

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

March 24, 2016

- ✓ Numbers 28:1-31 – Laws concerning offerings.
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:16 – Headcoverings and the Lord’s Supper.
- ✓ Psalm 23 – The Lord is our Shepherd.

REFLECTIONS:

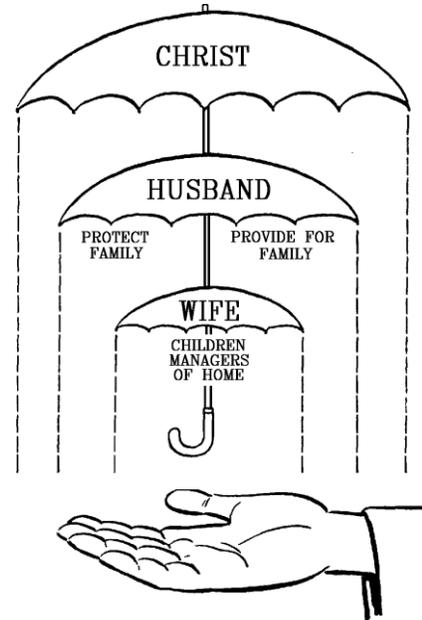
Numbers 28:1-31. There are four types of offerings in this chapter: daily offerings (3-8), Sabbath offerings (9-10), monthly offerings (11-15), offerings for Passover (16-25), offerings for the Festival of Weeks (26-31)—daily, weekly, monthly, and annually. The daily offerings began early in the day with a whole burnt offering and concluded with the same at twilight. The high priest represented the community in the substitutionary identification ritual, placing his hand on the head of the lamb. After slaughtering the animal, he extracted its blood, which he poured out to the Lord on the sides of the altar. The priest, then, burned the offering completely on the altar, as a consecration ritual on behalf of the entire community. In a larger context of Numbers, this highlights the grace of God in His future blessings of Israel in the land that they have just rejected (chapters 13-14). Of course, in our age of grace we no longer need to offer animal sacrifices or need an earthly high priest to represent us before God. Jesus Christ is our High Priest who continually intercedes for us. As far as sacrifices, we are the sacrifices, our minds, souls, and bodies: *Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.* It is noteworthy in the aforementioned passage that after Paul builds a massive fabric of Bible doctrine in Romans 1-11, he moves to an all-inclusive mandate for the outward life. Like the Levitical offering which gave a “sweet” savor to God, the giving of our whole life to the Lord is *acceptable to God*. In short, the sacrifice is self-surrender to God. As long as we insist on things going our way, we resist God and damage our own beings. It is opening up to God completely and fully that invites His divine power in all areas of our lives as God raises us up to the supernatural level of life with God, a transcendent life characterized by ever growing *knowledge and love*.

Offerings of Worship

Numbers chapter 28
Leviticus chapter 25

Individual	Family	Tribe	City Wide	Nation Wide
				
Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Jubilee Years
“This is the offering made by fire which you shall offer to the Lord day by day as a regular burnt offering (morning and evening) Numbers 28:3-8 Personal one on one intimacy with God in our prayer closet or “quiet times.”	“six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation...” Leviticus 23:3 Small Group meetings with extended family and covenant friends	“At the beginnings of your months you shall present a burnt offering to the Lord...” Numbers 28:11 Larger meetings with several Small Groups where 50+ people would be gathering	“Three times you shall keep a feast to Me in the year.” Exodus 23:14 Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles: 1000+ people gathered 3 times per year	“In the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land... and you shall count seven sabbaths of years (49 years) and cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound.” Lev. 25:4,8 Special times of celebration every 7 years and every 50 years

1 Corinthians 10:23-11:16. In verse 3 we have statements regarding the headship of God the Father over Christ and the headship of the husband over his wife. However, this does not imply inferiority of Christ or the wife. While Christ was eternally submissive to the will of the Father, He is nonetheless eternally equal in substance with the Father and the Holy Spirit. While husbands are heads over their wives, they are both equal in Christ—there is neither male or female in Christ (Gal. 3:28). As a matter of fact, the husbands are to love their wives sacrificially as Christ loved the church. Moreover, earlier in the context of sexual purity and conjugal obligations, Paul pointed out that wives have authority over their husbands’ bodies and that husbands and wives should not deprive one another sexually (1 Cor. 7:3-5). As far as the thorny issue of womens’ head coverings, Paul lists five reasons that women should have their heads covered *while they are praying and prophesying in the church*: 1) the divine order (1 Cor. 7:3-6), 2) creation (1 Cor. 7:7-9), 3) angels (10), 4) natural revelation (1 Cor. 7:13-15), and 5) the universal church “custom” (1 Cor. 11:16). The bottom line is that there should be a clear distinction between men and women in the church. The fact that women by nature have longer hair is but a visible expression of the differentiation of the sexes. However, no abstract length of hair was in mind as much as male and female distinction. The issue in this section is the differentiation between men and women and signs of the woman’s submissiveness, which is reflected in head coverings and longer hair than their male counterparts. Again, women’s hair and dress is to be distinctively feminine and demonstrate her womanly loveliness and submissiveness. There should be no confusion about male and female identities because God has made the sexes distinct. God wants men to be masculine, to be responsibly and lovingly authoritative. He wants women to be feminine, to be responsibly and lovingly submissive.



Psalm 23. Using the images of a shepherd and a gracious host, David reflected on the many benefits the Lord gave him as he faced the dangers of life. He concluded that God's persistent, loving protection would restore him to full communion.

To belabor a point that I have been making: God does not send evil suffering to build our faith. It is fallacious to take the result of something (faith) and conclude that that was why God brought this into one's life. Such a move makes God the Author of Evil who puts evil into our life *in order to get us to grow in trust and love of Him*. There are far more powerful ways for us to grow in trust and love Him—like living in the Holy Spirit in second person relationship. The Holy Spirit produces faith as well as all of the spiritual virtues (Gal. 5:22-23)

in any and all circumstances, good or bad. We are told explicitly that prayer itself builds up faith (Jude 20). The blame for the intrusion of evil our lives goes back to our fallen world and man's free will. As far as God being in control, He is always in control by virtue of the fact that He gives all things their existence every moment. To be clear, I am not denying that certain difficulties may provide opportunities for personal aspects of faith. However, if a person must have difficulties to trust and love God, I would question what kind of faith and love that person has in the first place.

All because of Christ,

Pastor Don

