

Numbers 5:1-31 Defilement, Sin, Jealousy and Adultery

Communal living amongst hundreds of thousands of people in close quarters, moving from camp to camp, required clear communications, rules of conduct, and personal hygiene. Maintaining safety, sanity, and sanctification was essential to good health and the protection and wellbeing of everyone.

YeHoVaH, in this portion of Numbers, gives clear Instructions to Israel on what is necessary to maintain an environment where He would dwell in their midst and how to deal with jealousy and adultery.

Nu 5:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

YeHoVaH Spoke.

Moses Wrote.

Nu 5:2 Command the children of Israel, that they put out of the camp every leper, and every one that hath an issue, and whosoever is defiled by the dead:

Verses 2-4 deal with:

The Leper
Anyone with an Issue
Some Defiled by the Dead

Leper – **06879** צָרַע {tsaw-rah'}

Meaning: 1) to be diseased of skin, be leprous 1a) (Qal) to be a leper 1b) (Pual) to have leprosy

Usage: AV - leper 14, leprous 6; 20

Issue – **02100** זָבַח {zoob}

Meaning: 1) to flow, gush, issue, discharge 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to flow, gush 1a2) to die, pine away (fig.) 1a3) to flow (of issue from woman), have an issue, flux 1a4) flowing (participle)

Usage: AV - flow 21, have an issue 14, gush out 3, pine away 1, hath 1, have 1, run 1; 42

An Issue is typically connected to the unnatural flow of blood from the sexual organs. We dealt with this in Leviticus 15.

Normal sexual intercourse and normal menstrual cycles are excluded.

There is a story in Matthew, Mark, and Luke about a woman who had an issue of blood.

Matthew stated it was a disease.

Mt 9:20 And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind *him*, and touched the hem of his garment:

Mt 9:21 For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.

Mark and Luke inform us that the doctors had tried many things and that she had spent all her money and had only gotten worse.

Mk 5:25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

Mk 5:26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

Mark indicated that Yeshua healed her of the plague.

Mk 5:28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

Mk 5:29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in *her* body that she was healed of that plague.

Being defiled by the dead was a potentially ongoing issue during the wilderness journey, even after the Children of Israel entered The Land, and until this day.

The Israelites experienced death in the wilderness as the carcasses of many fell. Numbers 14:29

Nu 14:28 Say unto them, *As truly as I live*, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:

Nu 14:29 Your carcases shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,

Nu 14:30 Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, *concerning* which I swore to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

Nu 14:31 But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.

Nu 14:32 But *as for* you, your carcases, they shall fall in this wilderness.

Nu 14:33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcases be wasted in the wilderness.

Nu 14:34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, *even* forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, *even* forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.

It prevented some from celebrating Passover.

Nu 9:4 And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, that they should keep the passover.

Nu 9:5 And they kept the passover on the fourteenth day of the first month at even in the wilderness of Sinai: according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did the children of Israel.

Nu 9:6 And there were certain men, who were defiled by the dead body of a man, that they could not keep the passover on that day: and they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day:

Nu 9:7 And those men said unto him, *We are* defiled by the dead body of a man: wherefore are we kept back, that we may not offer an offering of the LORD in his appointed season among the children of Israel?

Nu 9:8 And Moses said unto them, Stand still, and I will hear what the LORD will command concerning you.

Nu 9:9 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Nu 9:10 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If any man of you or of your posterity shall be unclean by reason of a dead body, or *be* in a journey afar off, yet he shall keep the passover unto the LORD.

Nu 9:11 The fourteenth day of the second month at even they shall keep it, *and* eat it with unleavened bread and bitter *herbs*.

Nu 9:12 They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break any bone of it: according to all the ordinances of the passover they shall keep it.

Nu 9:13 But the man that *is* clean, and is not in a journey, and forbear^{eth} to keep the passover, even the same soul shall be cut off from among his people: because he brought not the offering of the LORD in his appointed season, that man shall bear his sin.

Nu 5:3 Both male and female shall ye put out, without the camp shall ye put them; that they defile not their camps, in the midst whereof I dwell.

Nu 5:4 And the children of Israel did so, and put them out without the camp: as the LORD spake unto Moses, so did the children of Israel.

Nu 5:5 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

YeHoVaH Spoke.

Moses Wrote.

Verses 6-10 deal with treacherous or unfaithful acts.

Nu 5:6 Speak unto the children of Israel, When a man or woman shall commit any sin that men commit, to do a trespass against the LORD, and that person be guilty;

There are two different definitions of the words “commit” in this passage.

Commit – **06213** עָשָׂה `asah {aw-saw'}

Meaning: 1) to do, fashion, accomplish, make 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to do, work, make, produce 1a1a) to do 1a1b) to work 1a1c) to deal (with) 1a1d) to act, act with effect, effect 1a2) to make

Usage: AV - do 1333, make 653, wrought 52, deal 52, commit 49, offer 49, execute 48, keep 48, shew 43, prepare 37, work 29, do so 21, perform 18, get 14, dress 13, maker 13, maintain 7, misc 154; 2633

Commit – **04603** מָאַל ma`al {maw-al'}

Meaning: 1) to act unfaithfully, act treacherously, transgress, commit a trespass 1a) (Qal) to act unfaithfully or treacherously 1a1) against man 1a2) against God 1a3) against devoted thing 1a4) against husband

Usage: AV - trespass 13, commit 11, transgress 10, done 1; 35

This word is translated as “done” as in Verse 27.

When a person commits a trespass against another person, it is also a trespass against YeHoVaH.

Nu 5:7 Then they shall confess their sin which they have done: and he shall recompense his trespass with the principal thereof, and add unto it the fifth *part* thereof, and give *it* unto *him* against whom he hath trespassed.

First, they must make restitution and add a fifth part of the value. If the person, they committed the trespass against, is no longer living, it is to be given to his kin. If he has no kin, they must give it to YeHoVaH, via the Priest.

Nu 5:8 But if the man have no kinsman to recompense the trespass unto, let the trespass be recompensed unto the LORD, *even* to the priest; beside the ram of the atonement, whereby an atonement shall be made for him.

Nu 5:9 And every offering of all the holy things of the children of Israel, which they bring unto the priest, shall be his.

Nu 5:10 And every man's hallowed things shall be his: whatsoever any man giveth the priest, it shall be his.

Numbers 5:11- 31

- The Law of Jealousies
- Hidden Adultery
- Spirit of Jealousy
- The Test
- The Outcome

Nu 5:11 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

YeHoVaH Spoke. Moses Wrote.

Nu 5:12 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man's wife go aside, and commit a trespass against him,

If a wife is unfaithful to her husband, and there are no witnesses ...

Nu 5:13 And a man lie with her carnally, and it be hid from the eyes of her husband, and be kept close, and she be defiled, and *there be* no witness against her, neither she be taken *with the manner*;

The Law of Jealousies

A man thinks his wife has been unfaithful and she has not.

Nu 5:14 And the spirit of jealousy come upon him, and he be jealous of his wife, and she be defiled: or if the spirit of jealousy come upon him, and he be jealous of his wife, and she be not defiled:

Nu 5:15 Then shall the man bring his wife unto the priest, and he shall bring her offering for her, the tenth *part* of an ephah of barley meal; he shall pour no oil upon it, nor put frankincense thereon; for it *is* an offering of jealousy, an offering of memorial, bringing iniquity to remembrance.

The Jealousy Offering consisted of the tenth part of an ephah of barley meal.

Nu 5:16 And the priest shall bring her near, and set her before the LORD:

Nu 5:17 And the priest shall take holy water in an earthen vessel; and of the dust that is in the floor of the tabernacle the priest shall take, and put *it* into the water:

Nu 5:18 And the priest shall set the woman before the LORD, and uncover the woman's head, and put the offering of memorial in her hands, which *is* the jealousy offering: and the priest shall have in his hand the bitter water that causeth the curse:

Uncover – **06544** פָּרַע para` {paw-rah'}

Meaning: 1) to lead, act as leader 2) to let go, let loose, ignore, let alone 2a) (Qal) 2a1) to let go, let loose 2a2) to let alone, avoid, neglect 2a3) to loosen 2b) (Niphal) to be let loose, be loosened of restraint 2c) (Hiphil) 2c1) to cause to refrain 2c2) to show lack of restraint 2c3) to let loose restraints

Usage: AV - refuse 3, uncover 3, naked 2, avenging 1, avoid 1, go back 1, bare 1, let 1, made naked 1, set at nought 1, perish 1; 16

Nu 5:19 And the priest shall charge her by an oath, and say unto the woman, If no man have lain with thee, and if thou hast not gone aside to uncleanness *with another* instead of thy husband, be thou free from this bitter water that causeth the curse:

Nu 5:20 But if thou hast gone aside *to another* instead of thy husband, and if thou be defiled, and some man have lain with thee beside thine husband:

The Curse

1. The belly swells.
2. The thigh would rot.
3. She will not be able to bear children.
4. She would be a curse among the people.

Nu 5:21 Then the priest shall charge the woman with an oath of cursing, and the priest shall say unto the woman, The LORD make thee a curse and an oath among thy people, when the LORD doth make thy thigh to rot, and thy belly to swell;

Nu 5:22 And this water that causeth the curse shall go into thy bowels, to make *thy* belly to swell, and *thy* thigh to rot: And the woman shall say, Amen, amen.

The Priest writes the curses in a book, blots them out with the water, and makes the woman drink the water.

Nu 5:23 And the priest shall write these curses in a book, and he shall blot *them* out with the bitter water:

Nu 5:24 And he shall cause the woman to drink the bitter water that causeth the curse: and the water that causeth the curse shall enter into her, *and become* bitter.

The waving of the Jealousy Offering is done by the Priest, and he offers it on the Altar.

Nu 5:25 Then the priest shall take the jealousy offering out of the woman's hand, and shall wave the offering before the LORD, and offer it upon the altar:

Nu 5:26 And the priest shall take an handful of the offering, *even* the memorial thereof, and burn *it* upon the altar, and afterward shall cause the woman to drink the water.

Nu 5:27 And when he hath made her to drink the water, then it shall come to pass, *that*, if she be defiled, and have done trespass against her husband, that the water that causeth the curse shall enter into her, *and become* bitter, and her belly shall swell, and her thigh shall rot: and the woman shall be a curse among her people.

Nu 5:28 And if the woman be not defiled, but be clean; then she shall be free, and shall conceive seed.

Nu 5:29 This *is* the law of jealousies, when a wife goeth aside *to another* instead of her husband, and is defiled;

Nu 5:30 Or when the spirit of jealousy cometh upon him, and he be jealous over his wife, and shall set the woman before the LORD, and the priest shall execute upon her all this law.

Nu 5:31 Then shall the man be guiltless from iniquity, and this woman shall bear her **iniquity**.

Iniquity – **05771** יִיֶּזֶן `avon {aw-vone'} or יִיֶּזֶן `avown (2 Ki 7:9, Ps 51:5 [7]) {aw-vone'}

Meaning: 1) perversity, depravity, iniquity, guilt or punishment of iniquity 1a) iniquity 1b) guilt of iniquity, guilt (as great), guilt (of condition) 1c) consequence of or punishment for iniquity

Usage: AV - iniquity 220, punishment 5, fault 2, Iniquities + 01697 1, mischief 1, sin 1; 230

The punishment for anyone caught in adultery was quite strict. Leviticus 20:10

Lev 20:10 And the man that committeth adultery with *another* man's wife, *even he* that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.