

Beha'alotcha

בְּהַעֲלוֹתְךָ

“When You Light”



Speak to Aaron, and say to him “When you arrange the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light in front of the lampstand.”

Numbers 8:2

Numbers 8:1-12:16

In this week's Parasha we learn that God commanded Aharon (Aaron), the high priest, to arrange the seven lamps of the lampstand (מְנוֹרָה - Menorah) in the Tabernacle of Meeting so that the lamps would give light in front of the Menorah. The lighting of the Menorah preceded the cleansing of the Levites to be set apart, belonging to God for His service. The Menorah illuminated the Tabernacle, enabling the priests to serve God by leading the people in proper worship of Him. It also illuminated the way to the presence of God behind the curtain (פָּרֹכֶת - parochet).

Only after the Levites had been separated from the children of Yisra'el (Israel) to serve God as His Holy Priesthood, could God be worshiped as commanded. Worship of God is set by His standards and perfect order as opposed to the standards and order of man. Man can only worship God by the way He provides, illuminates and maintains.

Pray First

Father God,

We praise You for providing everything needed to serve and worship You. We thank You for maintaining Your perfect order that allows us to have a relationship with You. We ask that You help us to agree with and submit to Your perfect standards and order as we serve You.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen.

Read Next

Numbers 8:1-12:16

~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~

Numbers 8:1-26

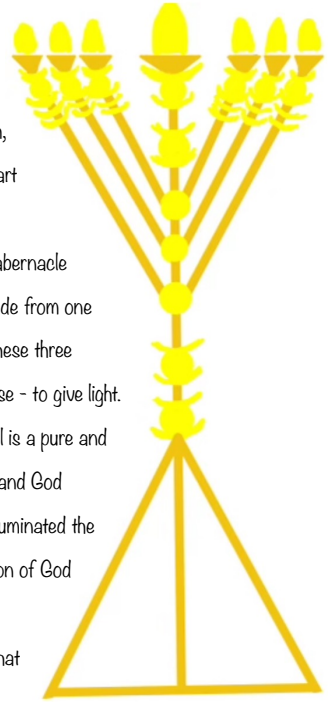
In Numbers 8:1-4 we are reminded that the workmanship of the Menorah in the Tabernacle of Meeting was of hammered gold. The Menorah was constructed according to the pattern Moshe (Moses) had been shown by the LORD. When fire was placed upon the seven lamps of the Menorah, the Tabernacle of Meeting was illuminated. Remember, in Scripture the number seven means set apart for a purpose.

The Tabernacle's Menorah was a miraculous piece of workmanship, and there was no other Tabernacle Menorah. Three elements were required for the Menorah to give light: the lampstand - which was made from one piece of pure gold to include seven lamps, pure olive oil in the seven lamps and fire from the altar. These three elements were different and did not work independently. They worked together for a common purpose - to give light.

These facts about the Menorah can help us understand the God of Yisra'el. The God of Yisra'el is a pure and miraculous God; there is no other God. Three persons of God - God the Father, God the Holy Spirit and God the Son - exist to form One God, Who is the Light of the world. Just as the fire ignited the oil and illuminated the lamps so that the priest could clearly see to come into God's presence to serve Him, so does the Son of God reveal God the Holy Spirit from God the Father, making them known to man.

In Numbers 8:5-26 we learn it was only after the Menorah was set in place and illuminated that the Levites were cleansed to serve the LORD.

Read Numbers 8:5-26, and set these seven steps taken to purify the Levites for service in the proper order.



- _____ Aharon made an atonement for the Levites to cleanse them.
- _____ The Levites were given as a gift to the high priest to serve him.
- _____ The Levites washed their clothes.
- _____ Moshe sprinkled the water of purification on the Levites.
- _____ The Levites served so that the children of Yisrael could come near the sanctuary without being plagued.
- _____ The Levites shaved all their bodies.
- _____ Aharon presented the Levites as a wave offering before the LORD.

~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~

Numbers 9:1-23

In Numbers 9:1-5 we learn the first service of the Levitical Priesthood was to lead the people to keep the memorial of the LORD's Passover at its appointed time. Do you remember the appointed time God redeemed the children of Yisra'el from death and bondage in Egypt?

Circle all accurate descriptions of this appointed time below.

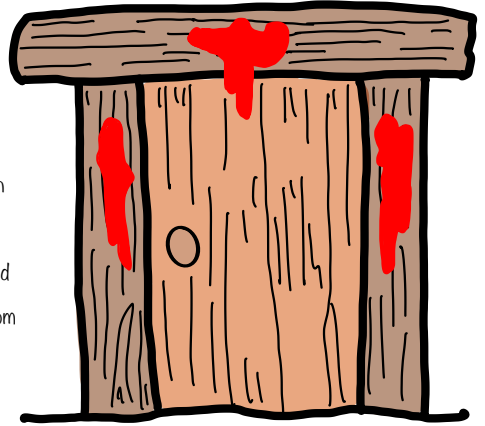
Sunrise Aviv 14 Twilight

First month Av 9

Fifth month Nissan 14 Sunset

In Numbers 9:6-14 we learn that the memorial of the Passover, kept at its appointed time, was of great importance to God. It was vital to being in a relationship with Him. It could only be kept each year if a person was in the proper state of cleanliness. Certain men came to Moshe and Aharon who were in a state of defilement after being in contact with a dead body at the appointed time of Passover. They wanted to keep the LORD's Passover at its appointed time but were not in the proper state of cleanliness to do so. Moshe and Aharon inquired of the LORD on their behalf.

God responded by commanding that anyone made unclean by a dead body or far away on a journey at the appointed time of Passover could still keep the LORD'S Passover on the fourteenth day of Iyar (the second month of the year) at twilight. Having given this declaration, God also commanded anyone who was clean and not on a journey that did not keep the LORD's Passover at its appointed time would be cut off from among his people. That man would bear his sin because he did not bring the offering of the LORD at its appointed time. These commandments from the LORD applied both to the stranger who sojourned among the Yisra'elites and wanted to keep the LORD'S Passover and the native Yisra'elites. There was one ordinance for both the stranger and the native of the land.



These verses of Scripture serve to teach us that we must prepare ourselves and follow God's instruction to worship Him. He alone provides the way for us to worship Him. If we neglect to worship Him in the way He has provided, we will be distanced from His presence and His people.

Numbers 9:11-12 describe how the Passover was to be kept. Notice that the only thing that was different is the month in which the Passover may be kept for anyone who was unclean or far away on a journey. Can you underline the correct criteria for keeping the LORD'S Passover from the list below?

Sacrifice the lamb on the 14th day or the 10th day of the month

Sacrifice the lamb at sunrise or at twilight

Break no bones of the lamb or break all bones of the lamb

Save all leftovers of the lamb to be eaten the next day or leave none til morning

Eat the lamb with unleavened bread or with leavened bread

Eat the lamb with sweet apples or with bitter herbs



In Numbers 9:15-23 we learn how the presence of God guided the children of Yisra'el in the wilderness. After the Tabernacle was set up in the wilderness, the cloud covered the Tabernacle. During the night, the cloud above the Tabernacle appeared like fire. Whenever God took the cloud up from above the Tabernacle the children of Yisra'el understood God was leading them from their encampment to another location. The tribes would break camp in the order God had commanded and begin their journey, following the cloud wherever it led them. When the cloud settled in a new location, the tribes of Yisra'el would pitch their tents in the order commanded by God around the Tabernacle.

If the cloud stayed many days above the Tabernacle in one location, the people did not move. They would set up camp wherever the cloud led them, and they would stay there as long as the cloud remained above the Tabernacle. Otherwise, they would rest and continue their journey as the cloud moved whether by day or by night.

This serves to teach us that we must have faith in God. When we belong to God and live in His presence, He leads us where we need to go. He gives us instruction to order our lives according to His will. He guides us as we serve Him at any given location. It is not important for us to know where we are going or how long we will stay there. We must trust that He knows all things and never seeks to harm us. As long as we are following Him, we will have joy and peace.



~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~
Numbers 10:1-36

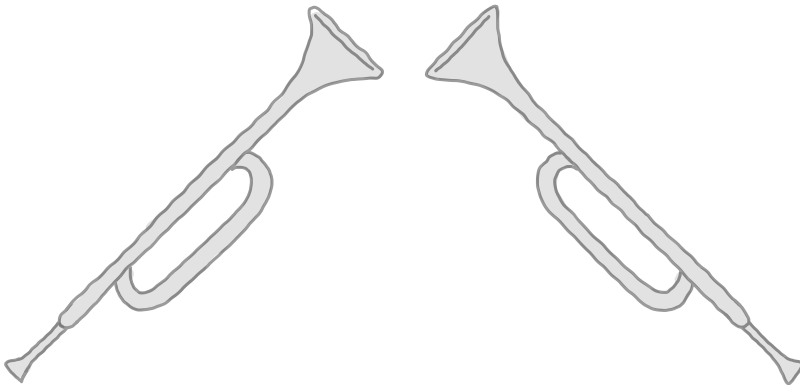
When you go to war in your land
against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall
sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be
remembered before the LORD your God, and you will
be saved from your enemies.

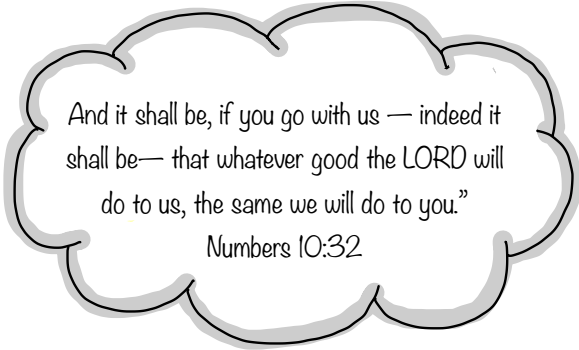
Numbers 10:9

In Numbers 10:1-10 the LORD commanded Moshe to make two silver trumpets. These trumpets would serve to communicate God's commands and purposes for His people as well as sound a memorial for them before God. The commands and purposes for the trumpet blasts included gathering the people before the door of the Tabernacle, gathering only the leaders before the door of the Tabernacle, signaling the east and south sides of the encampment to move out of camp for relocation, gathering the congregation together, alarm for war, sound for rejoicing, to announce the appointed feasts, to announce the beginning of each month and to announce the burnt offerings and peace offerings of the people before the LORD.

In Numbers 10:11-28 we learn that the children of Yisra'el broke camp on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year after they were redeemed from Egypt. The cloud was taken up from above the Tabernacle and the children of Yisrael set out from the Wilderness of Sinai. The cloud of the LORD led them to the Wilderness of Paran. They broke camp, traveled and set up camp again by the order God had commanded them.

In Numbers 10:29-36 we learn that Moshe invited Hobab the son of Reuel, his father-in-law, to journey with them into the Promised Land of God. Moshe explained to Hobab that God would deliver them safely into the Land and provide all the good things for them He had promised.





And it shall be, if you go with us — indeed it shall be— that whatever good the LORD will do to us, the same we will do to you.”

Numbers 10:32

Moshe told Hobab he could travel with them and assist them while they camped in the wilderness. Moshe explained that if Hobab journeyed with them into the Land of Promise, he would be blessed. When the Yisra’elites received blessings from God while in the Land, they would in turn be a blessing to others. So, Hobab departed with the Yisra’elites on the three day journey as they followed the presence of the LORD before them as their guide.

So it was, whenever the ark set out, that Moshe said these words:

“ _____ O LORD! Let Your _____ be _____, and let those
who _____ You flee before You.”

Numbers 10:35

And when it rested, he said:

“ _____, O LORD to the many thousands of _____.”

Numbers 10:36

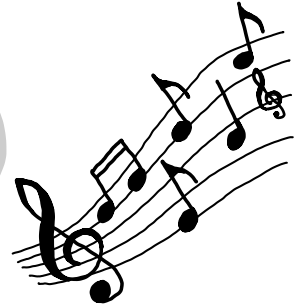
Numbers 10 teaches us that when we have faith in the LORD our God, we are eager to follow His commandments. When we apply His order to our lives in obedience to His instructions, He protects us and blesses us abundantly. When we are blessed by God, we are commanded to be a blessing to others. All these things serve as a witness to the world of God’s character.

~ Haftarah: Zechariah 2:10-4:7 ~



“Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst,” says the LORD.

Zechariah 2:10



In this week's Haftarah the children of Yisra'el were living in Babylon because they had disobeyed God's standards and order for life in His presence while in the Promised Land. They had worshipped false gods instead of the Living God and had not responded to God's discipline or warnings by repenting of their sins. As a result, God judged them by placing them in exile, distancing them from the Land of Promise and His presence. They were unable to worship God in a foreign land without a priesthood, and this had an adverse effect on the entire world.

God had judged His people for replacing His order and standards with their own evil desires. However, His covenant promises for the descendants of Avraham (Abraham), Yitz'chak (Isaac) and Ya'kov (Jacob) to dwell obediently in the Land of Promise remained. God's will for His creation is perfect and never changes. His greatest desire is to be in an intimate relationship with His children. When the children of God follow His standards in order for this relationship, He blesses them abundantly. This allows them to be a blessing to others, which is very pleasing to God.

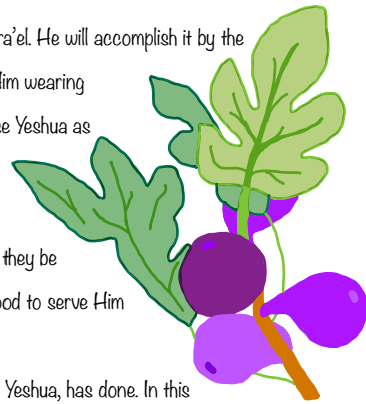
While the children of Yisra'el were in exile, God gave visions to His prophet, Zechariah, showing him the future fulfillment of all His promises. In Zechariah 2:10 God refers to Jerusalem as Zion. Jerusalem is the city that bears the name of God. It is where God's presence (שְׁכִינָה - **shekinah**) dwelt in the Temple of God on Mount Moriah prior to its destruction by the Babylonians. When God refers to His holy city of Jerusalem as Zion, He is speaking about what He will accomplish for Her in the future. In this verse of Scripture He uses the word “daughters” to communicate that this will be the outcome of His redemption for a future generation.

In Zechariah 2:11-13 God explained that even though His children have disobeyed Him, He will again choose Jerusalem and dwell in the midst of His children there in a unique way. He will accomplish His promises for the descendants of Yisra'el to dwell in the Land of Promise obediently. Many nations will be joined with them as the blessings of God flow through them to others. God commands all flesh to be silent because He will accomplish all these things for the sake of His Name - not because the people deserve it.

In that day, says the LORD of hosts
“Everyone will invite his neighbor
under his vine and under his fig tree.”

Zechariah 3:10

In Zechariah 3 God explained how He will accomplish the outcome of His promises through Yisra'el. He will accomplish it by the standards and order He established in the wilderness. Joshua/Yeshua, the High Priest, will come to Him wearing garments stained because of the sins of the people of God. Satan will also stand before God to accuse Yeshua as He represents the people for cleansing. God will accept the offerings Yeshua has made to purify the people according to His order and standards.



God will announce that He has removed the iniquity from His people, and He will command that they be clothed in clean priestly garments. God will then purify them, setting them apart as His Royal Priesthood to serve Him according to His standards and order that have never changed.

All these things will be accomplished as the outcome of the work of redemption the Son of God, Yeshua, has done. In this chapter Yeshua is referred to as the High Priest of God, the BRANCH and the all-knowing Stone. He will remove the iniquity of God's people to purify them to serve Him. All these things He will accomplish in one day. From that day forward the promises of God will be realized on earth, and His perfect standards and order will be enforced. When God's perfect standards and order are in place, the whole world will be blessed. Everyone will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and under his fig tree in safety, being securely positioned to receive the blessings of God without threat or danger.

So he answered and said to me:
"This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel:
'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,'
says the LORD of hosts."
Zechariah 4:6

In Zechariah 4:1-7 the angel who had talked with Zechariah came back to him to wake him up. This indicates the next prophecy God reveals to Zechariah is a very strong one. The angel asked Zechariah what vision he saw once he was awake. Zechariah described what he saw to the angel who had awakened him. He said he saw the Menorah of solid gold. It had seven lamps and seven pipes to the seven lamps with a bowl on top of it. Two olive trees were by it - one at the right and one at the left. (Read Revelation 11:3-12 for more details.)

Zechariah asked the angel to tell him the meaning of this vision. The angel responded by giving the Word of the LORD to Zerubbabel, the governor of Jerusalem who was sent by God back into the Land of Promise to rebuild the Temple of God on Mount Moriah. He explained that although a great mountain will come against Jerusalem, it will be made a plain. The great mountain represents all the nations of the world who oppose the establishment of God's kingdom on earth.

God explained that this miracle will be accomplished while the children of Yisra'el are living in the Land of Promise. It will not be done by their might or their power but by the power of the Holy Spirit of God. Remember, the Holy Spirit can be represented by the olive oil coming from the two olive trees in the vision. The Menorah of the vision represents the One and Only Living God Who exists in three persons. The Menorah casts forth light in the darkness, providing illumination needed to dwell in the presence of God in order to serve Him.

~ New Testament: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 ~

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, Who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape that you may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

One of God's greatest desires for His creation is to bless it. The only way to be blessed by God is to agree with and follow after Him. God is good, and anything that does not line up with the standards and order of God is evil.

The perfect standards and order of God contain many blessings. The blessings of protection, provision, sustenance, guidance, joy and contentment are to name only a few. When we disagree with God and choose to live in opposition to His order and standards for life, we are acting as His enemy. When we act as God's enemy, we are sinning against God.

In 1 Corinthians 10 the Apostle Paul wrote to the people at Corinth about historical events that were written down to serve as a witness or lesson for the redeemed people of God. Because God is perfect and never changes, these same historical events serve to teach believers today what is required to receive God's blessings, following the free gift of redemption. God does not want His children to be ignorant about His standards and order for their lives because He desires to bless them.

In 1 Corinthians 10:1-2 we are reminded that after the Yisra'elites received the gift of redemption by the blood of the lamb in Egypt, they were led by the cloud to pass through the Red Sea where all their enemies were destroyed by God. This gave them freedom to serve God with Moshe as their head.

The cloud that led them was the physical representation of God's presence guiding them. The sea they passed through was the physical representation of baptism, or death to the flesh so that a new life can begin.

These things serve to teach us that our redemption is a free gift that we receive by trusting in the Name of the Redeemer, Messiah Yeshua. Once we are redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb of God, Yeshua, we are led by the Holy Spirit as our old flesh dies and we become a new person. With this new life comes defeat of our enemy - Satan. We are able to overcome evil when we continue to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we agree with and live by the standards and order made known to us by our Redeemer.

In 1 Corinthians 10:3-4 we are reminded that all the redeemed from Egypt ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. God's provisions were adequate and the same for every person. The spiritual Rock that followed them in the wilderness, giving them life-sustaining water, was Messiah Yeshua or God the Son. The wilderness represents the world that can offer nothing to protect, provide, sustain, guide, or bring joy and contentment to a person.

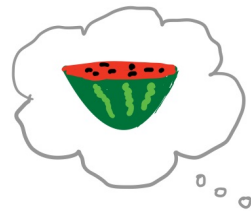
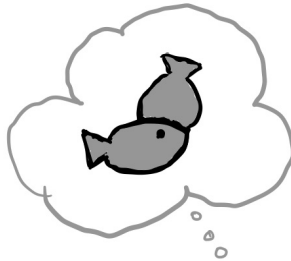
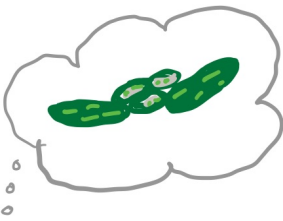
In 1 Corinthians 10:5 we are reminded that most of the Yisra'elites never entered the Land of Promise but died and were buried in the wilderness. This occurred because they craved the things of the world over the things of God. In other words they craved things that did not provide protection, provision, sustenance, guidance, joy or contentment. They clearly understood they were helpless in Egypt and were happy to depend on God to redeem them, but once they were freed from their bondage, they wanted to return to the way of life that had put them in their hopeless situation to begin with. Let me ask you a question: If God allowed them to do this without consequences, would He truly love them?

This type of behavior describes a form of spiritual idolatry every believer struggles with while still in the world. God wants us to worship Him by obeying Him because we love Him and trust that He knows what is best for us. When we accept the free gift of redemption and continue to live in a manner that does not lead to His blessings, we are using Him as if He were an idol that we purchased to give us what we want.

God's discipline and judgment of His children in the wilderness serve as an example of what the redeemed person can expect today when we choose evil over good. Let's look at a few of these examples together.

In Numbers 11:3 of this week's Torah Portion we learned that the people complained, and it displeased the LORD. His fire burned among them and consumed some in the outskirts of the camp. When the people cried out to Moshe, he prayed to the LORD, and the fire was stopped. God hates complaining. God deserves all honor, glory and praise. God's anger is aroused when His people choose to focus on the negative aspect of a situation.

In Numbers 11:4-9 the mixed multitude who were among the children of Yisra'el craved meat to eat. They were not happy with the bread that God sent from heaven to feed them while on their journey. They longed to eat the food they had freely eaten in Egypt. Refer to Numbers 11:5 to describe the foods they craved below.



&

God responded to the people's desires of the flesh by giving them exactly what they wanted. He caused a wind to come and bring quail from the sea. He made the quail flutter just above the ground near the camp. This was a miracle Moshe could not even think of to feed the multitude of people. Refer to Numbers 11:18-20 to find out how long God supplied the quail for them to catch and eat, and circle the correct answers.

1 day

10 days

2 days

20 days

5 days

30 days

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The people stayed up all that day and night in addition to all the next day gathering quail. Then they began to eat it, but while the meat was still between their teeth, the wrath of the LORD struck the people with a very great plague. Remember, the number 30 in the Bible means death. This serves to teach us that our earthly desires and cravings of the flesh lead to death. We should understand this and be thankful and content with the provisions of sustenance God freely gives us.

In Numbers 12 we learn that Moshe's sister, Miriam, and brother, Aharon, spoke against Moshe because they were jealous of Him. This was speaking out against the plans and order of God because Moshe had been sent by God to redeem and provide the way for a covenant to be formed between God and all people. The LORD's anger was aroused, and He commanded the three siblings to come out to the Tabernacle of Meeting. The LORD came down in the pillar of cloud and stood in the door of the Tabernacle to speak to them directly concerning their opposition to Him.

Read Numbers 12:9-16, and underline all statements below that describe the LORD's discipline of Miriam.

Miriam became leprous, as white as snow

Miriam would never be made whole again

Aharon asked Moshe to remove the results of their sin

Moshe asked God to heal Miriam

Moshe banned Aharon and Miriam from camp forever

God placed Miriam outside His presence for 7 days

The people thanked Aharon and Miriam for causing their delay

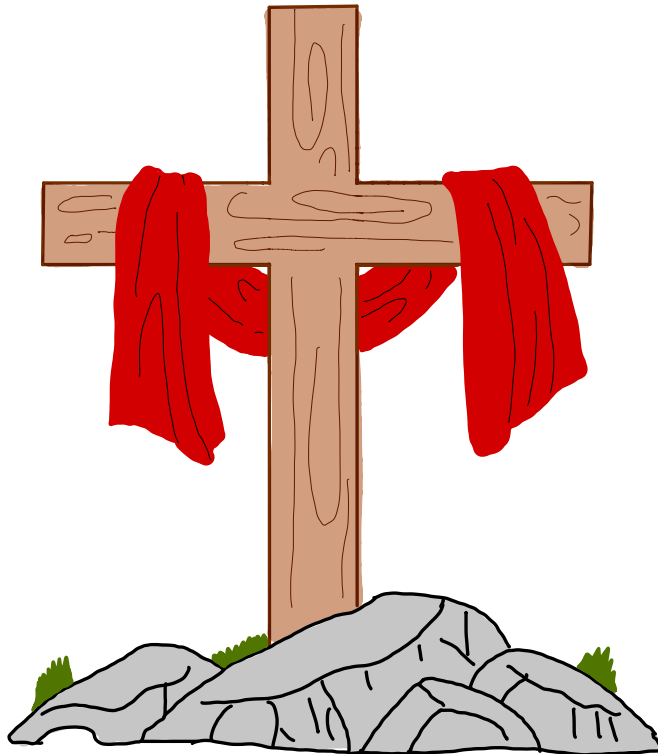
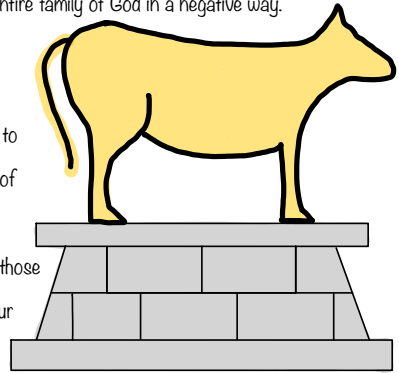
The entire congregation of Yisrael were unable to travel for 7 days

These events serve to teach us that we can only come into God's presence by the order He has established. There is only one way to come into the presence of Almighty God. This way is through His Son, Yeshua, our Redeemer. This way is for all people, allowing them to join into a new covenant with God. When those who have been redeemed complain about the leadership God has put in place who are following His order or become judgmental or jealous of others serving God, it displeases Him and affects the entire family of God in a negative way.

1 Corinthians 10:7 reminds us of the events in Exodus 32. The people were happy to be redeemed out of slavery in Egypt but grew impatient when Moshe was on the mount with God. Instead of waiting for God's direction they took matters into their own hands and devised a way to worship God by the standards and order of the world. As we have already learned this is a form of spiritual idolatry.

The events in 1 Corinthians 10:8-10 are written in Scripture to teach us the importance for those redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb to live by the standards and order God has established for our lives. All these historical events will remain as a guide for us until the return of Messiah Yeshua to establish God's Kingdom on earth.

There is no new temptation for man in the world. All temptations of man have been experienced in every generation. God's Word, His standards and His order never change, and when followed, they provide a way to escape all temptations.



Recap Review Fun

Directions: Fill in the blank using the word bank below.

1. The one piece of pure gold, the oil and the fire of the _____ can represent God the Father, God the Holy Spirit and God the Son.
2. Worship of God is set by His _____ and perfect _____.
3. In order to keep the LORD'S Passover one had to be in the proper state of _____.
4. God led the people in the wilderness by day with a pillar of _____ and by night with a pillar of _____.
5. The wilderness is a place of no provision for life and often represents the things of the _____.
6. Two silver _____ were used to make announcements to the people in the wilderness.
7. God blesses His children so they can be a _____ to others.
8. Zion is the future name for the city of _____.
9. God will accomplish the outcome of His redemption through the nation of _____.
10. Anything that does not line up with the standards and order of God is _____.
11. When we disagree with God and choose to live in opposition to Him we become His _____.
12. God does not want His people to be _____ about His standards and perfect order.
13. _____ represents death to the flesh so that new life can begin.
14. God's provisions are the same for all _____.
15. If we love God we will _____ Him.
16. God hates _____.
17. The number thirty in Scripture relates to _____.
18. God's Word, His standards and His order provide an escape for all _____ when we obey and follow them.

Word Bank

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-----------|------|-------------|----------|-------|-------|-------------|----------|
| Cleanliness | Death | Jerusalem | Evil | Menorah | People | Cloud | World | Complaining | Baptism |
| Standards | Obey | Trumpets | Fire | Temptations | Blessing | Order | Enemy | Ignorant | Yisra'el |