

Numbers 6: The Nazirite Vow

- The priestly blessing (at the end of the chapter)
 - Silver inscription found in Jerusalem (6th century BC—500 yrs older than dead sea scrolls)
 - Note the pre-aramaic script (created *before* the Babylonian exile)
 - Hopefully a sign of some faithful Israelites in Jerusalem (cf. Deut. 6:4-9)
- The language
 - נַזִּיר (na.zir) - Nazirite
 - נָזַר (na.zar) - to separate, consecrate, dedicate
 - Note the use of the word “separate” and “consecrated” throughout Numbers 6 (not so much in NIV, but more so in the ESV/NASB, and it jumps right out in the Hebrew!)
- The requirements of a Nazirite
 - No wine, grapes, or grape derivatives (vs. 3-4)
 - No hair cuts (vs. 5)
 - No dead bodies (vs. 6-8)
- The procedure for recovering from defilement by contact with a dead body (vs. 9-12)
 - Wait seven days to become clean again
 - Offer two turtledoves or pigeons (one for sin offering, one for burnt offering)
 - Shave off the defiled hair
 - Why does the hair matter?
 - What is the role of a visible sign in the OT?
(We will come back to this point)
 - Restart period of vow
 - Bring male lamb a year old for a guilt offering
- How to conclude a Nazirite vow
 - A year-old male lamb without defect for a burnt offering
 - A year-old ewe lamb without defect for a sin offering
 - Note the sin offering even if the vow has been successfully fulfilled
 - A ram without defect for a peace offering
 - Basket of unleavened cakes and associated grain offering and drink offering
 - Shave off the hair and burn it
 - Note that the visible sign should *not* be present after the vow is fulfilled
 - Present a wave-offering
- What is the Purpose of a Nazirite?
 - Who can be a Nazirite?
 - Time period of vow?
 - Voluntary, temporary “Levites”?
 - Num. 8:5-11, 15-16—shaving hair and wave offerings... sounds familiar
 - Samuel’s youth and early ministry is centered at the tabernacle
- Examples of Nazirites in Scripture
 - Samson (Jdgs. 13:4-5)
 - Samuel? (1 Sam. 1:10-11)
 - John the Baptist? (Luke 1:13-15)
 - The four men with Paul? (Acts 21:17-26)

Samson: To Judge or to be Judged?

		No Good	Good
Wine / grapes	Jdg. 14:5-7, 10		
Dead bodies	Jdg. 14:8-9		
Cutting hair	Jdg. 16:17-19		

- Suppose for a moment that Samson actually *is* a good judge. What would you, as Samson's friend, advise him about in his relationship with Delilah?
 - Isn't Samson being a fool?! (1 Cor. 1:18-24)
- The importance of visible signs in OT?
 - The battle against the Amalekites (Exo. 17:8-13)
 - Does this seem petty? Why does God operate in this way?
 - The bones of Elisha (2 Kings 13:20-21)
 - What would your response to this event be?
- The importance of visible signs in the Christian life
 - The prayer of a righteous man (James 5:13-18)