

Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy

- Last 3 Books of the Torah
 - Mosaic Law
 - Torah means Law.

Setting: Out of Egypt (Mt. Sinai) to the Promise Land

- The story of Salvation is the relationship between God and Mankind that matures and grows.
 - Mankind starting as a child, who need many different rules and limits in order to stay safe to adult relationship of understanding and communication.
 - Leviticus: Rules, Chosen People, Day of Atonement
 - Numbers: "In the Wilderness"
 - Deuteronomy: Moses' Pep Talk
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Leviticus

- How corrupt Israelites can live near God's holiness & goodness without being destroyed.
 - Holiness is defined as pure and powerful presence

3 Solutions to live in God's Presence:

1. Rituals (Chapters 1-7, 23-27)
2. Priesthood (8-10, 21-22)
3. Purity Laws (11-15, 18-20)

*Chapters 16-17: Day of Atonement

Rituals

- Chapters 1-7: How to make sacrifices (5 types: Thanksgiving(2) Vs. Repentance(3))
- Chapters 23-27: Observing Sacred Days and Festive Days
 - These days are reminders to Israel that He rescued them and set them apart.

Priesthood

- Being in God's presence is dangerous, so priests are appointed and ordained as special representatives to go into the tabernacle on behalf of others.
 - Chapters 8-10: Ordination Process
 - Chapters 21-22: How priests are called to live at a higher standard because they work so closely to God's presence.

Purity Laws

- Clean VS. Unclean: Pure VS. Impure
 - Pure? You can be in near God's presence
- Chapter 11-15: List of Pure and Impure Animals
 - Where they live...
 - Doesn't say why to avoid these animals, but rather by abstaining from these animals Israel is set apart...Reminding them that Holiness should affect every part of their lives.
 - More purity laws about skin diseases, dead bodies and bodily fluids

- This is a very sensitive topic due to the fact that these are vessels which carry life or death.
 - It's not wrong or sinful to be impure: wait a couple of days, sacrifice and clean yourself=Pure.
 - **What is wrong is entering God's presence when are in a state of impurity.**
 - Not the case for us in the new covent...Come as you are, but be aware that we still must prepare ourselves as we are called to receive Christ (Example: Communion)
- Chapter 18-20: Moral Behavior
 - Justice, Relationships and Sex: Following these laws will make Israelites a moral pure people.

Day of Atonement

- Priest takes 2 goats
 - 1 goat is killed
 - Blood covers/atones for Israel's sin
 - The blood of a creature is its life
 - The goat is receiving God's punishment instead of Israel.
 - 2nd Goat
 - Priest puts his hand on it and confesses all the sins of Israel
 - It gets let go into the wilderness (cast out- The escapegoat)
 - This is an image of God removing Israel's sin

"God provides these laws as a clear way to let Israel know they are forgiven and despite their corruption they are safe to live near God's presence."

Numbers

Numbers= "Bamidbar" translated "In the Wilderness"

-We call it Numbers because of the 2 censuses taken in the book.

- This trip from Mt. Sinai to the Promise Land SHOULD have taken 2 weeks
- Book is divided into 5 sections
 - 3 Locations with 2 road trip in between

Mt. Sinai

- Israelites have been living here for 1 year after their flight from Egypt.
 - Formed the Covenant
 - Received the 10 Commandments
 - Built the Tabernacle
- Before leaving they take a census of all the people counting them.
- Organizing the Camp
 - Tabernacle in the center
 - Tribes of Levi (the Priests) around it
 - Rest of the tribes around them
 - This is to show that God is at the center of their holiness as a people
- When the Cloud of God's presence moves, Israel moves.

- The Ark of the Covenant is carried by the Levites and they lead Israel
 - Then the tribe of Judah and so on...
 - This represents that God is their leader and guide.

Traveling to Paran

- 3 days in to this trip the people start complaining.
- Even Aaron and Mariam are complaining about Moses

Paran

- 12 Spies set to scout the promise land
- 2 are very optimistic
- 10 are freaked out
 - They try to start a mutiny, try to appoint a new leader to take them back to Egypt.
- God says this generation will wander the wilderness for 40 years. Only their children will enter the Promise Land.
 - God lets us choose our own way, He never forces anything on us.

Traveling to Moab

- God provides Manna and Quail through out the way
- People are thirsty, so Moses strikes a rock twice to bring forth water-disobeying God who told him strike it once...as a result he is unable to enter the promiseland.
- Rebellion occurs: snakes bite people as God's judgement-Moses is commanded to craft a bronze serpent on a rod to heal the people.
 - This is an image of our salvations. By the disobedient of men and eating from the fruit of the tree we fell from God's presence. Where as in the new testament is Christ is the fruit of the tree (the Cross) and we partake of Him (communion) and live forever.
 - The the thing that brought death due to disobedient (serpents) brought healing through repentance (bronze serpent).

Moab

- The king is freaked out by all these people traveling through Moab
- Hires a sorcerer named Balaam to pronounce curses on the Israelites
 - Prays to the God of the israelites
 - 3 Times Balaam tries to curse them but is only able to utter blessings
 - He even prophecies about Christ

“ In the Camp they are rebelling and complaining unaware to them that God is blessing and protecting them.”

*Another Census is taken

Deuteronomy

- Across the Jordan River is the Promise Land
 - Pep Talk from Moses to the New Generation

3 Sections

1. Chapters 1-11
2. Chapters 12-26
3. Chapters 27-34

Chapters 1-11

- Be different than the previous generation
- Stop rebelling and respond to God's grace with love and obedience
 - Moses reminds them of the 10 commandments.

"Listen O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Love the Lord your God with all your Heart, with all your Soul and with all your Strength."

- This is known as the **Shema**
- In Hebrew Shema means Listen...استماع

Listen in Hebrew means to respond "Listen to God's grace by obeying His law."

Listen is always followed by Love.

- Love is the true motivation for obeying the law.
"Israel won't obey without love. They don't truly love if they don't obey."

Chapters 12-26

Laws and Commands

- Deuteronomy means "Second Law"
- Expanding and refreshing the laws
 - How to worship, leadership structures and Social Justice
- Warns Israel about their obedience and disobedience (Blessings and Curses)

Chapters 27-34

- Life VS. Death: Choose life!
 - Moses predicts their failure and exile
 - Israel has hard and selfish hearts
 - Present day Israel is like a Mirror of Genesis 1-3
 - God promises to transform their hearts so that one day they can truly listen and love.
- Joshua is appointed as leader
- The Law is put into the Ark of the Covenant
 - Moses goes to the top of a mountain looks at the promise land and passes away.

What can we take away from these books?

- You as servants are called to a higher standard.

We need to understand that the laws and rules that have been given to us are for our benefit. They are for our Christian perfection, to emulate Christ. That is our calling as servants, we become an icon of Christ-so when people see us they don't see me but Christ serving them. It's difficult to say no and it's easier to go with the flow but at the end of the day we will be accountable to God on our service and people we served. We need to come to understand that we need Him more as a Master than He needs us as servants. We obtain the blessing when we follow in obedience, asking for His love to change us and His grace to cover our faults.

- Even when everyone is complaining and rebelling, God is blessing and protecting us.

When it comes to serving, we are one body-but are as much as we are one body we have many different personalities and characters. This can lead to conflict and tension, do not let this withhold you from serving. Do not let any person, priest or group change your perspective on who you are serving...you are serving Christ. Listen with understanding to one another, with love and patience. No service is without conflict, but realize there can be compromise as long as we can put Christ at the center and forefront. We get caught up in our own efforts that we forget that God is the one who blesses and protects our service, others who we serve also pray and bless our service while we may be complaining and grumbling. We must always be thankful for our service and continuous focus on the true love, joy and selflessness of the service.

- Listen and Love: Be better than the previous.

To listen is to obey and act in love. We follow the laws and instruction not in fear but in love. I choose to fast, pray and give not because God is forcing me to do these things, rather I get to do these things as a way to receive and express my love for God. We will always fall short but we continuously pray for repentance and that God may change our hearts of stone to hearts ready to receive love and transformation. This is a prayer which we should continuously pray for ourselves, those who serve and those who we serve that Christ our King may work within their lives and transform them according to His will. In doing so we grow closer to Christ, learning from the previous generations mistakes and preparing the new generation to be better than us for God's glory.