

LEVITICUS 25- NUMBERS 3

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE

WEEK IN REVIEW

As we finish the book of Leviticus, we see God made a command for the people to sabbath every seventh day and for the land to sabbath every seven years. A **sabbath** is a time of rest. They were not to harvest the crops in the seventh year, but to offer them up to the Lord and allow anyone to freely eat. There are also instructions on the Year of Jubilee. The Year of Jubilee is known as the year of release and is all about freedom! This took place every fifty years, it started with the Day of Atonement, and brought liberty to the slaves, the property, and the land. The motto on the United States Liberty Bell comes from this chapter and says, "proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants" (Leviticus 25:10). The book ends with reminders of the blessings that come from obedience to God and consequences that come from disobedience. Additionally, it lays out the instructions for vows given to God and how they were to keep their promises.

Leviticus is a reminder to Israelites (and to us) that God is holy and He calls His people to be holy as well. The call to be holy is something that God takes seriously. There are massive consequences for our sin, and we see that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. The good news is that the sacrifices, the feasts, and the priests in Leviticus all point to a greater sacrifice, a greater feast, and the Great High Priest: Jesus Christ. The ultimate shedding of blood happened on the cross where Jesus paid the price to bring a sinful people back to a holy God.

We then head to the book of Numbers where God prepares His people for the fulfillment of His promises to Abraham of land, seed, and blessing (**the Abrahamic covenant**). The key word for the book of Numbers is **wandering** because we are going to see the Israelites wander in the wilderness as a result of their disobedience. Exodus ended with Moses outside the tent of meeting where God's presence dwelt, and now Numbers begins with Moses inside the tent of meeting talking to God. This means that the book of Leviticus worked and God is dwelling with His people!

While the book of Numbers has little to do with actual numbers, the book begins with the Lord instructing Moses to take a census of the entire Israelite community. A **census** is a fancy word for a count of the people. There are two censuses that take place in Numbers: one at the beginning of the book and one at the end. All those who registered numbered 603,550! What started with just Abraham and Sarah is now thousands of Israelites. God is fulfilling His promises! As we continue through the book of Numbers, we will see a faithful God lead His people towards the Promised Land!

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Obedience to God will bring blessing and disobedience will bring consequences
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Year of Jubilee● Funding the Sanctuary● The Census
KEY VERSE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Leviticus 25:11-12<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields.”● Numbers 1:2<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “Take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man by name, one by one.”● Numbers 1:53<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ “The Levites, however, are to set up their tents around the tabernacle of the covenant law so that my wrath will not fall on the Israelite community. The Levites are to be responsible for the care of the tabernacle of the covenant law.”
PEOPLE/ WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sabbath<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A time of rest● Abrahamic Covenant<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ God promises Abraham three things: land (the Promised Land), seed (kids), and blessing (that all nations of the earth will be blessed from his family.)● Census<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A counting of the people

Reflection Questions

1.	What does sabbath mean? Why do you think God commanded it?
2.	What are the three things that God promised Abraham back in Genesis?
3.	What did the Lord instruct Moses to do at the beginning of Numbers?
4.	What is the key word for the book of Numbers?