so they will live in His blessing.

## Principles for Possession and Enjoyment of the Land

1. Perfect obedience is necessary for life and blessing
2. The Lord organizes His army for the possession of her inheritance.
3. It is impossible for fallen people to walk with the righteous God.
4. God Himself prepares His people to receive His inheritance.

Section Outline

The second section of the book includes chapters five and six:

5:1-6:27	<b>Ordering the lives within the camp—</b>
5:1-4	Defilement leads outside the camp (disease/death)
5:5-10	Defilement leads outside the camp (wronging brothers)
5:11-31	Law of Jealousy (wronging spouse)
6:1-21	Nazirite vow (special union with God)
6:22-27	Blessed in His name (All His people are to be blessed)

Text

<sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>12</sup>“Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘If a man’s wife goes astray and is unfaithful to him <sup>13</sup>by sleeping with another man, and this is hidden from her husband and her impurity is undetected (since there is no witness against her and she has not been caught in the act), <sup>14</sup>and if feelings of jealousy come over her husband and he suspects his wife and she is impure—or if he is jealous and suspects her even though she is not impure— <sup>15</sup>then he is to take his wife to the priest. He must also take an offering of a tenth of an ephah of barley flour on her behalf. He must not pour oil on it or put incense on it, because it is a grain offering for jealousy, a reminder offering to draw attention to guilt.

<sup>16</sup>“The priest shall bring her and have her *stand before the LORD*. <sup>17</sup>Then he shall take some holy water in a clay jar and put some dust from the tabernacle floor into the water. <sup>18</sup>After the priest has had the woman *stand before the LORD*, he shall loosen her hair and place in her hands the reminder offering, the grain offering for jealousy, while he himself holds the bitter water that brings a curse. <sup>19</sup>Then the priest shall put the woman under oath and say to her, “If no other man has slept with you and you have not gone astray and become impure while married to your husband, may this bitter

water that brings a curse not harm you. <sup>20</sup>But if you have gone astray while married to your husband and you have defiled yourself by sleeping with a man other than your husband”— <sup>21</sup>here the priest is to put the woman under this curse of the oath— “may the LORD cause your people to curse and denounce you when he causes your thigh to waste away and your abdomen to swell. <sup>22</sup>May this water that brings a curse enter your body so that your abdomen swells and your thigh wastes away.”

“Then the woman is to say, ‘Amen. So be it.’

<sup>23</sup>“The priest is to write these curses on a scroll and then wash them off into the bitter water. <sup>24</sup>He shall have the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and this water will enter her and cause bitter suffering. <sup>25</sup>The priest is to take from her hands the grain offering for jealousy, wave it *before the LORD* and bring it to the altar. <sup>26</sup>The priest is then to take a handful of the grain offering as a memorial offering and burn it on the altar; after that, he is to have the woman drink the water. <sup>27</sup>If she has defiled herself and been unfaithful to her husband, then when she is made to drink the water that brings a curse, it will go into her and cause bitter suffering; her abdomen will swell and her thigh waste away, and she will become accursed among her people. <sup>28</sup>If, however, the woman has not defiled herself and is free from impurity, she will be cleared of guilt and will be able to have children.

<sup>29</sup>“This, then, is the law of jealousy when a woman goes astray and defiles herself while married to her husband, <sup>30</sup>or when feelings of jealousy come over a man because he suspects his wife. The priest is to have her *stand before the LORD* and is to apply this entire law to her. <sup>31</sup>The husband will be innocent of any wrongdoing, but the woman will bear the consequences of her sin.”

*Please ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you think and pray through the following questions:*

What is hard for you to swallow from this passage?

How is God’s grace made evident in this passage? In what ways?

Of what are you found guilty in His *holy presence*? How is that made right?

## Taking Gathered Worship Home

Will you join me in reading and studying Numbers together?

Each week we will have a set of passages to read to help us work together in reading through this whole book and digging into what it means and how we are to apply it in our lives individually, as families, and as a congregation. Let’s wade into the Wilderness together.

Sunday, 9/14

**Read:** Numbers 5:1-31; Exodus 34:1-14

**Ask yourself or one another:** What were the main points of the sermon? How do they apply to us as a congregation? How do they apply to me? What am I going to do about it? How does the gospel of Christ empower me (us) to do so? Review Application.

**Sing:** *Before the Throne of God Above* (words in *Order of Worship*)

**Pray:** “Father God, You alone are God and Ruler of all. We praise You and worship You. Teach us through Your Word, we pray. Open our eyes. Give us boldness to obey You and proclaim Your grace, through our thoughts, words, and deeds, amen.”

Monday, 9/15

**Read:** Numbers 5:1-4; 35:9-34

**Review/Memorize the names of the sons of Israel:**

Rueben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin.

**Ask yourself or one another:** Why would the God of the universe choose to dwell in the midst of these men’s sons and daughters?

**Pray:** Ask God to give you and us a sense of His presence.

Tuesday, 9/16

**Read:** Numbers 5:5-10; Gen 48:1-22

**Ask yourself or one another:** What does restitution mean? How is it to be made? Why is sin against another person (particularly someone else from the camp) unfaithfulness against the Lord?

**Sing:** *Before the Throne of God Above*

**Pray:** “Lord, show us how often we disobey you in the ways we deal with one another. We thank You, Lord Christ, for making atonement for us and reconciling us to Yourself. Help us to now live in that reconciliation as peace-makers with others.”