

 — **LESSON TWO** Numbers 15:1 – 26:65 — **Lesson Two, Day One** Reminders from the Lord

1. Recalling the incident at the end of Num. Ch. 14, what do you learn about the Lord from Num. 15:1-2?

2. After instructions on offerings in Num. 15:3-21, what general category of sin is discussed in vv. 22-29?

3. What general category of sin is discussed and exemplified in Num. 15:30-36, and what are its consequences?

4. a. What reminder of His Law did God give the Israelites in Num. 15:37-41?

b. How are we as believers today reminded of God's commands to us?

Lesson Two, Day Two The rebellion of Korah

1. a. What was the charge made against Moses and Aaron in Num. 16:1-3?

b. Considering who had appointed both Moses and Aaron, against whom was this charge ultimately made?

2. Read Num. 16:4-19. To whom did Moses turn for a decision in the case? Why do you think Moses did this?

3. a. Read Num. 16:20-41. What could the Israelites have learned from this incident, and how did they respond (v.41)?

b. Personal! What have you learned from this incident? Does it change your thinking?

Lesson Two, Day Three God's appointed high priest

1. Read Num. 16:41-50. Was the charge the Israelites made against Moses and Aaron true? Explain.

2. Read Num 17:1-13. How did God prove to the Israelites that Aaron was His choice to be High Priest?

3. a. Read Hebrews 2:17; 5:5-10. How was our Lord Jesus Christ prepared and appointed to be our High Priest?

***** SYLLABUS CHAPTER TWO *****

II. THE WILDERNESS TO THE JORDAN

- A. Wandering in the Wilderness Num. Ch. 15 – 26
 - 1. Rebellion, Discipline, and Instruction Num. Ch. 15 – 19
 - 2. The Sin of Moses Num. 20:1-13
 - 3. Victories and Disciplines Num. 20:14 – 21:35
 - 4. Balak and Balaam Num. Ch. 22 – 24
 - 5. Baal of Peor Num. Ch. 25
 - 6. The New Census Num. Ch. 26

II. THE WILDERNESS TO THE JORDAN

- A. Wandering in the Wilderness Num. Ch. 15 – 26
 - 1. Rebellion, Discipline and Instruction Num. Ch. 15 – 19

In Chapter 15, we encounter the awesome holiness of God. We who are living in the age of grace on this side of the Cross need to study the Old Testament to be reminded of the discipline of God and how perfectly holy God is. He has not changed. He is consistent. Sooner or later, the scales are balanced. Numbers 15 furnishes us with an example of the results of willful, deliberate sin.

We are not under the law today. Yet even in this age of grace, to deliberately sin (as stated in Num. 15:30) is to cut ourselves off from the privilege of sweet fellowship with God. How grateful and joyful our hearts should be at the provision of 1 John 1:9! Christ has paid the penalty for our sin. By choosing to stop and confess our sins to Him, He is "faithful and just to forgive us," immediately, just as He promised.

As we progress spiritually in our Christian walk, the Holy Spirit helps us become increasingly aware of the rough edges in our lives. We think back over former attitudes and behavior and blush, realizing how patient the Lord has been with us. God's plan is for us to keep growing right up to the day we step through the door to the other side. God brings to light hidden motives. *Preacher's Homiletic Commentary* says, "Seeing that God is so concerned to guard us against sin, it surely behooves us to flee from it as from our worst foe."

The perfection and spirituality of God's law render it almost impossible for a fallen son of Adam ever to know all the innumerable instances of transgressing it. . . . Self-examination is a duty which few practice as they ought to do; and he who practices it best will always have reason to conclude his particular confession with this general petition, 'Cleanse thou me from secret faults.'

George Horne

Chapter 16 records a rebellion against God's chosen leaders, Moses and Aaron. Korah, a Levite and cousin of Moses, Dothan and Abiram (also Levites), On, and 250 other Israelites joined in this revolt. Insisting that all the people were holy, they said Moses and Aaron should not have so much authority. They were forgetting that Moses and Aaron had not appointed themselves. These two men were their God-appointed leaders. The whole charge against Moses and Aaron was a cover-up for the rebels' own selfish ambitions. God dealt with them swiftly, destroying all of them. The whole congregation of Israelites then murmured against Moses and Aaron, charging them with the killing. Responding in mercy to the earnest intercession of Moses and Aaron, the Lord did not destroy the whole nation, though thousands died in a plague. In Chapter 17, Aaron's leadership is validated by God in the miraculous budding of his rod. This harsh judgment, like all of God's judgments of His people, has a positive side. A civil war might have destroyed them. Rebellion could not go on unchecked if Israel was to become a nation whose people were faithful to the Lord and His appointed leaders.

Numbers 18 covers the duties and support of the Levites. The maintenance of the priests was accomplished by the various offerings of the people and the revenue from the redemption of the firstborn of people and livestock. Chapter 19 explains the ritual of the red heifer, a cleansing ceremony for those who were defiled because of contact with a corpse. A defilement that went uncleansed would pollute the tabernacle as well. This is another object lesson picturing the cleansing power of the blood of Christ (Hebrews 9:13-14; 1 John 1:7-10).

2. The Sin of Moses Num. 20:1-13

Moses was old and tired. His patience was running thin toward these complaining people. The land was dry, and there was a shortage of water. God told Moses to again take his rod, go before the people, speak to a certain rock, and that water would burst out of it. Moses called the people together but, in his frustration over all of the groaning and complaining, instead of speaking out to the rock as God had said he was to do, Moses called the people rebels and struck the rock in anger. God did send water gushing out of the rock, but Moses had committed a grievous sin. In his temper he had set himself up as God saying in Numbers 20:10, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?"

The Bible ranks Moses as one of the godliest and most able men that ever lived. This incident has been carefully recorded and is important. It keeps us from elevating Moses too high. He was great, but he was human and he sinned. How wonderfully objective is God's Word! It shows us the sins and weaknesses as well as the strong points of its heroes. It is interesting that a person will