



<b>SERIES:</b>	04 Numbers - 2013
<b>MESSAGE:</b>	<b>Numbers 28-29</b>
<b>SPEAKER:</b>	Skip Heitzig
<b>SCRIPTURE:</b>	Numbers 28-29

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

As we study Numbers 28-29, we learn about ten sacrifices and feasts the children of Israel carried out as worship to the Lord. We can think about the enormity of their sacrifices—they sacrificed over a thousand animals every year—but God was the one who initially provided the animals for them. We should focus on the enormity of sacrifice God Himself gave—even the life of His Son.

## DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
  - A. If you grew up in a solemn, religious home, as an average kid you probably didn't see a whole lot of relevance in religious expressions—there was a disconnect
  - B. These two chapters are about festivals
    1. God would have feasts for His people: times of joy, remembrance, and celebration
    2. There were times of solemnity, but so often they were just to celebrate God in their daily lives; it's what He wanted from them
  - C. God's commanded observances in Numbers 28-29
    1. Daily, weekly, and monthly sacrifices
    2. The great feasts
    3. There was to be a rhythm of life daily, weekly, monthly, and annually where God was at the center of their community
    4. This was God's equivalent of save the date: "Write these in your appointment calendars"
  - D. All of these things were visual demonstrations
    1. In our culture, our worship is highly verbal, not visual
    2. They acted out in dramatic form some of the great truths God was trying to get through to them by these festivals
    3. It was the ancient equivalent of reality TV
  - E. Why so much blood? Why so many animals killed?
    1. If you want to approach God, you've got a big problem: sin
    2. The only way to deal with sin is through atonement
      - a. Vicarious atonement
      - b. It means a substitute will be killed so you don't have to be killed
    3. Hebrews 9:22
    4. Either you let someone or something take your place, or you die for your own sin
  - F. Leviticus 23: why does God waste pages to cover these sacrifices and offerings again?

1. It's a new generation—they need to hear it again
  2. Every generation needs to hear the gospel; we need to be reminded of these truths
- G. These chapters talk about the occasion and what is required for the occasion
- H. We'll highlight some of these festivals—especially Passover, which Communion is based on

## II. Numbers 28

- A. The daily sacrifices (vv. 1-8)
1. Speaks of relationship: a constant, unbroken fellowship with your Creator
  2. They began their day and ended their day focusing on a lamb; so should we
  3. Hebrews 9:26
    - a. What the old covenant could never do, Jesus did once for all
    - b. If you blow it, you talk to the Lamb Himself
  4. I John 1:9
- B. Sabbath (vv. 9-10)
1. Speaks of rest
  2. God instituted the Sabbath for us; it was a gift to mankind
  3. It was the "maintenance law" of the Ten Commandments
    - a. Exodus 20:8-11
    - b. He wants you to operate at peak
  4. In Israel, the whole week builds toward the Sabbath
  5. The Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, commemorated a finished creation
    - a. Sunday, the first day of the week, commemorated a finished redemption
    - b. That is why the early church met on the first day of the week
  6. There's no morality attached to the commandment about the Sabbath; it has no moral component
    - a. In the New Testament, all of the Ten Commandments are reiterated somewhere except for this one
    - b. Are Christians commanded to keep the Sabbath? No
    - c. You're free from the Law
  7. So what's the best day to worship? Every day
  8. Romans 14:5
- C. Monthly offerings (vv. 11-15)
1. *Rosh chodesh* means the head of the month
  2. Speaks of routine
  3. The best form of life is a disciplined life
  4. Jewish months are lunar months, not solar
    - a. Lunar calendar has 354 days
    - b. Jewish month is 29-30 days
- D. Passover (v. 16)
1. Speaks of redemption
  2. Of all the festivals in modern-day Israel, it is the one that most Jews still keep
  3. Exodus 12
  4. Jesus Christ is our Passover Lamb: when the lambs were being sacrificed in the temple, He died on the cross
  5. The Passover both commemorated and predicted redemption
  6. I Corinthians 5:7

7. John 1:29
  8. Either you let the Lamb take your sin, or you have to die for your sin
- E. Feast of Unleavened Bread (vv. 17-25)
1. Speaks of recuperation
  2. After the leaven was removed, your spiritual life was invigorated and you recuperated from all the haste of leaving Egypt
  3. The first day of the feast was Passover, but they are separate festivals
- F. Feast of Firstfruits and Feast of Weeks (Pentecost; vv. 26-31)
1. Firstfruits was the first of the barley harvest in the spring
  2. The Feast of Weeks (Pentecost) was the end of the wheat harvest (summertime)
  3. Both speak of representation
    - a. Firstfruits
      - I. Speaks of the resurrection of Jesus Christ; I Corinthians 15:20
      - II. If the firstfruits come, the rest is coming
      - III. Jesus' resurrection requires your resurrection
    - b. Weeks
      - I. Representative of the church
      - II. The church was born on the day of Pentecost; Acts 2:1-4
      - III. God extended the harvest past the disciples, past the Jews, into the Gentiles
- III. Numbers 29
- A. There's a gap of about four months between the first three feasts and the next three feasts
1. In the seventh month, Tishri, there are three festivals stuck together
  2. That gap of time possibly speaks of the church age
    - a. The Jews rejected their Lamb and lost almost everything: their temple, the representation of animals being slain, etc.
    - b. In the future, there will be an awakening of this
- B. Feast of Trumpets (vv. 1-6)
1. It was a reminder that Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, was coming ten days later
  2. These ten days were days of reflection
    - a. *Yamim Nora'im* is Hebrew for days of awe or repentance
    - b. Yom Kippur is a solemn day of fasting, not feasting
  3. Passover is in the first Jewish month, Abib (Nisan), while the Jews don't celebrate their new year until the seventh month
- C. Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur; vv. 7-11)
1. Speaks of repentance
  2. It became a time of rejoicing after fasting and the sacrifice of two goats
- D. Feast of Tabernacles (vv. 12-40)
1. Seven days of sacrifices, then the eighth day
  2. Even today, Israelis build and live in lean-tos for a week to remember how their forefathers slept in the wilderness for forty years and God provided for them
  3. Speaks of relocation
  4. In the temple, it was the custom for one of the priests to go down from the temple mount to the Pool of Siloam
    - a. The place where people could get fresh water

- b. Jesus healed a blind man and told him to wash in it; John 9:1-7
- 5. The priest would take water from the pool and pour it on the courtyard of the temple, symbolizing how God provided water out of the rock in the desert; Exodus 17:1-7
- 6. Then the people would sing Isaiah 12:3
- 7. On the eighth day, the great day, the priest would do this twice
  - a. On this day, Jesus in the temple cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink"
  - b. John 7:37-39

#### IV. Closing

- A. Think of the enormity of these sacrifices—think of how many animals were killed in a year's time: 113 bulls, 32 rams, and 1,086 sheep
- B. Why so much sacrifice?
  - 1. It's really not too much to give
  - 2. Who provided all that they had to begin with? God did
  - 3. The same applies to tithing: everything is God's to begin with
- C. What we celebrate with Communion is that Jesus is the Passover Lamb
  - 1. Romans 8:32
  - 2. Whatever we give to Him, He provided it all to begin with
- D. Rather than the enormity of the sacrifices God demanded, think of the enormity of the sacrifice God Himself gave

**Greek/Hebrew words:** *Rosh chodesh, Yamim Nora'im*

**Cross references:** Exodus 12; 17:1-7; 20:8-11; Leviticus 23; **Numbers 28-29**; Isaiah 12:3; John 1:29; 7:37-39; 9:1-7; Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:32; 14:5; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 15:20; Hebrews 9:22, 26; 1 John 1:9

**Topic:** The Law

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