

Numbers 31 Bible Study Notes Part 2 of 2

25 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 26 Take the sum of the prey that was taken, both of man and of beast, thou, and Eleazar the priest, and the chief fathers of the congregation: 27 And divide the prey into two parts; between them that took the war upon them, who went out to battle, and between all the congregation:

Clarke Lee's Commentary: We see here that the spoil was divided in half with half going to those who went to war and half to the rest of Israel. I would have missed this but as Matthew Henry points out: only 12,000 went to war and the bounty they received was much greater than the bounty to Israel at large. We do not know the number of Israel for sure but there were many more men at the last census than the 12,000 that went to war.

At the last census there were 601,730 men able to go to war. That number divided by 12,000 is right at 50 times more to the men who went to war. Some say this is the result of being willing to go to war and fight for the Lord. Certainly we know from New Testament scripture that there are rewards for God's willing and obedient people today, above those who are part of Israel but not of the fighting men.

We find that this principle was carried forward in time as we see it again in:

1Sa 30:24-25 24 For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike. 25 And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.

God's will and purpose are always right and just. We see this principle carried forward in a way in:

Lu 7:47 44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. 45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. 46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. 47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

28 And levy a tribute unto the LORD of the men of war which went out to battle: one soul of five hundred, both of the persons, and of the beeves, and of the asses, and of the sheep: 29 Take it of their half, and give it unto Eleazar the priest, for an heave offering of the LORD. 30 And of the children of Israel's half, thou shalt take one portion of fifty, of the persons, of the beeves, of the asses, and of the flocks, of all manner of beasts, and give them unto the Levites, which keep the charge of the tabernacle of the LORD.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: The tax rate (that which was to be given to the Lord) was the same for those who went to war and those who remained behind.

31 And Moses and Eleazar the priest did as the LORD commanded Moses. 32 And the booty, being the rest of the prey which the men of war had caught, was six hundred thousand and seventy thousand and five thousand sheep, 33 And threescore and twelve thousand beeves, 34 And threescore and one thousand asses, 35 And thirty and two thousand persons in all, of women that had not known man by lying with him. 36 And the half, which was the portion of them that went out to war, was in number three hundred thousand and seven and thirty thousand and five hundred sheep: 37 And the LORD'S tribute of the sheep was six hundred and threescore and fifteen. 38 And the beeves were thirty and six thousand; of which the LORD'S tribute was threescore and twelve. 39

And the asses were thirty thousand and five hundred; of which the LORD'S tribute was threescore and one. 40 And the persons were sixteen thousand; of which the LORD'S tribute was thirty and two persons. 41 And Moses gave the tribute, which was the LORD'S heave offering, unto Eleazar the priest, as the LORD commanded Moses. 42 And of the children of Israel's half, which Moses divided from the men that warred, 43 (Now the half that pertained unto the congregation was three hundred thousand and thirty thousand and seven thousand and five hundred sheep, 44 And thirty and six thousand beeves, 45 And thirty thousand asses and five hundred, 46 And sixteen thousand persons;) 47 Even of the children of Israel's half, Moses took one portion of fifty, both of man and of beast, and gave them unto the Levites, which kept the charge of the tabernacle of the LORD; as the LORD commanded Moses. 48 And the officers which were over thousands of the host, the captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds, came near unto Moses: 49 And they said unto Moses, Thy servants have taken the sum of the men of war which are under our charge, and there lacketh not one man of us. 50 We have therefore brought an oblation for the LORD, what every man hath gotten, of jewels of gold, chains, and bracelets, rings, earrings, and tablets, to make an atonement for our souls before the LORD.

Oblation means; something brought near the altar, i.e. a sacrificial present: oblation, that is offered, offering.

We see that in this war, that the Lord commanded Israel to do against the Midianites, there was not a man missing among those who went to war. They recognized this remarkable deliverance to be the hand of God preserving them in battle and brought of their spoils an offering to the Lord, asking for atonement from the Lord for their souls.

This brings to mind another picture we find in scripture of another war that is going on still today; but in actuality has already been accomplished by Christ. Do you remember in scripture this text? ***Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none.***

This then is a picture of the Supreme Power of God Almighty, God the Father and God the Son. Jesus Christ has already secured all that the Father gave him and there is not one of them that will be dead when the family of God is gathered in the end of time at the resurrection.

Praise God for the supremacy of His power and for the atonement of our bodies, souls, and spirit, in the eternal day.

51 And Moses and Eleazar the priest took the gold of them, even all wrought jewels. 52 And all the gold of the offering that they offered up to the LORD, of the captains of thousands, and of the captains of hundreds, was sixteen thousand seven hundred and fifty shekels. 53 (For the men of war had taken spoil, every man for himself.) 54 And Moses and Eleazar the priest took the gold of the captains of thousands and of hundreds, and brought it into the tabernacle of the congregation, for a memorial for the children of Israel before the LORD.

Clarke Lee's Commentary: We notice that they brought the treasure gifts into the tabernacle of the congregation as a memorial. This reminds me of another text in scripture that would have application to us today and in eternity:

Re 21:24 And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. 25 And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. 26 And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. 27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

In this text we have the glory, that God has bestowed upon his nations, being brought into the New Jerusalem. This glory was certainly a gift to the nations but the nations return the gift unto the

Lord. It can only be brought into the New Jerusalem, because God has preserved and protected each and every one of them, as scripture has already demonstrated to us, in John 18:9.

Praise the Lord for his divine protection and eternal life for his people. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

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