



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Numbers 1-4:20
- I Peter 5:1-4
- John 3:33-36

RE-FUND THE POLICE

- Uphold the Law
- Serve the Flock
- Protect the Flock

The imagery is striking. Your job is to uphold the law; you establish yourself in a well-defined precinct and you serve and protect those around you, as they all maintain their own property. You are like the glue that holds the community together and you are provided every resource to perform your duties.

Service is your name and protection is your game. Things are constantly in motion and you are right in the midst to ensure all goes according to plan. You look up and serve the leaders of your community and you look out to serve every member.

You are completely dedicated to preserving property rights and the rights of the people. In some regards you are members of the most practical side to governance. The more compliant each member of your community, the easier your job. It gets substantially more difficult when the people would rather violate the laws than

uphold them. They are not your laws, but those created by your leader and universally adopted by your society. You serve the people and maintain order, so that life for everyone who obeys the laws is not disrupted by those who would rather break them.

And that leads to your final role—protection. You protect the people and their property from those who violate the laws. And equally as vital, because you serve everyone, you even desire to protect violators from themselves. You do so by setting an example and by emphasizing the benefits of living within your supreme leader’s legal parameters and accepted standards. You consistently point to the one from whom the law originates. Your mission is to serve and protect. Who are you?

I am sure you recognize this imagery. You see it within modern-day law enforcement—the police! Biblical law enforcement officers are called priests. Today’s spiritual police force or priests are often called pastors! Calling all pastors...are you serving and protecting your flock? The Chief of Police is coming soon to check on His police force. Are you pointing your flock toward your own laws, or toward the One from whom the supreme law originates?

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“And **the Lord spoke to Moses**, saying: “Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, **that they may serve**

him. And they **shall attend to his needs and the needs of the whole congregation** before the tabernacle of meeting, to do the work of the tabernacle. Also **they shall attend to all the furnishings of the tabernacle** of meeting, **and to the needs of the children of Israel**, to do the work of the tabernacle. And **you shall give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are given entirely to him** from among the children of Israel.” Numbers 3:5-9 NKJV

“but the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the Testimony, **that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the children of Israel**; and the Levites shall keep charge of the tabernacle of the Testimony.” Numbers 1:53 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

“**The elders who are among you I exhort**, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: **Shepherd the flock of God which is among you**, serving as overseers, **not by compulsion but willingly**, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; **nor as being Lords over those entrusted to you**, but **being examples to the flock**; and when **the Chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” 1 Peter 5:1-4 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This is the first portion in the fourth book of the Bible. The Hebrew name for what we call “Numbers” in English is “Bamidbar”, which means “In the wilderness.” We derive the English title from the Greek Septuagint (LXX) version of the Torah. The book of Numbers tells the story of Israel’s journey through the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land, their lack of faith and obedience as they approach the edge of the land for the first time, and the subsequent forty years of wandering. It concludes with the story of the second generation’s triumphs over the first Canaanite resistance. The book ends with the Israelites poised on the edge of Canaan for the second time, ready to take their inheritance. Numbers also contains a significant amount of legal material and prophetic concepts in the midst of the journey narratives.
2. Numbers begins with a census of the tribes of Israel and the Levitical families, just prior to the departure from Sinai. It would be beneficial if you to reviewed the last two year’s teachings on this portion here: [The Firstborn Swap](#) and [My Redeemer Lives](#)
3. **The First Census of Israel:** first *day* of the second month, in the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt—Take a census of all the congregation of the children of Israel, by

family by the fathers' houses [Tribe of Israel], every male individually from twenty years old and above—all who *are able to go to war* in Israel.

4. A man from every tribe, each one the head of his father's house was selected and named. The ancestry by families of all men twenty years old and above is detailed.

(a) Reuben: Israel's oldest son: forty-six thousand five hundred

(b) Simeon: fifty-nine thousand three hundred

(c) Gad: forty-five thousand six hundred and fifty

(d) Judah: seventy-four thousand six hundred

(e) Issachar: fifty-four thousand four hundred

(f) Zebulun: fifty-seven thousand four hundred

(g) Joseph:

1. the children of Ephraim: forty thousand five hundred

2. the children of Manasseh: thirty-two thousand two hundred

(h) Benjamin: thirty-five thousand four hundred

(i) Dan: sixty-two thousand seven hundred

(j) Asher: forty-one thousand five hundred

(k) Naphtali: fifty-three thousand four hundred

(l) The ones who were numbered, twelve men and their sons from twenty years old and above: six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty (603,550).

(m) Levites were not numbered: Yahweh said...Levi shall not be numbered, nor a census taken of them.

5. Appoint the Levites over:

(a) the tabernacle of the Testimony, over all its furnishings, and over all things that belong to it;

(b) they shall carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings;

(c) they shall attend to tabernacle, the people, and camp around the tabernacle;

(d) And when the tabernacle is to go forward, the Levites shall take it down; and when the tabernacle is to be set up, the Levites shall set it up.

6. **The Tribes and Leaders by Armies:** How and where the tribes pitch their tents, the order in which they move, and how the tabernacle gets moved are described in detail.

7. The Sons of Aaron are named including a reminder of what happened to Nadab and Abihu and how Eleazar and Ithamar took over.

8. **The Levites Serve in the Tabernacle:** they shall attend the needs of the whole congregation before the tabernacle of meeting, and shall do all the work of the tabernacle.

9. Yahweh shows that He has taken the entire tribe of the Levites as firstborns instead of the firstborns from the other tribes because all the firstborn are His as per the Passover incident in

Egypt. Again, I encourage you to review the teaching on this portion called: [The Firstborn Swap](#)

10. **Census of the Levites Commanded:** The sons of Levi and all their sons **over one month** are counted and the duties in the ministry of the tabernacle for each son is described. Eleazar was to be chief over the leaders of the Levites, with oversight of those who kept charge of the sanctuary. *“All who were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron numbered at the commandment of the LORD, by their families, all the males from a month old and above, were **twenty-two thousand.**”*

Numbers 3:39 NKJV

11. **Levites Dedicated Instead of the Firstborn:** number all of the firstborn males from a month old and above, from all the tribes—you shall take the Levites for Me—instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel: the number was **twenty-two thousand two hundred and seventy-three.**
12. Now there were **two hundred and seventy-three** more firstborns of the children of Israel (22,273) then there were Levite firstborns to redeem them (22,000). So, take five shekels for each of the 273 firstborn in excess of number redeemed by the Levites and give it to Aaron and his sons (1365 shekels).
13. The duties of the Sons of Kohath (ages 30 to 50 years old) are described in detail and how they are to prepare, move and

carry the table of showbread, the altar, the ark and all the utensils. Strict warning is given to not touch any holy thing, lest they die. (See II Samuel 5 & 6 for what happens when this is violated!)

14. Eleazar is appointed the oversight of the tabernacle, and so the family of the Kohathites do not die when they approach the most holy things, Aaron and his sons go in and cover them first, before the Kohathites come in to move them.

UPHOLD THE LAW

1. To Teach and to Demonstrate

A. Do as commanded...

(1) Just from this week's portion...

(a) At multiple moments throughout the reading of the Torah, we see strategic pauses, almost like hitting the save button, sealing all that was just instructed into the permanent record. It looks like this: the people agreed to or did all that Moses commanded; or the priest agreed to or did all that Moses commanded...

1. "Thus the children of Israel **did; according to all that the Lord commanded Moses**, so they did." Numbers 1:54 NKJV

2. “Thus the children of Israel **did according to all that the Lord commanded Moses**; so they camped by their standards and so they broke camp, each one by his family, according to their fathers’ houses.”

Numbers 2:34 NKJV

3. “And Moses gave their redemption money to Aaron and his sons, according to the word of the Lord, **as the Lord commanded Moses.**” Numbers 3:51 NKJV

(See: [The Firstborn Swap](#))

(2) Teach

(a) And what role did the priest play in the obedience of the people? They taught the people God’s laws. They led the people to know the difference between the holy and the unholy, and caused them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

1. “and that you may **teach the children** of Israel all the statutes which the Lord has spoken to them by the hand of Moses.”” Leviticus 10:11 NKJV

2. “And of Levi he said: ...**They shall teach** Jacob Your judgments, And Israel Your law...” Deuteronomy 33:8, 10 NKJV

3. “And Nehemiah, who was the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites **who taught the**

people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn nor weep.” For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the Law.”
Nehemiah 8:9 NKJV

4. ““But the priests, the Levites...”**And they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.** In controversy they shall stand as judges, and judge it according to My judgments. They shall keep My laws and My statutes in all My appointed meetings, and they shall hallow My Sabbaths.” Ezekiel 44:15, 23-24 NKJV

(b) Early Warning signs: if you take on the role of teaching the people, you will be held to the strictest of standards!

1. “My brethren, let not many of you become **teachers**, knowing that we shall receive a **stricter judgment.**”
James 3:1 NKJV

(3) Blessings and Curses

(a) Another critical theme in the Torah are the blessings for obedience and the curses for disobedience. Notice that there are significantly more verses dedicated to the warnings for disobedience than the blessings for

obedience. (29 vs. 10 in Leviticus 26 and 54 vs. 14 in Deuteronomy 28)

1. “If you walk in My statutes and **keep My commandments**, and perform them,” Leviticus 26:3 NKJV (10 verses of blessings)
2. “But if you do not obey Me, and **do not observe all these commandments**,” Leviticus 26:14 NKJV (29 verses of curses)
3. “Now it shall come to pass, if you **diligently obey the voice of the Lord** your God, to **observe carefully all His commandments** which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth.” Deuteronomy 28:1 NKJV (14 verses of blessings)
4. “But it shall come to pass, **if you do not obey the voice of the Lord** your God, to **observe carefully all His commandments** and His statutes which I command you today, that all **these curses** will come upon you and overtake you:” Deuteronomy 28:15 NKJV (54 verses of curses)

B. For by the law is the knowledge of sin...

- (1) Guilty as Charged

(a) Without laws there can be no standards. There must be something by which to be measured, and there must be universal standards by which to live. If there is no law, there is no guilt; if there is no law there is no knowledge; if there is nothing to obey there can be no obedience. We will see shortly what it means to be “under the law.”

1. “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to **those who are under the law**, that every mouth may be stopped, **and all the world may become guilty before God**. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, **for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**” Romans 3:19-20 NKJV

(2) Why Laws?

(a) Think about human nature. Rules and regulations stir within us the desire to do otherwise. In other words, our sinful nature is exposed. What does it mean to be delivered from the law? It simply means you are now equipped with the strength to obey; you are enabled to submit to your new spirit nature rather than your old flesh nature.

1. “For when we were **in the flesh**, the **sinful passions which were aroused by the law** were at work in our

members to bear fruit to death. But now we have been **delivered from the law**, having died to what we were held by, so that we should **serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.**"

Romans 7:5-6 NKJV

(b) There is a lot going on here as Paul explains how the law operates in our lives. Plausible deniability is a desirable option for humans. I didn't know; how could I know; no one informed me; if I knew I'd have chosen otherwise; I can't be held responsible! Even as we live in a society in which "ignorance of the law is no excuse", it does not stop us from trying! Paul does a masterful job simplifying the value of God's laws. "I would not have known sin except through the law." The Lord's commandments exposed my sinful nature. That makes the law a very good thing (as bad as that feels) because it proves my need for help.

1. "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, **I would not have known sin except through the law.** For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." **But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment,** produced in me all manner of evil

desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. **I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.** And the commandment, which was to bring life, I found to bring death. **For sin, taking occasion by the commandment,** deceived me, and by it killed me. Therefore **the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.**" Romans 7:7-12 NKJV

(c) We will see in a moment a great explanation in Paul's letter to the Galatians: *"What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions."* For sin to be recognized as sin, the commandments had to be codified. The law existed prior to being written down, but God "added it" in written form and gave it to Moses, so that man would have no excuse. Here it is "on stone" and later on parchment. Now, look at it and you will recognize that you are exceedingly sinful. That makes the law spiritual, not evil.

1. "Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! **But sin, that it might appear sin,** was producing death in me through what is good, **so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.** For we know that the law is

spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.” Romans
7:13-14 NKJV

C. Above the law...

(1) Under the Law

(a) After everything you just learned from Romans 7, we can now safely rewind to Romans 6, and not make a complete mess out of what otherwise might be confusing. You have been empowered by God to defeat sin; you can walk away from your sinful lusts and no longer submit yourself to unrighteousness. If you are therefore no longer ruled by sin, you are not under the law but under grace! There it is; that phrase—“Not under the law...” After all you just learned, *“The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good,”* it cannot possibly mean the law does not apply any longer because of grace. So, what does it mean? It means that grace, God’s supernatural empowerment, has equipped you to obey His laws, and therefore you are capable of living a life in which the law does not condemn you—because you are keeping it!

1. “Therefore **do not let sin reign in your mortal body**, that you should obey it in its lusts. And **do not present your members as instruments of**

unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. **For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**" Romans 6:12-14 NKJV

(b) Now we can take a sneak peek at maybe Paul's most confusing letter for Christians. We start with that phrase we looked at earlier. For sin to be recognized as sin, the commandments had to be codified. The law existed prior to being written down, but God "added it" in written form and gave it to Moses, so that man would have no excuse. Now see the power in that! The law is not against to promises of God; instead, it points to the promises of God! How? The codified law solidified that without help, man would always fall short. It serves and continues to serve as a guardian, always pointing us toward our Savior. If you cannot obey God on your own, then the law without a savior condemns you to death. However, with a Savior the law becomes doable, as you are now empowered by Him! *"The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good."*

1. **"What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions,** till the Seed should

come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. **Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.** But the Scripture has confined all **under sin**, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. **But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law**, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. **Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ**, that we might be justified by faith." Galatians 3:19-24 NKJV

(2) Flesh vs. Spirit

- (a) Paul really puts an exclamation point on this concept a bit later to the Galatians. Walk in the Spirit, which means live your life by consistently accessing God's grace through your relationship with Christ, and you will have complete dominion over your fleshly lusts. No, they won't disappear, that is why you need the law as a constant benchmark. But you can live in complete victory.

1. "I say then: **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and **these are contrary to one another**, so that you do not do the things that you wish." Galatians 5:16-17 NKJV
- (b) Here it is again ("not under the law"), this time you should recognize the truth. If you live a Spirit filled life, you will have the victory over sin (lawlessness, sin is defined by the law). That simply means you are no longer dominated by sin or under its condemnation. It bears repeating this concept, as it is the ultimate oxymoron. *"If you believe becoming a Christian released you from an obligation to obey God's laws, then you believe becoming a Christian released you from the obligation of needing a Savior!"*
1. "But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law." Galatians 5:18 NKJV
 - a) "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and **sin is lawlessness.**" I John 3:4 NKJV
 - b) "...for **by the law is the knowledge of sin.**" Romans 3:20 NKJV
- (c) Works of the Flesh: Paul then make a long list of sins that manifest when you live by being empowered by

your flesh (sinful nature). If you revel in these then you are certainly not filled with the Spirit of God. Your final destination is not good!

1. “**Now the works of the flesh are evident**, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, **and the like**; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” Galatians 5:19-21 NKJV

(d) Fruit of the Spirit: if you live by being animated by God’s Spirit, then you are empowered to live an overcoming life, filled with fruit. And there will be no law-breaking, as spirit-living is characterized by law-keeping!

1. “**But the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. **Against such there is no law.**” Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV

(e) Back to Romans to seal the deal! The key is the concept of condemnation. What Paul is revealing is that with

Christ there is no condemnation. He is not saying that with Christ there is no law! You can now walk in the Spirit and “sin shall no longer have dominion over you; you are not under law [condemned as a slave to disobedience] but under grace [empowered to obey].” (Romans 6:14) Christ has freed you from the condemnation, and therefore the death that comes from laws you are too weak to follow. You could never obey the law on your own strength. You can only fulfill the righteous requirements of the law if you walk in the Spirit. That makes, *“The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.”*

1. “There is therefore now **no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has **made me free from the law of sin and death.** For what the **law could not do** in that it was weak through the flesh, **God did** by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that **the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according**

**to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” Romans
8:1-4 NKJV**

Summary: UPHOLD THE LAW

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(2) Teach

(a) And what role did the priest play in the obedience of the people? They taught the people God’s laws. They led the people to know the difference between the holy and the unholy, and caused them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

(b) Early Warning signs: if you take on the role of teaching the people, you will be held to the strictest of standards!

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- (c) We will see in a moment a great explanation in Paul's letter to the Galatians: *"What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions."* For sin to be recognized as sin, the commandments had to be codified. The law existed prior to being written down, but God "added it" in written form and gave it to Moses, so that man would have no excuse. Here it is "on stone" and later on parchment. Now, look at it and you will recognize that you are exceedingly sinful. That makes the law spiritual, not evil.

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written form and gave it to Moses, so that man would have no excuse. Now see the power in that! The law is not against to promises of God; instead, it points to the promises of God! How? The codified law solidified that without help, man would always fall short. It serves and continues to serve as a guardian, always pointing us toward our Savior. If you cannot obey God on your own, then the law without a savior condemns you to death. However, with a Savior the law becomes doable, as you are now empowered by Him! *“The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.”*

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- (a) Paul really puts an exclamation point on this concept a bit later to the Galatians. Walk in the Spirit, which means live your life by consistently accessing God’s grace through your relationship with Christ, and you will have complete dominion over your fleshly lusts. No, they won’t disappear, that is why you need the law as a constant benchmark. But you can live in complete victory.
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- (c) Works of the Flesh: Paul then make a long list of sins that manifest when you live by being empowered by your flesh (sinful nature). If you revel in these then you are certainly not filled with the Spirit of God. Your final destination is not good!
- (d) Fruit of the Spirit: if you live by being animated by God’s Spirit, then you are empowered to live an overcoming life, filled with fruit. And there will be no law-breaking, as spirit-living is characterized by law-keeping!
- (e) Back to Romans 8 to seal the deal! The key is the concept of condemnation. What Paul is revealing is that with Christ there is no condemnation. He is not saying that with Christ there is no law! You can now walk in the Spirit and “sin shall no longer have dominion over you; you are not under law [condemned as a slave to

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SERVE THE FLOCK

2. To Serve

A. To serve the institution and the people...

(1) Set-apart to serve and protect!

(a) The Levites (priests) were separated from all other tribes
to fulfill a specific role.

1. “But the Levites **were not numbered among them by
their fathers’** tribe; for the Lord had spoken to Moses,
saying: “Only the tribe of Levi you shall not number,
nor take a census of them among the children of
Israel;” Numbers 1:47-49 NKJV

(2) Appointed

(a) You are to serve the functions of God's institution and you are to live in proximity to that which you are serving.

1. "but you shall **appoint the Levites over the tabernacle** of the Testimony, **over all its furnishings, and over all things that belong to it**; they shall carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings; **they shall attend to it and camp around the tabernacle.**"

Numbers 1:50 NKJV

(3) Precincts

(a) In today's culture we have the idea of precincts that define specific regions served by specific law enforcement or government public servants...

1. A district of a city or town as defined for police purposes.

2. An electoral district of a city or town served by a single polling

(b) The people live on their own property surrounding the the institution they are part of so they can be served by the public servants appointed to them.

1. "The children of Israel shall pitch their tents, **everyone by his own camp**, everyone by his own

standard, according to their armies;" Numbers 1:52
NKJV

(c) The Levites camp around the tabernacle right in the midst of the people.

1. **...they shall attend to it and camp around the tabernacle.**" Numbers 1:50 NKJV
2. ""And the tabernacle of meeting shall move out with the camp of the **Levites in the middle of the camps;** as they camp, so they shall move out, everyone in his place, by their standards." Numbers 2:17 NKJV
3. The lay of the land...
 - a) East: Judah and company—Break camp first (Numbers 2:3-9)
 - b) South: Ruben and company—Break camp second (Numbers 2:10-16)
 - c) West: Ephraim and company—Break camp third (Numbers 2:18-24)
 - d) North: Dan and company—Break camp fourth (Numbers 2:25-31)

(4) Serving the people in your midst...

- (a) What does it mean for public servants to live in the midst of the people? It means that you take care of those around you!

1. “But whoever **has this world’s goods**, and **sees his brother in need**, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.” I John 3:17-18 NKJV
- (b) What does it mean for public servants to live in the midst of the people? It means if you see a brother in need you don’t get so “heavenly minded” that you become “no earthly good!” Faith without action is like no faith at all!
1. “What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? **If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?** Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” James 2:14-18 NKJV

- (c) What does it mean for public servants to live in the midst of the people? It means that whatever you do for those in your community, it's as if you did it for God!
1. "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, **'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'**" Matthew 25:34-40 NKJV

B. Funding

- (1) Provisions for Public Servants
 - (a) Remember, the Levites were set-apart and they were not counted among the other tribes. What does that mean?

1. "But the Levites **were not numbered among the children of Israel**, just as the Lord commanded Moses." Numbers 2:33 NKJV
- (b) These public servants had no provision from their own endeavors or their own labor, so God provided for all their needs in a different way. The tithes of the people they served was their inheritance. It was simple: the Levites served God's institution and God's people, and God provided for all of their earthly needs! Simply said, "Yahweh is their inheritance!" Not a bad place it be.
1. ""Behold, I have given the children of Levi **all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform**, the work of the tabernacle of meeting. ...For **the tithes of the children of Israel**, which they offer up as a heave offering to the Lord, **I have given to the Levites as an inheritance**; therefore I have said to them, 'Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.' "" Numbers 18:21, 24 NKJV
2. ""**The priests, the Levites**—all the tribe of Levi—shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel; **they shall eat the offerings of the Lord made by fire, and His portion**. Therefore they shall have no inheritance

among their brethren; **the Lord is their inheritance**, as He said to them.” Deuteronomy 18:1-2 NKJV

3. “**Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor**, especially those **who labor in the word and doctrine**. For the Scripture says, “You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,” and, “The laborer is worthy of his wages.”” I Timothy 5:17-18 NKJV

C. To Pull Down and to Build Up...

(1) Powerful imagery...

- (a) The central symbolic figure of God’s institution was the Tabernacle. Sparing the intricate details for now, let us emphasize this one key assignment. The Levites were charged with the assembling, disassembling, and moving this focal point of God’s institution.

1. “And when the tabernacle is to go forward, **the Levites shall take it down; and** when the tabernacle is to be set up, **the Levites shall set it up**. The outsider who comes near shall be put to death.” Numbers 1:51 NKJV

- (b) By extension, God empowers us to do the same with earthly institutions. What an awesome and terrifying responsibility.

1. "See, I have this day set you **over the nations** and **over the kingdoms**, To **root out** and to **pull down**, To **destroy** and to **throw down**, To **build** and to **plant**.""
Jeremiah 1:10 NKJV
 2. "And it shall come to pass, that as I have watched over them to **pluck up**, to **break down**, to **throw down**, to **destroy**, and to **afflict**, so I will watch over them **to build and to plant**, says the Lord." Jeremiah 31:28 NKJV
- (c) About Nebuchadnezzar...Daniel was given the power to interpret the king's dream. He was certain the commission and credit belonged to the Lord, and yet he was responsible for carrying the message! He was given wisdom and knowledge. Again, what an awesome and terrifying responsibility.
1. "Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. **So Daniel blessed the God of heaven**. Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; **He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding**." Daniel 2:19-21 NKJV

(d) Here is your awesome and terrifying responsibility—
power over the enemy!

1. “Behold, I give you the **authority** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the **power of the enemy**, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

Luke 10:19 NKJV

D. Pastoral Duties

(1) Come close and listen—this is critical assignment!

- (a) The priests (pastors) serve the needs of the WHOLE CONGREGATION and the INSTITUTION ITSELF! They attend to the needs of the stuff and the people.

1. ““Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may serve him. **And they shall attend to his needs and the needs of the whole congregation before the tabernacle of meeting, to do the work of the tabernacle.**” Numbers 3:6-7 NKJV

2. “Also they shall **attend to all the furnishings** of the tabernacle of meeting, **and to the needs of the children of Israel, to do the work of the tabernacle.**” Numbers 3:8 NKJV

- (b) The priests (pastors) are to attend to the needs of the High Priest (supreme authority—Christ), the whole

congregation, and the physical furnishings, and they are to give themselves ENTIRELY to the assignment. remember, it is from Christ that you receive your inheritance! Remember: *“The Lord is their inheritance.”* (Deuteronomy 18:2)

1. “And you shall give the Levites to **Aaron** and his sons; they are **given entirely to him** from among the children of Israel.” Numbers 3:9 NKJV
 2. “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, **consider the** Apostle and **High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,**” Hebrews 3:1 NKJV
 3. “And **whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord** and not to men, **knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.**” Colossians 3:23-24 NKJV
- (c) Okay—attend to the priesthood! What does that mean for you if you are called to serve God’s people and His institution?
1. “So you shall **appoint Aaron and his sons**, and they shall **attend to their priesthood**; but the outsider who comes near shall be put to death.”” Numbers 3:10 NKJV

(2) Shepard the Flock

(a) As Aaron and his sons were appointed, so too are the shepherds in the Church...

1. **“The elders who are among you I exhort,** I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:”

I Peter 5:1 NKJV

(b) Admonition: Shepherd God people. That means serve and protect them. Do so with a pure heart, not as if some horrible burden has been place on you. And be warned, it is not about what you can get out of it, but what you can give to it, so be an example. The Lord is your inheritance and He will provide and your ultimate payment is a crown of glory! Your role is to be a servant leader, one who lifts those around you to the Lord. Your job is to emulate Christ who was the servant King, not to act like a pagan king who demands to be served.

1. **“Shepherd the flock [*protect the flock*] of God which is among you, serving as overseers [*serve the flock*], not by compulsion but willingly,** not for dishonest gain but eagerly; **nor as being Lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock [*uphold the law*];** and when the **Chief Shepherd**

appears, you will receive the **crown of glory** that does not fade away." I Peter 5:2-4 NKJV

2. "And He said to them, "**The kings of the Gentiles exercise Lordship over them**, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? **Yet I am among you as the One who serves.**" Luke 22:25-27 NKJV

3. "But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the **rulers of the Gentiles Lord it over them**, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but **whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.** And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave— **just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.**" Matthew 20:25-28 NKJV

(c) While performing your duties, be on guard. The enemy is on the prowl to mess things up. Pay attention with a

clear mind; be unmovable in your convictions; resist every invitation from the enemy and he will stop inviting you!

1. “**Be sober, be vigilant;** because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. **Resist him, steadfast in the faith,** knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” I Peter 5:8-9 NKJV
2. “Therefore submit to God. **Resist the devil and he will flee** from you.” James 4:7 NKJV

E. Ministry Opportunities

(1) God provide where He guides...

(a) God has appointed you; He will empower for you; and He will provide all you need so you can be at ease!

1. “But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, **perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.**” I Peter 5:10 NKJV

(b) Let’s be very clear; if you are minister for God then you are responsible for His words. You are simply passing on what He has given you. Do so and your life will glorify Him and not yourself. Get yourself out of the way so He is magnified!

1. **“If anyone speaks,** let him speak as the oracles of God. **If anyone ministers,** let him do it as with the **ability which God supplies,** that **in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ,** to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” I Peter 4:11 NKJV
 2. **“He must increase, but I must decrease.”** John 3:30 NKJV
- (c) The greatest ministry of all, the ministry of reconciliation. God reconciled us to Himself through Christ; that means that our sins are paid for and we are in right standing as if guiltless before God (refer back to Romans 6, 7, 8 and Galatians 3, 5 from earlier). Our mission, as a result, is to do the same for others. Think about that. We should minister as through we are channeling the Christ through us! And notice this phrase, “Christ has committed to us the word of reconciliation.” That concept is so enormous it demands 100% of our attention. We use His words, through our lips, to reconcile others to Christ!
1. “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, **and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,** that is, that **God was in**

Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, **and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.** Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, **as though God were pleading through us:** we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." II Corinthians 5:18-21 NKJV

(d) Impart Grace: we can impart God's supernatural power to others—and we learned what that offers. It empowers us to obey God (not be under the law). And let's be ultra clear here; the LIFE YOU LIVE cannot be inconsistent with the WORDS YOU SPEAK. Your conduct must be in alignment with your words! When in doubt, say nothing. Words spoken without wisdom and meekness do not impart grace!

1. "Let no corrupt **word proceed out of your mouth**, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace to the hearers.**" Ephesians 4:29 NKJV
2. "Who is wise and understanding among you? **Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.** But if you have bitter envy

and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. **But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.** Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” James 3:13-18 NKJV

3. “So then, my beloved brethren, **let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.**” James 1:19-20 NKJV

F. Abdicating Duties

- (1) Woe to shepherds to hurt the flock...
 - (a) Shepherds out to serve themselves will always be exposed. They hurt the flock, drive them toward wolves and dangerous cliffs. Instead of attending to them, as commissioned (like the priests), they fleece them for their own selfish gain. They guide their flocks with bad doctrine and make of their own rules. In the end, God will remove every one of these unfaithful shepherds.

1. **“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!”** says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: **“You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them.** Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,” says the Lord. “But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. **I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them;** and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,” says the Lord. “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, **“That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.”**”
Jeremiah 23:1-5 NKJV

(2) Bad Priests

- (a) Has Yahweh become your buddy, your casual friend? Have you lost a holy fear of the Lord? Are you dishonoring Him by making claims and setting standards that tarnish His Name? Are you defining ministry by new laws and your own standards of what is

acceptable? Cursed is any priest who dares such blasphemy!

1. ““A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, **Where is My honor?** And if I am a Master, **Where is My reverence? Says the Lord of hosts To you priests who despise My name.** Yet you say, ‘**In what way have we despised Your name?**’ “You offer **defiled food on My altar,** But say, ‘In what way have we defiled You?’ By saying, ‘The table of the Lord is contemptible.’ And when you **offer the blind as a sacrifice,** Is it not evil? And when you **offer the lame and sick,** Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?” Says the Lord of hosts. {13}...You also say, ‘Oh, what a weariness!’ And you sneer at it,” Says the Lord of hosts. “And you **bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick;** Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?” Says the Lord. “**But cursed be the deceiver** Who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, But **sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished—** For I am a great King,” Says the Lord of hosts, “And My name is

to be feared among the nations.” Malachi 1:6-8,
13-14 NKJV

(3) Where have His minsters gone?

(a) If we examine the long list of atrocities illuminated by Isaiah, it is frightening to see that these are happening at this present hour. And Yahweh asks this disturbing question: where are My servants? Where are those who will restore justice (God’s Laws and Institution)?

1. “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. **For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity.** No one calls for justice, Nor does any plead for truth. They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity. They hatch vipers’ eggs and weave the spider’s web; He who eats of their eggs dies, And from that which is crushed a viper breaks out. Their webs will not become garments, Nor will they cover themselves with their works; Their works are works of iniquity,

And the act of violence is in their hands. Their feet run to evil, **And they make haste to shed innocent blood;** Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; Wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they have not known, And there is no justice in their ways; They have made themselves crooked paths; Whoever takes that way shall not know peace. Therefore justice is far from us, Nor does righteousness overtake us; We look for light, but there is darkness! For brightness, but we walk in blackness! We grope for the wall like the blind, And we grope as if we had no eyes; We stumble at noonday as at twilight; We are as dead men in desolate places. We all growl like bears, And moan sadly like doves; We look for justice, but there is none; For salvation, but it is far from us. For our transgressions are multiplied before You, And our sins testify against us; For our transgressions are with us, And as for our iniquities, we know them: In transgressing and lying against the Lord, And departing from our God, Speaking oppression and revolt, Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; **For truth is fallen**

in the street, And equity cannot enter. So truth fails,
And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.
Then the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him That
there was no justice. He saw that there was no man,
And wondered that there was no intercessor;

Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him;
And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. For He
put on righteousness as a breastplate, And a helmet
of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of
vengeance for clothing, And was clad with zeal as a
cloak. According to their deeds, accordingly He will
repay, Fury to His adversaries, Recompense to His
enemies; The coastlands He will fully repay. So shall
they fear The name of the Lord from the west, And
His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy
comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift
up a standard against him. "The Redeemer will come
to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in
Jacob," Says the Lord. "As for Me," says the Lord,
"this is My covenant with them: **My Spirit who is**
upon you, and My words which I have put in your
mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from
the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth

of your descendants' descendants," says the Lord,
"from this time and forevermore." Isaiah 59:1-21
NKJV

(4) God's servants must speak His words!

(a) The sent one speaks God's words. The testimony is simple. What God says stands!

1. "He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. **For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God**, for God does not give the Spirit by measure. The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand." John 3:33-35 NKJV

(b) Go your own way and WRATH is the only outcome...

1. "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and **he who does not believe the Son** shall not see life, **but the wrath of God** abides on him." John 3:36

Summary: SERVE THE FLOCK

2. To Serve

A. To serve the institution and the people...

(1) Set-apart to serve and protect!

(a) The Levites (priests) were separated from all other tribes to fulfill a specific role.

(2) Appointed

- (a) You are to serve the functions of God's institution and you are to live in proximity to that which you are serving.

(3) Precincts

- (a) In today's culture we have the idea of precincts that define specific regions served by specific law enforcement or government public servants...

1. A district of a city or town as defined for police purposes.
2. An electoral district of a city or town served by a single polling

- (b) The people live on their own property surrounding the the institution they are part of so they can be served by the public servants appointed to them.

- (c) The Levites camp around the tabernacle right in the midst of the people.

1. The lay of the land...

- a) East: Judah and company—Break camp first
(Numbers 2:3-9)
- b) South: Ruben and company—Break camp second
(Numbers 2:10-16)
- c) West: Ephraim and company—Break camp third
(Numbers 2:18-24)

d) North: Dan and company—Break camp fourth
(Numbers 2:25-31)

(4) Serving the people in your midst...

- (a) What does it mean for public servants to live in the midst of the people? It means that you take care of those around you!
- (b) What does it mean for public servants to live in the midst of the people? It means if you see a brother in need you don't get so "heavenly minded" that you become "no earthly good!" Faith without action is like no faith at all!
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- (b) By extension, God empowers us to do the same with earthly institutions. What an awesome and terrifying responsibility.
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- (d) Here is your awesome and terrifying responsibility—power over the enemy!

D. Pastoral Duties

(1) Come close and listen—this is critical assignment!

- (a) The priests (pastors) serve the needs of the WHOLE CONGREGATION and the INSTITUTION ITSELF! They attend to the needs of the stuff and the people.
 - (b) The priests (pastors) are to attend to the needs of the High Priest (supreme authority—Christ), the whole congregation, and the physical furnishings, and they are to give themselves ENTIRELY to the assignment. remember, it is from Christ that you receive your inheritance! Remember: *“The Lord is their inheritance.”* (Deuteronomy 18:2)
 - (c) Okay—attend to the priesthood! What does that mean for you if you are called to serve God’s people and His institution?
- (2) Shepard the Flock
- (a) As Aaron and his sons were appointed, so too are the shepherds in the Church...
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(2) Bad Priests

- (a) Has Yahweh become your buddy, your casual friend? Have you lost a holy fear of the Lord? Are you dishonoring Him by making claims and setting standards that tarnish His Name? Are you defining ministry by new laws and your own standards of what is acceptable? Cursed is any priest who dares such blasphemy!

(3) Where have His ministers gone?

- (a) If we examine the long list of atrocities illuminated by Isaiah 59, it is frightening to see that these are happening at this present hour. And Yahweh asks this disturbing question: where are My servants? Where are those who will restore justice (God's Laws and Institution)?

(4) God's servants must speak His words!

- (a) The sent one speaks God's words. The testimony is simple. What God says stands!
- (b) Go your own way and there is only one outcome...
WRATH!

PROTECT THE FLOCK

3. To Protect

A. To protect the people from God, each other, and themselves...

(1) Protect the Sheep!

(a) The priests lived in the midst of the people to protect them from wrath! What would bring wrath? It's simple, disobeying God.

1. "The children of Israel shall pitch their tents, everyone by his own camp, everyone by his own standard, according to their armies; **but the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the Testimony, that there may be no wrath on the congregation** of the children of Israel; and **the Levites shall keep charge of the tabernacle** of the Testimony."

Numbers 1:52-53 NKJV

(b) A perfect object lesson: David, a servant to protect his father's sheep! The shepherd chased down and confronted a ferocious enemy to protect his lamb, to deliver it out of the mouth of the enemy. Pastors, that is your job! You are to protect the sheep, not scatter them!

1. "But David said to Saul, "**Your servant used to keep his father's sheep**, and when a **lion or a bear came**

and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and **struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth;** and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. **Your servant has killed both lion and bear;** and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." Moreover David said, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the Lord be with you!" I Samuel 17:34-37 NKJV

B. The Wrath of God!

(1) Coming against God and His anointed brings God's wrath!

(a) You act against the Lord and His anointed and He breaks you with a rod of iron; dashes you to pieces like a potter's vessel!

1. **"Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?** The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, **Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."** He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. **Then He shall speak to them**

in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: “Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.” “I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. **You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”** Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, And rejoice with trembling.” Psalms 2:1-11 NKJV

(b) Repent and the Son will spare you!

1. “**Kiss the Son**, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, **When His wrath is kindled** but a little. **Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.**” Psalms 2:12 NKJV

(2) Hypocrisy brings God’s Wrath

- (a) Do not be a hypocrite and protect the people from hypocrisy. It brings God’s wrath. If you refuse, you are *“treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”*
 1. “Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another

you condemn yourself; **for you who judge practice the same things.** But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, **you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?** Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?" Romans 2:1-4 NKJV

2. **"But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,** who "will render to each one according to his deeds": eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to

the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.” Romans 2:5-11 NKJV

(3) Ungodliness and unrighteousness brings God’s wrath!

(a) Suppressing the truth about God is a wrath-guarantee!

1. **“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,”** Romans 1:18-20 NKJV

(4) Sin brings God’s wrath!

(a) Sin—a long list of atrocities:

1. “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. **But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For**

this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."

Ephesians 5:1-5 NKJV

- (b) Deceitful words that lead to disobedience brings God's wrath!
 - 1. "Let no one **deceive you with empty words**, for because of these things **the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience**. Therefore do not be partakers with them." Ephesians 5:6-7 NKJV
- (5) False worship brings God's wrath!
 - (a) Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him..."If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God."
 - 1. "Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people— saying with a loud voice, "**Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him** who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." And

another angel followed, saying, "**Babylon is fallen**, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.'" Revelation 14:6-8 NKJV

2. "Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "**If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God**, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.'" Revelation 14:9-11 NKJV

C. Final Duties

- (1) Wake up...and wake the people!
 - (a) *"Let no one deceive you with empty words...the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."* Eph. 5:6
You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light. Pay

attention; don't live like a fool. Live as if the final days are upon you! Shine the glory of the Lords and even the Gentiles will notice!

1. **“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light** (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: **“Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light. [Is. 60]”**” Ephesians 5:8-14 NKJV
2. **“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time,** because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” Ephesians 5:15-18 NKJV
3. **“Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.** For behold, the

darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. **The Gentiles shall come to your light,** And kings to the brightness of your rising.” Isaiah 60:1-3 NKJV

(2) Final review!

(a) Protect the flock; serve the flock; be example of obedience to the flock, the Chief Shepherd is coming!

1. **“Shepherd the flock [*protect the flock*] of God which is among you, serving as overseers [*serve the flock*], not by compulsion but willingly,** not for dishonest gain but eagerly; **nor as being Lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock [*uphold the law*];** and when the **Chief Shepherd** appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” I Peter 5:2-4 NKJV

(b) The blessing of the Priest over the people!

1. “And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘**This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: “The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.”**”

' "So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."" Numbers 6:22-27
NKJV

Summary: PROTECT THE FLOCK

3. To Protect

A. To protect the people from God, each other, and themselves...

(1) Protect the Sheep!

(a) The priests lived in the midst of the people to protect them from wrath! What would bring wrath? It's simple, disobeying God.

(b) A perfect object lesson: David, a servant to protect his father's sheep! The shepherd chased down and confronted a ferocious enemy to protect his lamb, to deliver it out of the mouth of the enemy. Pastors, that is your job! You are to protect the sheep, not scatter them!

B. The Wrath of God!

(1) Coming against God and His anointed brings God's wrath!

(a) You act against the Lord and His anointed and He breaks you with a rod of iron; dashes you to pieces like a potter's vessel!

(b) Repent and the Son will spare you!

- (2) Hypocrisy brings God's Wrath
 - (a) Do not be a hypocrite and protect the people from hypocrisy. It brings God's wrath. If you refuse, you are *"treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God."*
- (3) Ungodliness and unrighteousness brings God's wrath!
 - (a) Suppressing the truth about God is a wrath-guarantee!
- (4) Sin brings God's wrath!
 - (a) Sin—a long list of atrocities in Ephesians 5:1-5
 - (b) Deceitful words that lead to disobedience brings God's wrath!
- (5) False worship brings God's wrath!
 - (a) Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him..."If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God."

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Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light. Pay attention; don't live like a fool. Live as if the final days are upon you! Shine the glory of the Lords and even the Gentiles will notice!

(2) Final review!

- (a) Protect the flock; serve the flock; be example of obedience to the flock, the Chief Shepherd is coming!
- (b) The blessing of the Priest over the people!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. The priesthood had specific roles to play:

- A. What is their key role as mentioned in Leviticus 10:11; Deuteronomy 33:8-10; Nehemiah 8:9; and Ezekiel 44:15, 23-24?
- B. What are they warned about in James 3:1?

2. Paul spends significant time explaining the purpose of the law in Romans and Galatians:

- A. What value does the law offer according to Romans 3:19-20, 7:13-14, and Galatians 3:19-24?
- B. What does it mean to be delivered from the law in Romans 7:5-6?
- C. How does Romans 7:7-12 remove plausible deniability?

- D. Explain in your own words how Romans 6:12-14 proves that you are no longer ruled by sin, which is why you are not under the law but under grace.
- 3. If you walk in the Spirit you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh...**
- A. Use Galatians 5:16-23 and Romans 8:1-4 to prove that statement.
- 4. Numbers 1:50 & 2:17 reveal that the priests were to camp around the tabernacle and serve in the midst of the people...**
- A. How does I John 3:17-18; James 2:14-18; and Matthew 25:34-40 speak to serving in the midst of the people?
- 5. The priests had no inheritance in the land...**
- A. How were they provided for? (See: Numbers 18:21-24 and Deuteronomy 18:1-2)
- 6. Use Numbers 3:6-10 to describe the duties of the priest.**
- A. What level of commitment is required in verse 9?
- B. How do the priests' service to Aaron relate to our service in Hebrews 3:1 and Colossians 3:23-24?
- C. How does Colossians 3:23-24 relate to Numbers 18:21-24 and Deuteronomy 18:1-2?
- 7. Peter admonishes the elders to shepherd the flock in the same way Moses instructs the Levites in Numbers 3:6-10:**

- A. Use I Peter 5:2-4 to describe the Christian shepherd's role in protecting, serving and teaching the people.
- B. Use Luke 22:25-27 and Matthew 20:25-28 to describe what type of leaders we ought to be.

8. I Peter 5:10 and I Peter 4:11 teaches us how Christ prepares us to minister...

- A. What is the greatest ministry of all according to II Corinthians 5:18-21?
- B. How is the "word of reconciliation" demonstrated in Ephesians 4:29; and James 3:13-18, 1:19-20?

9. The shepherds (pastors) are warned about abdicating their duties...

- A. Use Jeremiah 23:1-5 to describe what will happen to them if they do.
- B. Use Malachi 1:6-14 to describe some of the things "bad priests" do.
- C. Read Isaiah 59:1-21: describe the events taking place. Who is standing by and doing nothing? (Hint: verses 15-16)

10. Numbers 1:52-53 teaches that one of the roles of the priesthood is to protect the people from God's wrath. Describe how each of the following brings God's wrath:

- A. Hypocrisy brings God's Wrath! (Romans 2:1-11)

- B. Ungodliness and unrighteousness brings God's wrath!
(Romans 1:18-20)
- C. Sin brings God's wrath! (Ephesians 5:1-5)
- D. Deceitful words that lead to disobedience brings God's
wrath! (Ephesians 5:6-7)
- E. False worship brings God's wrath! (Revelation 14:6-11)

11. Review I Peter 5:2-4 one more time:

- A. How can you save people from God's wrath?