**Num 1 / Eze 14**

**Main theme: Remove false gods, turn from evil, be a fighting warrior and avoid being avenged**

**-Be a fighting warrior / Remove false gods**

This book is a Crusoe of the Israelites in the desert. God's will was to let the Israelites become the army of the Lord. They marched through the desert and by faith entered the promise land of Canaan. But they were rebellious and did not believe. Thus except Caleb and Joshua, they all fell down in the desert and became our warning in the spiritual journey. But God's will did not change. Thereafter, the new generation entered Canaan. God ordered them to take a census of the whole Israelites to plan for the march, set the camp, divide and take possession of the land. The main theme of the two chapters discussed on being a fighting warrior and removing false gods. On one side it concerned God ordered to number the Israelites who were more than twenty years old

and can serve in the army to be ready to enter Canaan. On the other side it prophesied the house of Judah will encounter disasters and be judged because they worshiped false gods. This teaches us to remove the false gods and hypocrisy in our heart. Then we may become a fighting warrior to prepare for the journey heading for the good land promised by God.

**A. Remove false gods, turn from evil, be numbered to be the fighting warrior**

Be numbered (Num 1:1-46) - Be cut off (Eze 14:1-11)

1.【Be numbered to be the fighting warrior】1-3 God commanded Moses and Aaron to number the divisions of Israel twenty year old or more who were able to serve in the army so as to get ready to enter Canaan. Our lives ought to grow to a mature condition (Heb 5:12-14) to stand firm in the truth and no longer be infants, tossed by every wind of teaching. Then we may be numbered to be strong as a good soldier of Christ to fight the good fight of the faith. (Eph4:13-14; 2 Ti 2:3)

※【With false gods and become the defeated army】1-5 Once the Israelites left Egypt they were called the Lord's division. But after they had entered Canaan, they became wayward and did evil in the good land. They had set up idols in their hearts, thus their spirits turned back and became the defeated army. Whoever is numbered as good soldier to go up the battle line must reject evil and remove any false gods in the heart. He has to train himself to overcome all trials and the deception of the devil.

2.【God's will is released】1 Moses was a faithful servant of God and a gracious spokesman. He retreated deeply in the Tent of Meeting and served in the Most Holy Place to meet with God. (Exo 25:22) Therefore God spoke with him and instructed him to number the people to array the holy camp and God's will was released thoroughly through him.

※【God's words came】2 Though Ezekiel was in captivity, his mind was before the throne of God. His life was like Moses closely united with God. God's words came to him any time. He was discerned in the spirit to uncover any hypocrisy.

3.【Leaders in the army】4-17 God ordered one man from each tribe to help Moses and Aaron to number the division. Each of them would be the leader of their tribe. They were the heads of the division whose names had been given.

※【Hypocritical leaders】1-5 These elders were head of the people but they had set up idols in their hearts and came falsely to inquire of God. They came near to God with their mouth but their hearts were far from Him. How should God let them inquire of Him. They had deserted God for their idols. Thus, not only were they unable to lead the people to the right path, they became their stumbling block, like the blind leading the road. They trapped the people in sin. God would answer them himself in keeping with their great idolatry.

4.【Be the Lord's fighting warrior】1-3 God's will was to let the Israelites be His army to wipe away the various tribes of Canaan and inherit the good land to be the people of God's covenant. They must be fit for the condition as a fighting warrior to shun away evil. Then God will always be with them. God moves about in the camp to overcome the enemy and gain possession of the land. (Deu 23:9-14)

※【The redeemed people】6-8 God's will was to let the Israelites be a people forever redeemed and no more stray from Him or be defiled by any kind of sins. Thus He called to them, 'Repent! Turn from all your detestable idols.' Otherwise God would no longer be their fortress and set His face against that man. He would be cut off from his people and become a byword and terror before his enemy. We ought to reject all idols, forbid the sinful lust and be a fighting warrior of Christ to overcome all internal and external enemies.

5.【Indulge in the flesh and die】18-46 Unfortunately, the bodies of the able men of the first count were scattered in the desert due to their disbelief and indulgence of the flesh. They could not enter the promised good land. Not one of them was left except Caleb and Joshua. (Num 26:64-65; Jos 5:6)

※【Be tempted and carry their own burden】9-11 It is saddening that in the years of captivity, some prophets were enticed to utter false prophecy and they would bear their guilt. Even the people who inquired of the false prophets would also bear the punishment for enticement, like the able men who died in the desert without exception. We ought to learn from Caleb who had a different spirit to follow the Lord wholeheartedly without being led astray to enter the good land.

**B. Do not be unfaithful to God, be faithful to the duty, obey the command to avoid disasters**

Faithful to the consignment (Num 1:47-54) - Unfaithful to God (Eze 14:12-23)

1.【Take up the holy ministry and be blessed forever】47-50 Though the tribe of Levi (union) had not been drafted into the army, they were chosen by God to unite with Him to be in charge of the tabernacle of the Testimony and serve God in the Tent of Meeting. The Levites were not worth of favor but were chosen by God to replace all the firstborn of Israel to set apart for God. How blessed they may serve God forever! (Num 8:18)

※【Unfaithful to God brings continuous disasters】12-13 Israel was the prince of God and ought to unite with God, fear God and serve God. Instead they were unfaithful to Him. They violated the command and broke the covenant, thus leading to four successive disasters of famine, wild beasts, sword and plague. Their reasons were:

(1) Not listening to God's words and famine in the spirit (Am 8:11)

(2) Brutal and indulging like wild beasts and be avenged (Eze 19:1-4)

(3) Shed innocent blood for whoever draws the sword will die by the sword (2 Ki 21:16)

(4) The heart is led astray and deceived and thus lead to a plague (Num 25:1-9) This teaches us we ought to remove all evil and be a Levite to fear God, unite with Him and serve Him forever.

2.【The tabernacle as the center】50-53 The Levites encamped around the tabernacle of the Testimony. The tabernacle would be the center of the camp and God be the center. They ought to be careful and watchful to minister faithfully lest God's anger came to the community.

※【The false gods as the center】14-20 God sent four disasters to Jerusalem because they did not serve God as the center. Instead they separated from God due to the false gods. Though there were three faithful men Noah, Daniel and Job, they were not able to rescue Jerusalem from the angry judgment of God. They could not even save their own sons or daughters. God would pour His wrath on her. The beautiful holy city was thus destroyed due to sin.

3.【Serve the Lord faithfully】51 The Levites were in charge of decamping and encamping the tabernacle. Whenever the tabernacle was to move, the Levites had to take it down. When they would encamp, they had to set it up. The tabernacle was the dwelling of God. Anyone else who went near it should be put to death, representing the holiness and honor of God and the righteousness and majesty of the law could not be infringed. Only the Levites might go near God, serve Him and minister faithfully before Him. Workers ought to lead the church to grow continuously and press forward accordingly to glorify God's name.

※【Serve the Lord in a godly manner】14-20 Noah, Daniel and Job were godly witnesses raised by God in different ages. Like the Levites they served in different ages as examples to suffer to obey the will. But in the years of captivity, God could not find a godly man like them. Even their children fell in sin without exception from disaster. From the various evil of the survivors who were brought to the land of captivity, it witnessed God sent disasters to Jerusalem was all righteous and nothing without cause. Thus those who were first taken captive were consoled.

4.【Do according to God's order】54 Whatever God ordered Moses, Israel did accordingly. They obeyed to number the people ready to set out to gain the good land promised by God. This was an important preparation before they set out. In everything they listened to go forward, they were blessed by God to enjoy the rest.

※【Reject God's command】21-23 After Jerusalem had encountered the four disasters, the survivors who were brought to Babylon still did evil. They rejected the order from God and led to the final subjugation showing God's punishment was righteous. On one side was obedience to go forward and gain the good land while on the other side was rebellion and turn back and lost the good land.

**Ps 118 / Rev 17:4 Main theme: Cry to the Lord, overcome temptation, enter the narrow gate and proclaim salvation**

**-Trust in the Lord / Overcome temptation**

Who can overcome the temptation of the prostitute? Only those who cry to and trust in the Lord's power will overcome.

(1)【We ought to give thanks to the Lord when our cry is answered】1-5 God is good to whoever cries to Him. Whoever asks receives. We ought to give thanks for the enduring love of God when He rescues us from distress and temptation.

(2)【We will destroy the enemy with God's help】6-14 Do not be afraid when the enemies besiege. We will overcome with the help of God. By the name of God we will cut them off.

(3)【The Lord's right hand has done mighty things】15-24 The mighty hand of God will help those who seek Him. Thus I will not be given over to death.

(4)【Save us and grant us success】25-29 May the Lord save me from all my sins so I may die completely to the world. May I be sent and granted success; that I am willing to be God's slave of love no matter where He will lead me in His work so as to repay His great love.

**Central point of the wheels: Be a fighting warrior, cry and trust in God, overcome temptation and proclaim salvation**

Dear Lord, may you remove the false gods in my heart and overcome temptation, equip myself and be numbered by you to be your fighting warrior!

**Num 2 / Eze 15**

**Main theme: Unfaithful to the Lord and be destroyed; obey to press forward and take possession of the land**

**- Obey / Unite (Move forward / Withered)**

Golden verses: Num 2:2, 17 Eze 15:2-4

A discussion on obeying the command and union - on the one side it concerned God ordered each Israelite tribe to arrange for the camp and the sequence of their march. The tabernacle was at the center. That is we will only honor God's command and God be the center. On the other side it concerned Jerusalem did not unite with God like a grape vine withered and burned. This teaches us we ought to unite with God and obey to bear fruit. We treat serving God as our center and be the fighting warrior of Christ pressing forward continuously.

**A. God be the center, unite with God and set detachments to move forward**

Obey (Num 2:1-17) - Unite (Eze 15:1-4)

1.【God be the center and go forward】1-16 God's will was to let the Israelites march forward to enter the good land of Canaan promised by God to enjoy the abundance of flowing milk and honey bestowed by Him and to witness Him among all people and glorify Him. God ordered the Israelites to camp around the Tent of Meeting some distance from it, each man under his standard with the banners of his family. Under God's arrangement, the twelve tribes of Israel were divided into four divisions. Each division included three tribes with one leader from each tribe. On the east, Judah was chosen as the head to lead the division of the camp. On the south was the second division of the camp of Reuben under their standard. Each tribe obeyed God's order and set out with God as their center.

※【Away from the Lord and be withered and burned】1-4 God used the metaphor of the vine to describe the people of Israel and Jerusalem showing God's will was to want them to be fruitful and to bear good grapes to satisfy and glorify Him. Instead, they yielded only bad fruit. God's heart was saddened. (Jer 2:21; Isa 5:1-7) The vine and its branch were no better than other trees and could not be used for anything. They could not even make pegs to hangs things on, not to mention if they were burned in the fire. They were of no benefit. God's children will not be useful if they do not let God be the center and unite with Him. The twelve tribes had to go according to the arrangement of God, then they might encamp and set out. Turning away from the Lord will wither and be burned. The spiritual journey will turn back, and cannot bear fruit and set out.

2.【Surround the tabernacle】17 The camp of the Levites was set in the middle of the camps around the Tent of Meeting. The priests and Levites were committed to keep the Tent of Meeting to minister before God for the people. The twelve tribes faced the Tent of Meeting and the only true God was the center of their ministry. The Israelites encamped and set out according to this arrangement, each according to their position and under their standard. The church is linked into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. (Col 2:19; 1 Co 14:40)

※【Unite with God】1-4 God's only requirement on His people was obedience and in union with Him like the branch united with the vine. Remain in Him and He will remain in them. Then they will bear much fruit because apart from Him they can do nothing. (Jn 15:5-6) Similarly, the camp of the Levites surrounded the Tent of Meeting to minister before God for the people and had to always remain in the Lord and into the Head. Then the people might go according to their position to encamp and set out.

**B. Only obey God's command and do not be unfaithful lest we may be burned**

Obey God's command (Num 2:18-34) - Unfaithful to God (Eze 15:5-8)

1.【Only obey the command】18-34 The twelve tribes of Israel encamped around the Tent of Meeting showing God wanted them to be like the four living creatures to serve day and night around the throne of God praising Him (Rev 4:6-11) to exhibit His glory. On the west was the third division of Ephraim. On the north was the tribe of Dan to be the last division to set out. This spiritual army of God took God as the head in everything and they were not confused with one another. Only the Levites had not been counted. They had to keep the tabernacle of the Testimony and encamp around the Tent of Meeting. How God instructed Moses, the Israelites did the same. Everyone encamped and set out according to the standard of their family and clan. This was by the wise arrangement of the Most High God. (Ro 11:33-34)

※【Unfaithful to God】5-8 The prophet prophesied the people of Jerusalem would be burned by fire and God set His face against them because they had been unfaithful and did not unite with God. Instead they united with false gods and did not obey the decrees, the laws and the commandments. They became the friend of the world. Thus the prophet declared God would judge them the third time and they would be taken captive and subjugated. Then they would know the Lord is God. After the Israelites were counted for the first time, they indulged and did evil in the desert provoking God to anger. Therefore they died in the desert and encountered God's fiery judgment. God used a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire to burn away the rebellion, disbelief and filth of God's children. (Isa 4:3-4)

**Ps 119 / Rev 17:5 Main theme: Humble to thirst for the Lord's words, obey them all till the end and overcome the enemy's mystery**

**- The Lord's words / The mystery**

The Lord's word is the mystery of godliness and can overcome the mystery of the prostitute. Whoever does not understand the mystery of the prostitute will be harmed.

(1)【Blessed is he who fully obeys the Lord's words】1-16 Seek with one heart, be diligent and firm to obey the Lord's words and dwell in Him so the enemies cannot harm us. But we must be careful not to deviate or forget the Lord's words.

(2)【Seek deeper to understand the mystery of the Word】17-40 Pray to open my heart wide to press forward the Word. Pray that we do not turn to worthlessness but thirst for God's promise.

(3)【Remember and keep the Lord's words day and night】41-168 Thirst for the Lord's teaching without forgetting. To all perfection there is a limit, but the Lord's commands are boundless and I will obey forever. Therefore I hate every wrong path and all my ways are known to God.

(4)【Cry to the Lord for deliverance and help】169-176 May the Lord help me to be free from the enemies and the temptation of the prostitute so I may live

to exalt and praise Him. I have always strayed like a lost sheep. May You seek me for I have not forgotten your commands.

**Central point of the wheels: Unite with the Lord and press forward, obey the Word fully and overcome the adultery**

Dear Lord, may you let me take deep warning! Unite with you, thirst and obey your Word, overcome the prostitute and march towards the good land!

**Num 3 / Eze 16**

**Main theme: Obey, be faithful to your duty and be noble; indulge in grace is shameful**

**-Be attentive / Indulge**

Golden verses: Num 3:12-13 Eze6:62-63

A discussion on being attentive and indulging - on one side it concerned the priests and Levites were chosen by God to set apart to be holy to undertake the sacred duty. They ought to obey in trembling and be attentive in their ministry. On the other side it concerned Jerusalem was chosen by God but she indulged in grace and depraved to become a shameful prostitute, thus resulting in miserable punishment and became our warning.

**A. Do not be ungrateful, do not indulge but be holy and return to God to serve your duty**

Be holy (Num 3:1-13, 21-37) - Indulge (Eze 16:1-34)

1.【Disdain God's grace】1-4 The four sons of Aaron were anointed priests and they had been ordained. (Lev 8) Nadab and Abihu had followed Moses, Aaron and the seventy elders up the mountain of God with some spiritual experience. (Exo 24:1-11) God's hope and task were on them. But they disdained the grace of God and violated to offer the unauthorized fire. Thus they provoked God's wrath and died before Him. Among those who approach God, He will show Himself holy. This is a deep lesson! Eleazar and Ithamar continued the priesthood ministry. God's grace came upon them and they ought to be more trembled in obeying and careful in grace.

※【Fallen in grace】1-23 Ezekiel was ordered to point out the detestable things of Jerusalem while Moses reiterated the evil deeds of Nadab and Abihu so as to warn the people and admonish us. Israel was mean and low in origin like an unwanted child rolled in the blood and extremely dirty. However God had shown her mercy and clothed her shame with salvation. Thus she had grown mature. She was loved by God and had a marriage covenant with Him (the covenant of the Mount of Sinai) forever belonging to God. God bathed her with water and ointment to cleanse her and adorn her. She became very beautiful and rose to be a queen. But when her fame spread afar, she broke the covenant and indulged. She took the fine jewelry given by God and made for herself idols. She indulged in prostitution. Nadab and Abihu were ungrateful and broke the covenant. They violated God's order and died in rebellion. Woe to Jerusalem for all these evil deeds.

2.【Holy to God】5-13 Levi was originally brutal and savage. His descendants were originally unworthy to be chosen. (Gen 49:5-7) They were utterly devoted in the case of crushing the gold calf (Exo32:25-29), thus they were chosen by God and holy to God serving Him forever. The priests and Levites had to observe the ministry to perform duties and take care of the Tent of Meeting. Workers ought to be good in teaching and manage the church on one side and be loyal and watchful to keep the truth on the other side. All the furnishings of the tabernacle were holy. Except the priests and Levites, no one else could go near it, lest they might be put to death. Due to this, the camp of the Levites was between the camp of the Israelites and the Tent of Meeting to take care of it.

※【Abandon God and look for other help】24-29 Jerusalem ought to be holy to God and serve loyally to be the center of feasts and worship for the whole land and to lead the nations to know God. But she had built a mound and lofty shrines at the head of every street and offered her body with increasing promiscuity to her neighbors and anyone who passed by. The more work, the more crime! The tribe of Levi was chosen to unite with God while God's people did not unite with God. Instead they allied with the foreign nations and became a shameful prostitute and a disloyal wife. The kings and leaders of Jerusalem, including the priests and Levites committed a serious dereliction of duty and led the people of God to a wrong path. The leaders of a church are decisive and ought to be such holy, righteous and blameless! (1 Th 2:10)

3.【Be attentive to the sacred duty】21-37 The Levites and the descendants of Gershon, Kohath and Merari were in charge of the furnishings of the Tent of Meeting. They had to observe the priesthood watchfully without relenting. The tribes of Gershon and Merari were in charge of the tabernacle including its covering, the curtain at the entrance and the curtains of the courtyard, the frames, its crossbars, etc. They encamped on the west and north of the tabernacle. Kohath was in charge of the articles of the sanctuary and encamped on the south. They were in charge of different responsibilities to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. Workers must submit to authority, stand at their post and watch their lives and doctrine closely. (1 Ti 4:16) Eleazar as appointed the chief leader of the Levites to watch over those who were responsible for the care of the sanctuary and to intercede watchfully for them.

※【Commit adultery wantonly】30-34 Compared to the faithless wives and women for prostitution, Israel was even more weak-willed and brazen. She completely lost the honorable position of a queen. She depraved to forsake God to be her husband. She bribed the foreigners from everywhere and roped in those for prostitution and gave payment herself. She had made herself extremely low and worthless! Churches of the last phase unite with the world and become the prostitute. (Jas 4:4) They love the work of their own hands. The three tribes of Levi (union) were dutiful and faithful to the assignment of the Lord. The tabernacle set forward and the people also set forward. The leaders of the holy city sought help from outside and did not unite with God. They associated with the foreign nations and all the people fell and turned back.

**B. Be contrite and remorse, be redeemed and return to God for He sets the everlasting covenant**

Return to God (Num 3:14-20, 38-51) - Contrite (Eze 16:35-63)

1.【Be redeemed by grace】20, 38-51 Moses obeyed to count the total number of male Levites who were a month old or more which amounted to 22,000. He also counted the male Israelites who were a month old or more and they exceeded by two hundred seventy three. To redeem the exceeded number, each of them had to give five shekels as redemption money and to remember forever that all firstborn were redeemed by the lamb when they left Egypt. God chose the Levites to replace every firstborn of Israel to set apart to serve the Lord forever. We ought to remember God's love and repay His kindness forever.

※【Be contrite and return】35-63 The house of Judah forsook God like a prostitute. She despised her oath and broke the covenant. God poured His wrath to gather those she loved and those she hated against her from all around and stripped her naked according to what she did. Jerusalem did even more detestable things than Samaria (Israel) and Sodom. In their punishment the prophet called the people of Judah to be ashamed for what they had done. Then they would be able to return from their captivity. God wanted to make an everlasting covenant with them and to establish His covenant. Then God would forgive them and give them mercy to revive them. The people would be willing to serve the Lord after thorough refinement like the priests and Levites were redeemed to be holy to God and serve Him forever!

**Ps 120 / Rev 17:6 Main theme: Grab the Lord's words and pray watchfully, destroy the enemy's lies to avoid being harmed**

**-Sharp arrows / Be harmed**

There are many saints and those who witnessed for the Lord died under the hands of the prostitute. How can we escape from her jeopardy?

(1)【Call on the Lord in distress】1-2 Call on and be answered. What shall we pray for? Pray to be saved from the lies of the wicked.

(2)【How to deal with the enemy】3-4 How to deal with the serpent, the prostitute, the false prophet, the anti-Christ, the devil, Satan..... from the deceitful tongues and the mouths that kill without spilling blood? That is by God's words....like a double-edged sword that pierced through and the burning coals of the broom tree, like the Lord who used the words from the Scriptures to destroy the lies of the wicked when He was tested.

(3)【Dwell in the Lord】5-6 Though God's children dwell with the wicked foreigners, they live in the Lord due to faith. They will live in the Lord, by the blood and the Spirit to keep His words and take root in Him.

(4)【Be silent】7 Under the power of the evil, we keep silent but pour ourselves to God.

**Central point of the wheels: Be attentive to the sacred duty, use the sharp arrows and burning coals to overcome adultery.**

Dear Lord, may you not let me indulge in grace, be attentive to my duty and overcome the temptation of the prostitute by you and repay your love.

**Num 4 / Eze 17**

**Main theme: Be lowly and keep the covenant, be faithful to your duty and flourish; violate the covenant and wither**

**- Flourish / Wither (Be dutiful / Keep the covenant)**

Golden verses: Num 4:49 Eze 17:24

A discussion on flourishing and withering - on one side it concerned the Levites were chosen to serve God in the Tent of Meeting. Their duties differed but all centered at God and each kept their post. They were faithful to their duty and were blessed by God to flourish. On the other side it concerned Zedekiah was stubborn and arrogant. He relied on the worldly power and thus became withered and was uprooted. This teaches us we ought to be humble and keep the covenant and be faithful to undertake the duty. God will bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. He dries up the green tree and makes the dry tree flourish.

**A. Be humble in your duty and flourish; be arrogant and break the covenant will wither**

Be dutiful (Num 4:1-33) - Break the covenant (Eze 17:1-21,24)

1.【Be dutiful and flourish】1-20 The descendants of Kahath took the lead in the Tent of Meeting and were in charge of important duty. They were specially chosen by God to take up the ministry from thirty to fifty years old to carry the most holy things of the Tent of Meeting. They had to be completely sanctified. They might go near the most holy things but could not touch or look at them. God's holiness, righteousness and majesty could not be infringed or they might die of profanity. (1 Sa 6:19; 2 Sa 6:6-7) When the camp was to move, Aaron and his sons had to enter the holy place and wrap the holy things. Then the descendants of Kahath would go in to carry them. They had to be humble, exalt God as holy and submit to God's authority before they might accomplish the important assignment. Eleazar was in charge of a more important job, which was to have charge of the oil for the light, the fragrant incense, the regular grain offering and the anointing oil. He was also in charge of overseeing the descendants of Kahath who carried the most holy things just like the apostle Paul who was watchful day and night to keep hold of the deep truths of the faith and admonished everyone.

※【Break the covenant and wither】1-6 Ezekiel obeyed to set forth an allegory and told the house of Israel a parable to warn them that due to their sin and breaking the covenant, their spirit turned back and would be taken captive and subjugated. God also ordered Moses and Aaron to count the Levites to prepare for the set out of the whole camp. Israel was originally not worthy of favor but they were chosen by God as the head of the nations like a tall cedar. The king of Judah was like a topmost shoot high into the clouds! But due to idol worshiping and adultery, he was broken off by Babylon like an eagle twisting the topmost shoot. This referred to king Jehoiachin who sinned and did evil and was thus tragically taken captive. The descendants of Kahath (ally) obeyed in trembling. They were holy, self-controlled, dutiful and flourished. (Ps 52:8) Zedekiah broke the covenant and was completely withered and being uprooted.

2.【Humble and be blessed】21-28 The descendants of Gershon (exile) from thirty to fifty years old came to serve. They worked in the Tent of Meeting and were all counted. They had good health and their souls got along well. The things they carried were the curtains of the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting and its covering and the curtain, the curtains of the courtyard and its articles. Though the articles were enormous and heavy, they were willing to carry the burden just like Paul worked harder than all of them by the grace of God. (1 Co 15:10) Workers must be very clear of their own responsibilities and gift. They must be diligent to serve, be humble in everything and faithful in the Lord's assignment. Then they will flourish and bear fruit to glory God.

※【Arrogant and be uprooted】7-10 Zedekiah was the last king of Judah put in place by the king of Babylon. His power was limited and his position was as low as a short vine. But he was arrogant and rebellious. He was unwilling to humble before Jeremiah the prophet. (2 Ch 36:11-13) Not only did he betrayed the Babylonian king, he even forsook the oath swore to God. He imagined to take refuge in Egypt to go smoothly to escape the punishment of the Babylonian king. Babylon was like a great eagle who not only uprooted it but also stripped of its fruit, so it was completely withered. The descendants of Gershon were humble and obedient. They labored faithfully and would be prosperous. They were favored to flourish and were fruitful. Zedekiah was arrogant and would be brought down. The descendants of Gershon humbled under the direction of Ithamar and God would exalt them and flourish.

3.【Obey and establish】29-33 The descendants of Merari (suffer) from thirty to fifty years old came to serve in the Tent of Meeting. They carried even heavier articles like the frames of the tabernacle, its crossbars, posts and bases, as well as the posts of the surrounding courtyard. Each man was assigned to carry specific things. They were also under the direction of Ithamar. The descendants of Merari obeyed God's will firmly and were not afraid of any hardship. They had a spirit of suffering and willingly bore the work. They submit silently and were the example of the workers. God had very clear allocation of responsibilities of dissembling, carrying and pitching the tabernacle for the three tribes of Levi. They matched perfectly and were in good order. God's Tent of Meeting set out according to each stop and was established very quickly.

※【Rebel and be destroyed】11-21 When Zedekiah reigned, everyone from top to bottom sinned greatly. They defied the prophet and were not willing to surrender to Babylon. Instead they took refuge in the horses of Egypt and wishfully hoped to escape from God's will. The prophet was ordered to declare God's judgment would be near. God would let the net of Babylon be fallen on the king so he would be caught alive and be ashamed. Finally he came to a tragic ending of being betrayed by everyone and forsaken by his kindred. The descendants of Merari followed completely the assignment of each man to minister before God. How gracious it was! The three tribes of Levi though had different tasks for themselves; they obeyed the will of God and were dutiful. The whole Tent of Meeting was able to be set up, encamped and established. God dwell with the people and is a protection of peace and grace. While Zedekiah was such obstinate that led to the fall and captivity of Judah. The holy city was also destroyed completely.

**B. Favored and be numbered, obey the will and undertake the duty and all people return**

Be numbered (Num 4:34-49) - The Lord reigns (Eze 17:22-24

1.【Favored to be numbered】34-49 Moses, Aaron and the leaders of the community obeyed God's order to count the descendants of Levi from thirty to fifty years old. Those who came for the ministry amounted to 8,580. They were humble and obedient, submissive to authority and each stand at his post. Each one used whatever gift he had received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (1 Pe 4:10) Today we are being counted and have a share to serve the Lord so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code (Ro7:6) but according to what pleases God with a godly and fearful heart.

※【Share in the kingdom of Christ】22-24 God promised Israel He would rebuild the kingdom in future. He would personally plant a righteous Branch of the house of David on a high and lofty mountain. It would flourish and bear fruit. Birds of every kind (the foreign kingdom) would nest in it. All nations would stream to it. Christ will reign on Mount Zion. (Jer 23:5; Isa 2:2) Babylon though was considered strong and like a tall tree and a green tree, she would finally wither and make low. While the fading and lowly Israel and the kingdom of David would be exalted to the highest and flourish. All nations will know God and praise Him! The church will be counted by God to enter the millennial kingdom and be the priests of God and of Christ. They will reign with Him. (Rev 20:6)

**Ps 121 / Rev 17:7 Main theme: Discern in the mystery of the enemy, obey the Word by the Lord, free from harm and be blessed**

**-Trust in the Lord / Discern the enemy**

God's children must seek to discern the mystery of the enemy.

(1)【Look up to the Almighty God】1-2 God's children are now at the world of the evil's authority. They can only trust in the help of the Almighty God in order to overcome evil and observe the Word to do good.

(2)【Stand firm in the truth by the Lord】3-5 Take refuge in the Lord and be strengthened by Him. Then we will not be shaken. Instead we may stand firm on high and observe His Word to dwell in Him. The Lord will watch over day and night. He will watch over His children. Besides, the one who

watches over you is the Lord Almighty. The Almighty One is your shelter.

(3)【The Lord will keep us from all harm forever】6-8 By the help of the Lord, we may always observe the Word anywhere till the end. We may hide deep in the Lord and be kept from all harm. We will not be led astray or endangered by the mystery of the enemy. No matter in or out, we will be watched over by the Lord until everlasting.

**Central point of the wheels: Be faithful to the duty and flourish, discern the mystery of the enemy and keep from all harm by the Lord**

Dear Lord, may you let me be humble to keep the covenant for life, be faithful to serve you, to flourish and bear fruit and be guarded till the end!

**Num 5 / Eze 18**

**Main theme: Reject sin, fear God and obey the Word, free from disasters and flourish**

**-Reject evil / Walk righteously (Away from sin / Depart from sin)**

Golden verses: Num 5:9-10 Eze 18:21-22

A discussion on rejecting evil and walking righteously - on one side it concerned the holy God would dwell with Israel. The camp of Israel ought, therefore, be away from all evil and become holy. On the other side it concerned God is righteous. His people ought, therefore, to act justly and love mercy, and turn from all wickedness. Then they might live to avoid death. God's Word is just and each one has to bear one's burden of sin. We ought to turn away from wickedness and be a pure virgin offer to Christ forever to become a glorious church. (2 Co 11:2)

**A. Shun away from sin, turn from evil and act righteously, and obey the Word honestly**

Away from sin (Num 5:1-10) - Depart from evil (Eze 18:1-9)

1.【Remove the impurity from afar】1-4 The Israelites were specially chosen from the nations to be His treasured possession holy to the Lord. (Deu 14:2) God dwelled in the camp of Israel and their dwellings ought to be holy. Before the whole camp set out toward the desert, anyone who had an infectious skin disease or a discharge of any kind , or who was ceremonially unclean because of a dead body had to be sent outside the camp so they would not defile their camp. (1 Th 4:3-4) No matter male or female, whoever was bodily unclean, ought to go outside the camp. How God ordered Moses, the Israelites followed.

※【Sin and die】1-4 Though the house of Judah was taken captive due to sin and suffered all kinds of hardship and punishment, God's heart and God's eyes was on His people. God is holy. He ordered all who were infectious and unclean to go outside the camp. Similarly, God is righteous. He has the authority. Therefore He declared whoever sinned would die. Everyone must be responsible for his own behavior. We should not shirk our impurity and defile the whole camp. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 Jn 1:9) We ought to remove the impurity from afar and we will live without dying.

2.【Confess and make restitution】5-10 If men defrauded against each other, that was ethically unclean resulting in violating the Lord, he had to confess the sins he had committed and make full restitution for his wrong and add one fifth to it as a punishment to the violator. (Lev 6:1-5) In the teaching of the New Testament, we also see the importance of confession and guilt offering! "I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny." (Lk 12:59) The chief tax collector Zacchaeus received Jesus. He confessed and repented and paid back four times the amount he had cheated. (Lk 19:8-9) The requirement of God's righteousness and holiness is never changed! If the owner of the property died, the restitution ought to belong to the close relative. But if that person had no close relative to which the restitution could be made for the wrong, the restitution ought to be given to the priest. But this restitution cannot replace the ram for the atonement. In all the things offered by the Israelites, the priests would still enjoy their share of the wave offering.

※【Turn from sin and act justly】5-9 God had listed in detail the criteria to act justly for His people. They had to accomplish the eight 'does not' for the purpose to turn away from the worship of idols, not to harm others, not to defraud others, act justly, love mercy and be honest to observe the Word. Anyone who walked in this manner would surely live. The Israelites should not defraud one another. If they sinned, they had to confess and make restitution, turn from evil and act justly, pursue peace and observe the Word of love lest they would bite and devour each other or defiling each other thus the whole community would be defiled.

**B. Turn away from wickedness and be pure to avoid disasters; the Lord's Way is righteous.**

Avoid disasters (Num 5:11-31) - Stay alive (Eze 18:10-32)

1.【Grain offering and give thought to our sin】11-22 In order to handle justly the unfaithfulness and suspicion between husband and wife, God stipulated that if the wife committed adultery and it was hidden from her husband, and her impurity was undetected as there was no proof of the wrongdoing, the husband might have the feeling of jealousy. Or if the husband had a feeling of jealousy, but the wife was not impure. They then might go to the priest and make a grain offering for jealousy. The priest had to make a proper judgment. The wife had to stand before God and drink the bitter water that brought a curse. If the woman was unfaithful and did something impure, she would cause her thigh to waste away and her abdomen to swell just like desire had conceived and gave birth to sin. She would be cursed. Christ is the Chief Priest in heaven and He has insight of everything. We ought to think of our sin and confess poignantly without committing adultery and forsake God. (Jas 4:4)

※【Take lesson and turn from sin】10-20 If a son did not learn from the good acts of his father, but instead he did detestable things, worshiped idols, committed adultery, oppressed others or committed robbery, he would die of sins. But if the son trembled and took lesson from the sins of his father, or if he gave thought to sin and confessed to turn from evil and obey the Word, he would not die of the father's sin but surely live. The righteousness of the righteous man will be credited to him, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against him.

2.【Pure and clear of guilt】23-31 God's Word is a righteous Word, a jealous Word and a just Word. If a woman drank the water that brought a curse, and if she was defiled and been unfaithful to the husband, she would suffer and be cursed. She would be barren. If the woman had not defiled herself and was free from impurity, she would be cleared of guilt and be able to have children and reflect God's righteous judgment. Do not let your heart turn to the prostitute's ways or stray into her paths. Many are the victims she has brought down; her slain are a mighty throng. (Pro 7:25-26)

※【The Lord's Way is just】21-32 God's righteous judgment is not only reflected on the rules whether the woman is faithful. It is also reflected on the judgment of the behavior of the righteous and the wicked showing God's Word is just. A righteous man turns to do evil, he will die. An evil man turns to do good will live. God's mind is to hope the wicked to turn from his evil and live! Just like a woman who is faithful, though she had drunk the water that brought a curse, she will be watched over to avoid the curse and give birth. The house of Israel walked against God's Word. They were unjust and unrighteous and wantonly claimed God's way was not just. God would judge them according to what they had done. Despite this, God still called them to turn away from all offenses and rid them away, seek to gain a new heart and a new spirit. (Eze 36:26) God takes no pleasure in the death of anyone. We

ought to repent and live!

**Ps 122 / Rev 17:8 Main theme: There is fear on earth, closely compacted in the Lord and have peace and security**

**- In the Lord / The enemy's harm**

The wicked appears now and then. He will come up out of the Abyss and go to his destruction. God's children ought to imitate from Paul to die every day and die completely lest they will be harmed.

(1)【In the Lord】1-2 The children of heaven take God's things in heart. For their whole life, they take building the temple as their center. They dwell in the Lord by His blood and His Spirit to consecrate themselves and obey the Word. They cannot be like the animals that move about on the ground and be endangered by the evil one.

(2)【Communicate in the Lord】3 Be loving and caring for one another, be holy in one heart to accomplish the Lord's work.

(3)【Serve the Lord according to the statute given】4-5 Serve the Lord according to His instructions on the statutes and decrees. In Deu 16 we ought to observe the Passover, the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of tabernacles. We ought to pursue justice and righteousness and do not set any idols by the altar or make any pillars for yourselves. Then we will not fall into the trap in grace. God's children ought to come before the Lord and be judged by His words, lest we may swerve to the right or to the left and sin against the Lord.

(4)【Seek revival for the holy city】6-9 Focus exactly on the target with the thought of the holy city and the holy temple, that is with the mind of God's things to pray for her peace and security. For the purpose of all the souls, we ought to pray for the revival of God's house.

**Central point of the wheels: Obey the Word and abandon evil, do good and be holy, be united to save people**

Dear Lord, may you let me remove my sins, meditate and be contrite to my sins so I may love you with a virgin heart, unite with you and enjoy the peace and joy.

**Num 6 / Eze 19**

**Main theme: Control oneself and turn back to the Lord and blessings will come to all people; the arrogant will lament.**

**- A vow of separation / Indulgence**

Golden verses: Num 6:24-26 Eze 19:10-13

A discussion on a vow of separation and indulgence - on the one side it concerned the Nazirite would reject all secular evil and all enjoyment of the world to serve the Lord with whole heart and soul. How blessed is this! On the other side it concerned the royal family of Judah indulged in evil. They were blindly greedy and thus they themselves and the country suffered calamity. We ought to be attentive and watchful not to indulge in lust, or follow the customs of this world and be a Nazirite for life to serve God forever.

**A. Do not indulge to do evil, set a vow of separation to God lest we may be caught**

Separate from the secular (Num 6:1-12) - Indulge (Eze 19:1-6)

1.【Be holy and away from the secular】1-2 All Israelites, no matter a man or a woman might willingly make a special vow of separation to the Lord as a Nazirite. This was for a chance to be blessed to serve God in a holy manner for all the Israelites. We ought to grab this chance to set apart to be holy and offer ourselves to serve the Lord. (Ro 12:1-2)

※【Greedy and indulging】1-2 God commanded Ezekiel the prophet to take up a lament concerning the royal family of Judah. God compared the royal family of Judah as a lion. She ought to be righteous and jealous as a lion full of God's honor and majesty (Gen 49:8-10) leading the entire nation from the secular to be holy to serve God. But she became brutal and greedy like lions full of the sins of the foreign nations. The lioness referred to the royal family of Judah. The reared cub referred to King Jehohaz. He did evil in the eyes of God just as his fathers had done. (2 Ki 23:32) He was greedy and indulging. He learned to tear the prey and he devoured men. He treated God's grace as a chance to indulge in lust and turned from His requirement to separate and be holy. He failed God's expectation.

2.【Be holy to God】3-8 The requirements of a Nazirite include the following:

(1) Abstain from wine and other fermented drink or anything made from grapes. This represents whoever vowed to God shall not have any consideration for the flesh, or to indulge in lust or desire for the enjoyment of the world or any secular craving in disguised form.

(2) No razor may be used on his head. Hair is the sign of God's provision of living power and honor. The sign of the vow of separation to the Lord of the Nazirite is on the head. Samson indulged in lust and was finally subdued. His hair was shaved and God left him. (Jdg 16:19-20)

(3) He must not go near a dead body and be away from the secular. He must follow the Lord wholeheartedly and take heart in the matters of God's kingdom. (Lk 9:60) The holy standard of the Nazirite ought to be above the priests and Levites, like that of a high priest. (Lev 21:10-12) We too, ought to abstain from sinful desires which war against our soul. (1 Pe 2:11)

※【Indulging and be caught】3-4 As a king of Judah, Jehohaz's level of holiness was far from the Nazirite. He was greatly presumptuous. He was corrupt ethically. He depraved to a level which was nearly dehumanized like a young lion who learned to tear the prey and devoured men. The Nazirites who vowed to the Lord had to adhere strictly to the prohibition without drinking and indulging. They ought to have intimate and holy fellowship with God. When Jehohaz reigned, he was presumptuous and did evil. He let his people away from God's covenant and worshiped other gods. He violated God's laws and was defiled by sins. Those who vow to the Lord will reject any worldly enjoyment but they will gain the true freedom in the spirit. While Jehohaz was finally trapped in a pit and dragged by hooks to Egypt.

3.【Not watchful】9-12 During the period of separation to the Lord, if a Nazirite was not alert and defiled by a dead body, his previous days would not be counted. He had to shave his head on the seventh day of his cleansing and offer a sin offering and burnt offering on the eighth day to atone for his sin of defiling and be consecrated. He had to dedicate himself to the Lord for the period of his separation and offer a guilt offering so he might be forgiven for his transgression in his daily life. Thus we must be self-controlled and alert, lest we may be defiled and useless. (1 Pe 5:8)

※【Did not take lesson】5-6 After Jehohaz was taken captive to Egypt, the lioness saw her hope unfulfilled, she took another of her cubs that referred to the last king of Judah Zedekiah. He was even more presumptuous and arrogant. He was greedy and indulging. He tore the prey and devoured men like a ferocious animal. He did not humble nor took any lesson from the captivity of Jehohaz. (Even the two previous kings Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin were taken captive) He was even more proud and would not listen to the warning of Jeremiah the prophet. If a Nazirite was not watchful during his days of separation, he would be defiled by a dead body. He had to give offerings and atone for his sins to be cleansed, while Zedekiah was unwilling to trust in God's redemption to humble and repent. Instead he took refuge in the power of Egypt and sinned more and more. The Nazirite had to dedicate himself to the Lord for his period of separation and vow again. Zedekiah did not repent till death and could not be remedied.

**B. Give thanks, obey and be blessed; rebel in grace and bring disasters**

Obey and be blessed (Num 6:13-27) - Rebel and be destroyed (Eze 19:7-14)

1.【By God's redemption】13-14 When the period of separation was over, the Nazirite had to be brought to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting before the Lord to offer burnt offering and sin offering to show that the Nazirite had offered himself to separate himself to the Lord and be accepted by the grace of God's redemption and not by his acts.

※【Be violent and harm oneself】7-9 Zedekiah broke down the strongholds of other nations. By his own power he was violent and harmed others. As a result he harmed himself and was attacked by the surrounding nations. After the period of separation of a Nazirite, he had to give offering and atoned for his sins and be accepted by God. Zedekiah was filled with heinous sins but he was unwilling to repent to God. Thus he was ultimately hooked before the enemy for judgment and died in shame.

2.【Give thanks and offer】14-20 Further, the Nazirite had to give thanks to offer fellowship offering (including thank offering, offering of a vow, freewill offering Lev 7:15-16). He had to bring a basket of bread made without yeast - cakes made of fine flour mixed with oil, and wafers spread with oil together with grain offering and drink offering showing his share in an offering life full of thanks to glorify God. (2 Co 5:14-15) The Nazirite had to take the hair that he had shaved off during his dedication and put it in the fire that was under the sacrifice of the fellowship offering to be offered to God for the acceptance of his dedication. Then the priest who presented the offering would put a boiled shoulder of the ram, a cake and a wafer as wave offering to God. The waved breast and the presented thigh would become holy and be given to the priest who made the offer. These were their portion (Deu 18:1-5) and the Nazirite would end his separation.

※【Ungrateful】10-13 The house of Judah was planted by God like a fruitful vine. Its branches were strong, fit for a ruler's scepter. They were full of the heavenly glory, abundance and power and ought to be grateful. After the period of separation the Nazirite would offer a fellowship offering to God. The house of Judah had been poured and guarded by God every moment but was ungrateful and turned from the source of life. Thus they provoked God to anger and were thrown to the ground. They were made shrivel by the east wind of Babylon and the kingdom of Judah fell.

3.【Separate from the secular and be blessed】21-27 How God instructed the rules for the Nazirites, whoever made a vow had to follow. Thus God ordered Aaron and his sons to bless the people. All Israelites, whether a man or a woman who was willing to separate to the Lord and set apart to serve God, His blessings would come to the whole house of Israel. Christ is the chief priest in heaven will also bless His church for our holy ministry and give us the everlasting peace.

※【Rebellion brings disasters】 13-14 The house of Judah was finally

subjugated and taken captive chiefly due to the stubbornness and rebellion of Zedekiah who led to the flourishing vine of Judah shrivel and was burnt. (Jn 15:5-6) Now they were being captivated to the enemy's place without protection and peace like being planted in the desert in a dry and thirsty land. The Nazirites obeyed and were blessed. They were blessed and all the people were blessed. Zedekiah was rebellious and forsook God. He suffered disasters and all the people suffered.

**Ps 123 / Rev 17:9 Main theme: Under the power of evil, let us look up to the Savior till He grants mercy**

**-Look to the Lord / Wisdom**

The wicked does not understand the mystery. Only the wise who eagerly examines will understand. All true wisdom comes from the Lord's mouth. We ought to pray for the Spirit of wisdom and revelation and pay attention in the most hold faith, then we may understand the mystery of the gospel and the evil one deeply.

(1)【Lift up your eyes to the Lord in heaven】1 When everywhere is in darkness and externally there is the pressure of Anti-Christ, the temptation of the false prophets and the attraction of the world like a great prostitute, and internally there is the flesh, the sinful nature and the haunt of the old self, God's children ought to lift up their eyes to the greatest God who sits enthroned in heaven because our help is from Him.

(2)【Look up humbly and persistently】2-3 Do not be discouraged but be humble and wait to look up to the Lord till He shows us His mercy. We will not let go the Lord if we have not received what we ask for.

(3)【May God have mercy and pray deeply】3 Just like Esther, we pray accurately (to remove the enemy), deeply and thoroughly so all the enemies from in and out will be destroyed, and then we may live as the evil plot of our enemies will destroy us completely.

(4)【There is much contempt from the enemy】4 The ridicule and contempt of our enemies will destroy our faith. But we will look up to our Lord to grant us His grace and strength to accomplish His work.

**Central point of the wheels: Turn from secular and return to be holy, pray for the Lord's mercy to escape from evil**

Dear Lord, may you let me be attentive and watchful, not to follow the worldly customs, not tainted with evil and serve before you forever!

**Num 7 / Eze 20**

**Main theme: Consecrate and offer sacrifice please God, rebel result in passing under the rod and be burned**

**-Offer / Rebel**

Golden verses: Num 7:1-2 Eze 20:33

A discussion on offering and rebellion - on the one side it concerned the leaders of each tribe came to dedicate at the altar displaying the whole of Israel's thanksgiving and response to God. On the other side it concerned the rebellious history of the Israelites after they had left Egypt. How they rejected the command of God and worshiped idols and became ungrateful. This teaches us not to practice corruption and rebel God. We ought to be grateful and offer sacrifices to satisfy God.

**A. Sacrifice offering and accept by God, rebel and provoke God's anger**

Offer sacrifice (Num 7:1-83) - Rebel (Eze 20:1-39)

1.【Offer wholeheartedly and be accepted】1-9 After the tabernacle was set up, Moses anointed it and consecrated it and all its furnishings so it became a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit. (Eph 2:22) Then the leaders of Israel and the heads of the tribal leaders were grateful and brought their offerings before God. (1 Ch 29:10-14) They brought six covered carts and twelve oxen so the tabernacle might follow the whole camp and move forward. The presence of God's glory was the most important assurance of their journey in the desert. God was pleased with their offer and ordered Moses to accept them. Thus according to what the Levites had to do, they gave two carts and four oxen to the Gershonites and four carts and eight oxen to the Merarites. Nothing was given to Kohathites because they were to carry on their shoulders the holy things for which they were responsible.

※【False inquiry will be rejected】1-9 The elders of Israel were full of detestable sins and hypocritically came to inquire of the Lord. Thus they were rejected. God swore to Himself that He would not let them inquire of Him. After the tabernacle was set up, it was anointed and consecrated with the other furnishings ready for use and dedication. But the house of Judah was full of cunning, hypocrisy and self-deception. Thus the whole nation was overthrown and destroyed. God ordered Ezekiel to recount the history of the Israelites in Egypt, how they rebelled and did not listen to God and how they were unwilling to forsake the vile images which they loved. But the merciful God tolerated them before the other nations for His name's sake and brought them out of Egypt with His powerful hands. The prophet was ordered to confront the elders so they might take warning from detestable things of their forefathers. The leaders offered and were accepted by God. The elders inquired and were rejected. The leaders offered wholeheartedly and the whole church moved forward. If they rebelled and did detestable things, the whole church would go backward.

2.【Valuable gift sacrificed to God】10-83 When the altar was anointed, the leaders brought their offerings for its dedication. Everyday each leader came to present their offering. Each leader presented the same offering each day showing God had the same requirement, quantity and standard for each leader. Each leader offered according to the sequence in their camp. The Holy Spirit recorded each name in detail showing God greatly valued each man and the offering of each tribe. In the eyes of God, they were the most valuable gift! The first one to offer was Nahshon, the leader of the tribe of Judah. He offered one silver plate, one silver sprinkling bowl and one gold dish all according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering and incense. They were the most valuable and fragrant gifts full of spiritual abundance.

※【Greatly violate God】10-26 The prophet recounted the rebellion of the old and new generation of Israel in the desert. God gave them the decrees and laws and the Sabbath as their witness. But they did not exalt God as holy and rejected God's orders. They greatly violated the Sabbaths and thus died in the desert. Their children were also rebellious and learned from the evil regulations of their fathers. They forsook God's requirement of the sanctuary. The leaders offered the valuable articles for the use in the tabernacle full of spiritual significance and everlasting value. But the new generation sacrificed their firstborn to the false gods and provoked God's anger. God would turn against them. God swore He would scatter them among the nations like articles smashed without use.

3.【Sacrifice good offering】10-83 All the representatives of each tribe with Judah as the lead offered their offerings for burnt offering, sin offering and fellowship offering to remember God's great love of redemption. They willingly presented the offerings. We are redeemed and ought to offer ourselves completely and sacrifice as thank offerings to God. The Lord offered Himself for us as a sin offering. Let us, then go to Him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace He bore (Heb 13:10-13) for God treated this as good offering!

※【Act detestably】27-39 The prophet recounted the Israelites were even more rebellious and did detestably after entering the good land. The leaders offered the offerings due to gratitude and God saw them as good offering. While for the Israelites, not only did they feel ungrateful, they even followed the foreign rules to worship idols on high hills and spreading trees and committed adultery. Due to their detestable acts, they provoked God's wrath. God would scatter them among the nations to punish them with His mighty hand and outstretched arm that led their forefathers out of Egypt. And like a shepherd who selected the sheep that belonged to Him, He would make them obey His covenant without profaning God's holy name. Then they would offer the good offering.

**B. Refine and return, be contrite and turn from sin, sacrifice the fragrant offering**

Offer everything (Num 7:84-89) - Return (Eze 40-49)

1.【Offer everything】84-88 This recorded in detail without missing anything offered by the leaders for the dedication of the altar showing God valued the offerings of the whole house of Israel. Such wholehearted sacrifice and worship was just like the age of the apostles.

※【Sacrifice the fragrant offering】40-44 After God's punishment, the Israelites repented deeply for what they had done and loathed themselves. For the sake of God's name, He would forgive them and not according to what they had done. God promised to gather them from among the nations back to their homeland. Only those who are contrite and return will they understand God's love which is more than man can fathom. By then the whole house of Israel will serve and worship God wholeheartedly on His holy mountain. God will accept their fragrant offering due to their love to God. How nice this is!

2.【Listen to God's words】89 How pleasing was God's heart when all the leaders represented their tribes and presented the good gift! Moses entered the Tent of Meeting and spoke to God. He heard the voice of God from between the two cherubim above the atonement cover. Moses became the spokesman of God. He conveyed God's mind and brought blessings to the whole house of Israel.

※【Proclaim God's will】45-49 Finally the prophet was entrusted to face toward south and proclaim the judgment of God. He prophesied God would consume all the forest of the southland and nothing would be spared. The destruction of the house of Judah could not be remedied. The prophet sighed that people treated his message as parables without value. Ezekiel received God's words from the most holy place before the throne of God and proclaimed the message of the era. Though it was being scoffed, when the time comes, it will be fulfilled.

**Ps 124 / rev 17:10 Main theme: Escape from the enemy by the help of God, be freed from harm and take possession of the land**

**- God's help / The enemies**

The seven kings have the power to control and jeopardize the children of God. This happened in the past and is happening now and will happen in the future.

(1)【It was good that God helped】1-3 A spiritual woman who is about to give birth (a God's child who will read the Bible and pray and unite with the Lord and bear fruit (Jn 15:3-5)), a male child mightily used by God (one who overcomes and does the Lord's will to the end, He will give authority over the nations (Rev 2:26, Rev 12:5)) and those who obey the Lord's command and be His witness are the objects of attack of the evil one. Had it not been God's help, we would have been swallowed alive.

(2)【The enemy's force is ferocious】4-5 Suffering is like a flood, while the snake is at the back spewing foul water (like bringing a beautiful lady before David) which is more horrifying. Further there is also the tempest which makes us faint. But God will make the wave stop without overtaking. God made the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the water from the snake.

(3)【Escape by trusting in God and obeying His Word】6-8 We can escape from the snare of the wicked because of God's help. If we will always pray watchfully and by the strength of God to keep His Word firmly, then we will escape from the enemy and accomplish His work.

**Central point of the wheels: God helps to overcome the force of the enemy; repent deeply and offer the good sacrifice**

Dear Lord, I am willing to sacrifice myself to satisfy your heart. To receive your help so I may lead many to return and escape from the trap of Satan!

**Num 8** **/ Eze 21**

**Main theme: Do wicked and be avenged, humble and consecrate yourself, shine and save people**

**-Consecrate / Humble**

Golden verses: Num 8:1-3 Eze 21:26

A discussion on consecration and humility - on one side it concerned the house of Israel was like a gold lampstand who ought to shine and glorify God. The descendants of Aaron ought to be watchful to tend the lamp and pay the price to breach the gap in the spirit. The Levites consecrated and offered. They were holy to God and assisted the priests to minister God's work. On the other side it concerned the country of Judah from top to bottom was not willing to abandon darkness to shine and to consecrate to serve the Lord. God's sword of judgment and the final downfall of Judah would certainly come. The purpose of teaching was to let them take a share in God's holiness so they might be refined and return, then they would be holy to shine and serve God.

**A. Consecrate and return to God, shine to glorify God, lest we may be cut off**

Consecrate (Num 8:1-19) - Take the sword (Eze 21:1-17)

1.【Shine before the lampstand】1-5 Before the Levites dedicate for their duty, God instructed the rules for setting the lamps so as to let the Levites bring people in the light of the sanctuary to become a witness of God's glory. The church is the gold lampstand. The seven lamps are to light the area in front of the lampstand. (Mt 5:16) This was how the lampstand was made. It was made of hammered gold according to the pattern of the Lord. God's children have been tempered to become united and sanctified to be a glorious church to shine.

※【Do not shine and without witness】1-7 Ezekiel the prophet was ordered to set his face against Jerusalem and preach against the sanctuary because it was full of sins and lost the witness. The light was out. God had drawn His sword from its scabbard to cut off the righteous and the wicked. God commanded the prophet to bend and groan before them to make a sign that disasters would come and every heart would melt. Ezekiel was physically in Babylon to be a lamp for the captives to prophesy in the dark.

2.【Consecrate for God】6-19 The Levites were chosen to replace the firstborn of the Israelites to set apart for God to minister in the Tent of Meeting and to atone for their sins. Thus they had to be ceremonially clean. First they had to use water of cleansing (Num 19:9; Isa 12:3) to sprinkle them. Then they had to shave their whole body and wash their clothes because without holiness no one would see the Lord. (Heb 12:14) Then they had to offer the burnt offering, the sin offering and the grain offering to show workers had to experience God's redemption. Further they had to assemble the whole community to lay their hands on the Levites. Aaron had to present them as a wave offering before God and they would belong to Him.

※【Unclean and be punished】8-17 Ezekiel prophesied that there would be a polished sword, that was the judgment of God to Judah to bring the leaders and the people under the sword because they were unwilling to purify themselves for the Lord like the Levites. God used Babylon as the barber's knife to purify them in their painful punishment. (Pro 20:30) The prophet obeyed to prophesy and make the sign and beat his breast for the suffering they had to undertake. He was truly a thoroughly purified Levite who offered himself. Alas, the people of Judah did not understand God's love of discipline so they might participate in the divine nature and holiness of God. (2 Pe 1:4; Heb 12:10) Thus when they had undergone captivity and returned, they might become a kingdom of priests to serve God in a holy manner.

**B. Humble in affliction, obey the command to minister; do wicked and be recompensed**

Obey the command (Num 8:20-26) - Do wicked (Eze 21:18-32)

1.【Obey the command and be favored】20-22 Moses, Aaron and the whole community of Israel obeyed to conduct a cleansing ceremony for the Levites. The Levites cleansed themselves. Aaron presented them as a wave offering before God and made atonement for them so they might serve in the Tent of Meeting. How God instructed Moses, the Israelites did the same to the Levites.

※【Do wicked and be avenged】18-25, 28-32 The prophet prophesied Babylon would attack Jerusalem and Rabbah. This was from the sovereignty of the Most High. Despite that the people of Judah swore they would not believe in the false omen of Babylon, they could not escape from the predestined punishment of God. Zedekiah had to bear the retribution of breaking the covenant. Moses, the community and the Levites obeyed and were blessed. But the people of Judah were punished for rebellion and wickedness. God is righteous. The Ammonites were punished for sinning. The polished sword of Babylon would devour so the Ammonites would suffer God's wrath and would not be remembered any more. They could not escape from the final more miserable end.

2.【Minister】23-26 The period of ministry for the Levites were from twenty five years old to fifty years old. At the age of fifty, they had to retire from their regular service. They might assist in performing their duties at the Tent of Meeting. Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ. (1 Ti 3:13)

※【Be dismissed】26-27 When Zedekiah reigned, he was presumptuous and arrogant. He neglected his duty and was unwilling to humble before God and man. Thus his crown was removed and forever dismissed in shame losing all his honor and glory. The nation of Judah was also made a ruin, a ruin until the day when the glorious Christ come into His kingdom and the obedience of the nations is His. (Gen 49:10) We ought to beat our body and be faithful in our duty, lest we have preached to others and we ourselves will not be

disqualified for the prize. (1 Co 9:27)

**Ps 125 / Rev 17:11 Main theme: Trust God from the start till the end, be upright in heart and do good then the enemy will go to his destruction**

**-Do good / The enemy goes to his destruction**

The power of the evil one, no matter it is the seven heads and ten horns or the beast is against God. Though at times it seems they are gone, then they rise up again. Their result is destruction. God's children ought to know that the wicked and the deceivers will become more fierce as time goes on. We certainly cannot under-estimate our enemy and always be watchful for the Lord till He comes.

(1)【Trust in God and never be shaken】1-2 Trust in God and stand firm in faith like Mount Zion. With the presence of God, He will surround us by guard forevermore.

(2)【Darkness controls only for a moment】3 God allows the wicked to act wantonly only for a certain period. This calls for patience endurance and faith on the part of the saints. He who stands firm to the end will be saved (Da 12:11-12) till it reaches the end of the 1353 days, then he will be blessed.

(3)【The different results of the good and evil】4-5 God has prepared for those who love him and keep His commands are unexpected rich blessings like what David and Joseph received. As to those who turn to crooked ways like Saul, Balaam and Cain, their end is destruction. Though the righteous has sufferings on earth, his joy and peace in the Lord cannot be taken away.

**Central point of the wheels: Be firm by God, consecrate and be humble, and shine to serve the Lord**

Dear Lord, may you let me be humble and take lesson, consecrate and offer myself, be firm by You and forever be guarded in your love.

**Num 9 / Eze 22**

**Main theme: Remove the yeast and obey the command, go or stop according to the Spirit and breach the gap**

**-By blood / Remove the sin**

Golden verses: Num 9:23 Eze 22:30-31

A discussion on by the precious blood and removing the sins away - on one side it concerned the Israelites obeyed to keep the Passover before the march in the desert. On the other side it concerned God's children neglected His grace of salvation after entering the good land. They committed sin and did evil and were severely judged by God. We ought to consider God's heart and be watchful for the churches of today to intercede and breach the gap so God's children who are saved by the Lamb will be led by the Holy Spirit to go forward.

**A. Remember the Lord's love, remove the yeast and keep His feasts, and do not do evil**

Redeem (Num 9:1-14) - Judge (Eze 22:1-16,23-29)

1.【Remember God's love】1-14 When the Israelites marches across the desert, God ordered them to observe the Passover according to the decrees and statutes so they might remember the great love of redemption of God. They would then be fervent and inspired due to God's love to march over to Canaan. They obeyed to celebrate the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month on the next year. The church ought to observe the holy supper according to the new regulation to remember the Lord and to go from strength to strength to press forward on pilgrimage. (1 Co 5:7) There were some who could not celebrate the Passover on that day because they were ceremonially unclean on account of a dead body or were away on a journey. They proposed their plea and demonstrated their sincerity to observe the feast. Moses was instructed by God to make up on the fourteenth day of the second month showing God's mercy and tolerance. Those who declined to present the Lord's offering would be cut off. Similarly, if anyone looked down upon the body and blood of the Lord, or if he did not examine or recognize himself, he would eat and drink judgment on himself and be punished. (1 Co 11:28-34)

※【Be ungrateful and do evil】1-16 The city of Jerusalem was originally named as a city which keeps its feasts. Now it had become a wicked and a city that shed blood. They had completely abandoned the words of warning of God and His purpose of redemption. Thus the holy city was filled with idols, adultery, oppression and greediness. Therefore, their time of retribution had come. God ordered the Israelites to observe the Passover so as to remember God and enjoy His love and protection. (Rev 2:4; Jude:20-21)

2.【Recall sins】11 According to the law, the Israelites had to celebrate the feast of Unleavened Bread the day after the Passover for seven days. (Lev 23:4-6) On one side they had to remember God's love and on the other to recollect their own sins. They were to eat the lamb, together with unleavened bread and bitter herbs to beat one's body and be contrite for their sins, so our lives might unite with the Lord (Jn 6:56) to get rid of the old yeast and be a new batch. (1 Co 5:6-8)

※【Free from judgment】23-29 The prophet continued to judge the heinous sins of the holy city. The false prophets conspired and snatched the people. They used false visions to cheat them. The priests did violence to the law and profaned the holy things. The officials were like wolves tearing their prey, while the people were addicted to violence and lawlessness. The whole country from top to bottom was in darkness! The judgment of the prophet was to make them recollect their sins, to get rid of the old yeast lest they would encounter the ruthless trial of the enemy. However, they were unrepentant and as a result their judgment came soon. We ought to be contrite to confess in the light of God's judgment so we may avoid the future judgment of God.

3.【By the precious blood】1-14 The most important meaning to celebrate the Passover was to remember the blood of redemption of the Lamb. By the blood of Jesus, He set the new covenant (Lk 22:20) and satisfied the righteous requirement of God. By the blood of the lamb, the Israelites were not only waived from the plague on the firstborn, they were delivered from Egypt freed from the bondage of sins. And as God had set His covenant with them on Mount Sinai, they were able to overcome the hardship of the desert and finally entered the promised good land of God. (Exo12:13; 24:8)

※【Remove our sinful dirt】1-16 The princes of Israel slaughtered and shed people's blood in an extremely tragic manner. They ignored the value of God's blood of redemption. Their debt of blood was heavy so how could they evade God's punishment? On one side was by the redemption of the blood while the other side was violence and killing, rejecting God's deliverance. Thus God scattered them among the nations and through long period of suffering so they might cut off from their sinful nature. The law helps us to recognize our sins. Only by the blood of Christ can cleanse our hearts and remove our deadly acts so we may serve the ever living God. (Heb 9:14; 1 Pe 1:1819)

**B. Obey and follow the Spirit, set out and encamp, and breach the gap**

Go forward (Num 9:15-23) - Refine (Eze 22:17-22, 30-31)

1.【Follow the Spirit and go forward】15-23 Once the Israelites exited Egypt, the cloud guided them on their way. (Exo 13:21-22) The cloud represented the Holy Spirit and also a sign of the presence of God. By day was the pillar of cloud and by night was the pillar of fire to guide them to camp and set out. We too ought to be guided by the Holy Spirit in every act and set out according to every stop.

※【Refine and go forward】17-22 God's mind and plan was on the elect and treated them precious and honored. (Isa 43:4) But now they did not obey God's will and followed the foreign nations to worship idols and committed adultery. They had become dross to God. In God's wrath He gave Jerusalem into the hands of the enemies so the besieged city was like a furnace to melt them away. God would refine every child who belonged to Him, and then they might set out after the Spirit to gain God's abundance in Christ. We ought to take this lesson deeply and be refined at an early day to go forward after the Lord.

2.【Obey the will and go forward】15-22 The Israel camp was the division ofthe Lord. The Most High God was the commander-in-chief leading them in every step in their path ahead. They had to be guided by the pillar of cloud and fire and obey God's order to camp and set out at any time ready to go.

※【Obey the will and block】30-31 The biggest gap of the house of Judah was defying God's will, not exalting God as holy and not accepting God as the commander-in-chief. They did wantonly and sinned presumptuously. Thus God's wrath came and suffered a grievous wound (Jer 14:17) without remedy. Nonetheless, God was still unwilling to destroy them. At this crucial moment of Judah's life and death, God looked for a man who would build up the wall and stand before Him in the gap on behalf of the land so He would not destroy it. But He found none. How painful was God's heart! We have to obey God's will to set out on one side, while on the other side to consider His mind and pray fervently for all the children of God who failed and turned back, to block the gap so they may return and awake to obey to set out.

**Ps 126 / Rev 17:12 Main theme: A throng of enemies will come out, cry to preach and grab back the captives**

**-Sow / The enemy's power**

The throng of enemies will for a time unite to take power. By then, we cannot work. We ought to consider the Lord's mind to grab the chance to prepare positively to save the souls and to lead the captives to return.

(1)【The Lord does great things to bring back the captives】1-3 God has done great things for those who believe in Him, so that we who dreamed and could not have believed witness this. It was too small a thing to restore those in the Lord through them but also to bring salvation to the ends of the earth. (Isa 49:6)

(2)【We ought to open our mouth widely】4 Pray for great things: for all people to be restored, just like the day the people considered God's mind in the upper room to pray fervently in one heart. Pray for hard things: pray to be transformed in the Word, the Spirit and love. Pray for the souls of all nations and to dispossess nations. There is nothing too hard for God for He can restore streams in the Negev.

(3)【Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy】5-6 We have to pay

the price to understand and obey the Word, and then we may proclaim the Word. We must be diligent to examine the Scriptures, be humble and contrite, and to intercede in tears. We must be full of God's love and His words to be sent out, and then we will reap with joy and make every effort to work more for the Lord.

**Central point of the wheels: Remove the sins by blood, breach the gap and grab the captives**

Dear Lord, may your love inspire me to breach the gap for the church and pray watchfully so the church may rejoice and go forward.

**Num 10 / Eze 23**

**Main theme: Blow the trumpet watchfully, follow the Spirit and go forward; committing adultery will be avenged**

**-Blow the trumpet / Warn (Set out / turn back)**

Golden verses: Num 10:9 Eze 23:35

A discussion on blowing the trumpet and warning - on one side it concerned all the actions of the Israelites were according to the two silver trumpets. Under the direction of the trumpet, they obeyed God's will to set forward. On the other side it concerned Jerusalem and Samaria were like two women committing adultery wantonly. They lusted after the foreigners' idols and relied on the worldly power, thus they were punished. This teaches us we should not follow man's lust and only follow God's will. We should obey watchfully and follow Him without turning back.

**A. Do not commit adultery, listen carefully to the trumpet and walk according to God's will**

Follow God's will (Num 10:1-10) - Follow the sexual desire (Eze 23:1-21)

1.【Obey to sound the trumpet】1-8 God ordered the Israelites to make two trumpets of hammered silver before setting out to direct and mobilize the camp. The silver trumpets were hammered out of silver. Silver was a sign of redemption representing if a priest was to proclaim God's will, he had to undergo the suffering of being hammered and be dealt with in order to be fit for God's use. The descendants of Aaron surrounded God's sanctuary and were close to Him. They were responsible to blow the trumpet and through their ministry to bring out God's message and order. They had to be watchful every moment to know God's will deeply to blow out the different sound according to God's will. They might have to gather the assembly or the heads of the clan to instruct them to set out. Similarly, leaders of the church ought to know the mystery of the gospel and blow the trumpet of the heavenly kingdom to proclaim the salvation of Christ.

※【Obey to warn】1-4 After the Israelites entered the good land, they forsook the Lord and became extremely corrupt and depraved. Ezekiel used a lively metaphor and pointed sharply at the ugly adultery of the two prostitutes, Samaria and Jerusalem and warned them. The descendants of Aaron who were priests and Ezekiel the prophet proclaimed God's will and the message of the era in different age. The purpose of Ezekiel's warning was to retrieve the perverse acts of the people to set apart to be holy without being led astray to adultery and all their actions might be by the order of the Most High God.

2.【Be absolutely obedient】9-10 The people of the whole camp treated God as their center and their commander-in-chief. They listened to the united command. They were absolutely obedient to the will of God. When the soldiers heard the blast on the trumpet, they would rush to the battle and fight against the enemy who oppressed them. With this loud sound, they would be rescued by God from their enemy. When the people heard the sound of the trumpet at the appointed feasts, they would gather and rejoice to celebrate. Whether it was for worship or battle, setting out or camping, they obeyed the sound of the trumpet. This sound was from the Almighty God, the sound from the most holy place. God's children ought to pay attention to listen and be blessed to set out. Let the Holy Spirit and the words of God guide our lives to be obedient in everything and act according to God's will.

※【Rebellious and indulging】3-10 When the Israelites were in Egypt, they worshiped the idols. When they were redeemed out of Egypt, they committed adultery again and forsook God. The Israelites blew the trumpet and rejoiced to celebrate the feast and the New Moon festivals. But their descendants indulged in adultery and coveted in the affection of man. They pursued happiness in sin and would certainly be painful. Oholah did not listen to God's command and allied with Assyria. She asked help from the foreigners (2 Ki 15:19-20; 17:3). Their hearts were led astray and defiled by the idols of the foreign nations. Thus God gave them away to the hands whom they loved. They were trampled by Assyria and were taken captive and subjugated. (2 Ki 17:4-6) On one side was obedience and overcame the enemies. While on the other side was rebellion and indulgence, and were given to the hands of the enemy. Only through painful punishment, we may turn from a prostitute to a bride to love God wholeheartedly and be obedient to His words.

3.【Respond to the trumpet sound】The Israelites marched in the desert and they responded to God's sound of the trumpet any time and gathered immediately. They obeyed to set out without violation.

※【Violate God's command】11-21 Judah did not take the lesson of the destruction of Samaria. Instead they aggravated to indulge themselves. They paid tribute to Assyria and allied with Babylon. They were at times close to Babylon and at times close to Egypt. They dwindled in their mind and violated God's order and acted perversely.

**B. Follow the Lord and go forward, do not plead and rely on man; take warning**

Go forward (Num 10:11-36) - Led astray (Eze 23:22-49)

1.【Go forward and be favored】11-28 On the twentieth day of the second month of the second year, the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle of the Testimony and the Israelites set out under the guidance of God. Every set out had a clear order from God, the guidance of the cloud and they went forward accordingly towards their destination. When the tabernacle was taken down, the Gershonites and Merarites carried it and set out. The Kohathites carried the holy things and set up the tabernacle before they arrived. Each tribe according to their order. The church is the fighting soldiers of Christ and too ought to do everything in a fitting and orderly way. (1 Co 14:40)

※【Be led astray and be avenged】22-35 Oholibah referred to Judah and Jerusalem, followed the footsteps of Israel and allied with Assyria. Then she also allied with the Chaldeans. Later she turned to fawn Egypt and ran the path of her sister. The division of Israel obeyed to set out under the presence and protection of the Almighty God accordingly. They were blessed with joy! Judah was led astray and turned back. She drank the cup of her sister and became drunk full of sorrow. God would inspire the one she loved to attack her so she would no longer look up to Assyria or call to Egypt. The whole army of Israel treated the tabernacle as their center. Under the guidance of God, they marched orderly and displayed God's glory! The people of Judah thrust God behind their back. Thus the Chaldeans came to cut off their noses and ears and stripped off their clothes. They became naked and were in shame.

2.【Do not plead or rely on man】29-36 The whole camp lined up and set out. God's tabernacle was before them to search for a place of rest for them. Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ. He has abundant mercy and grace, so just trust in Him to obey in every step of our journey. Moses requested Hobab his father-in-law to be his eye, to see by the naked eye. He had forgotten the precious promise of God's presence. Israel decamped and set out. The cloud was above their camp showing the sign of God's presence. God's guidance was above men's help! They followed the Ark of the Covenant and God was their eyes. Finally they reached the good land promised by God. Whenever the ark set out, Moses requested God to rise up so their enemies might be scattered. Whenever the ark came to rest, he requested God to return to the countless thousands of Israel.

※【Rely on man and be punished】36-49 The prophet reiterated the serious sins of Samaria and Jerusalem. On one side they sacrificed their children to the idols while they went to the sanctuary of God and defiled His dwelling. They added crime to their crime. They humbled to get foreign help like an adulterous woman calling for a lover. They united with foreign nations but was not wholehearted to trust in God. Those whom they loved became their enemies. God would make many nations to attack them. God's severe punishment was to cleanse them completely from their adultery and wickedness so all nations would take warning and would not follow their adultery. The Lord's ark is at the front. We just need to follow Him to go forward without relying on men's help and no longer swerve to do wicked. (2 Ch 16:9)

**Ps 127 / Rev 17:13 Main theme: To labor outside the Lord is useless; so obey, be loved and flourish**

**-Be loved / Power and authority**

Be exceptionally diligent and bear fruit (2 Pe 1:5-8), full of God's love and be fruitful, be filled in the quiver and victorious.

(1)【It is useless by man's power and labor】1-2 Men's intention and men's power want to build the Tower of Babel which is useless. Saul led a large army to search for David and as a result the whole army went to deep sleep. It is also in vain to wake up early in the dark to search for the perishable food. What good will it is for a man if he gains everything, yet forfeits his soul?

(2)【Blessed is he who is obedient and be loved】2-5

(a) One who is loved by God is full of rest and obeys His order. He has peace in the Lord.

(b) God bestows good fruit. Those who obey the Lord's Word will bear fruit accordingly. David loved the Lord, so God inspired men to defect to David everyday and they were able men.

(c) Be extremely diligent and fruitful, (2 Pe 1:5-8) full of God's love and the quiver is full.

**Central point of the wheels: Remove adultery, go forward, obey the Word,**

**be loved and bear fruit**

Dear Lord, the day of your coming is near. May you let me be far away from adultery, unite with you and obey your will to go forward!

**Num 11 / Eze 24**

**Main theme: God is angered if we covet for lust and long for the world; we will please God if we die completely and obey His command.**

**-Covet for lust / Rebel**

Golden verses: Num 11 Eze 26:14

A discussion on coveting for lust and rebellion - on one side it concerned the Israelites were corrupt in flesh. Just as they started the march in the desert, their crave for other food came and resulted in miserable ending. On the other side it concerned the house of Judah was rebellious and corrupt. God would judge them according to their sins and melt away their impurities with fire. This teaches us we ought to trust in the cross of Christ and die to our old self, bury away our flesh to avoid the future judgment. We shall also imitate the example of the prophet to suffer and deny ourselves to obey God's will.

**A. Do not covet for lust, do not rebel, eat the spiritual food and die to the flesh**

Covet for lust (Num 11:1-25) - Rebel (Eze 26:1-14)

1.【Intercede with love】1-3 Not long after the Israelites set out, they complained to God. Thus God was angered and fire burned among them. Moses interceded with love before God. He was accepted and the fire died down. That place was called Taberah (burn) as a warning.

※【Prophesy in the spirit】1-2 On the day the Babylonian king besieged the holy city, God ordered Ezekiel to record this very date of the disaster of the house of Judah to witness the accuracy of God's prophecy. This date and the name of Taberah were deep lessons. The two servants of God had hearts close to God. On one side was the intercession with love to stop God's anger. On the other side was the discernment in the spirit to proclaim the destructive message of God.

2.【Desire in the flesh】4-5 The rabble among the Israelites was like yeast that broke out in the whole camp. The people recalled with nostalgia the good taste of Egypt and the satisfaction of the body. They wailed greatly by the entrance of their tent and forgot the oppression and suffering in Egypt. They had forgotten the great love of redemption of God. The flesh is like the rabble that craves greatly and corrupts the whole camp. The old flesh is not willing to suffer and insists to eat meat in the desert. It intentionally puts God to the test and rejects God to dwell among it and thus provokes God's wrath.

※【Corrupt and self-deceiving】3-6 Woe, the holy city was filled with corruption, wickedness, slaughter and blood shedding. There is nothing good in the sinful nature! They were ungrateful and only indulged to fatten themselves. They would not care for the life or death of others and thought the holy city was safe and they could sit back and relax. The prophet aimed at their arrogance and set a parable against the rebellious house. He prophesied that the people in the city were like choice pieces put in the cooking pot and the fire of the enemy would destroy the whole city. The flesh was corrupt like an encrusted pot. The deposit had not been removed away completely. Therefore God destined them to be taken captive and scattered and drifted among foreign nations just like their forefathers drifted in the desert. Later on, when they had been refined and returned after painful punishment, they would understand the corruption of the flesh.

3.【Be bored with manna】6-10 When the Israelites were in the desert, God gave them manna which was the bread of life from heaven (Jn 6:32) to nurture them so their lives might grow. (Deu 8:3) How precious was God's word like resin, and like olive oil full of spiritual taste. Only by fervent examination by the heart and fathom by thought, then you will enjoy the spiritual sweetness, abundance and satisfaction. But the Israelites coveted in the taste of Egypt and only pursued in the bodily craving. Thus they were bored with manna and treated it as miserable. Living under the flesh without valuing God's words, so their lives would wither!

※【Neglect the warning】7-14 The house of Judah was finally faced with the fate of subjugation and captivity. The whole country from top to bottom neglected the warning of the prophet. They rejected God's order and pursued the favorite of their eyes just like the people were bored with manna but loved the green onions and the leeks of Egypt. They did not obey God's decrees and statutes. They followed the evil rules of the nations. They pursued the worldly enjoyment of the world and the worship of idols. They did not tremble in God's words and their result would be tragic!

4.【Share in the burden】11-23 As a leader Moses was faced with two harsh problems and was inevitable to complain. The first one was the burden to manage the people which he was unable to bear by himself. He poured out his bitterness to God. The second was where could he get meat for the few million people? He saw this problem with his naked eye and had no faith in God's words and thus complained with grief. But could the arm of the Lord be too short to save! The merciful God ordered to bring Him seventy of Israel's elders to share his burden showing God's compassion and care. Wisdom, power and abundance are in God. He is the source of everything. Only by getting close to the source we will never wither.

※【Alone in the fight】1-13 Ezekiel was among the captives. On one side he resisted the evil power while on the other side he courageously proclaimed the message and prophesy. Before the eve of the captivity and subjugation of the house of Judah, the prophet obeyed to set a parable and declared God's judgment on the house of Judah. God's words continuously came to him. He repeatedly prophesied 'woe to the city of bloodshed' would encounter destruction. The prophet was shouldered with heavy assignment. He faithfully proclaimed without delay and was alone in the fight. But the Most High God was with him. Moses had momentarily fallen in the dark and his burden was shared by seventy elders chosen by God.

5.【Work by the Spirit】24-25 Seventy elders were selected by God to share the heavy burden of Moses. It was not by one's wisdom and ability but by the Spirit taken of God on Moses and put on the seventy elders so they would have the same wisdom, knowledge and ability not by what they saw with their eyes but by the Spirit to decide and judge. (Zec 4:6; Isa 11:2-3)

※【God's word will accomplish】14 Ezekiel was like a four living creatures. He was a prophet filled with the Spirit of God. Whether he prophesied or made a sign, the Spirit of God would fall on him. (Eze 1:3; 3:14, 22) God fulfilled the prophecy and messages proclaimed through him and would act on them without holding back. Workers must be filled with the Word of the Lord and the Holy Spirit, and then they can judge what is right and wrong and proclaim the message from the Most Holy Place of God.

**B. Deny oneself to suffer, share in the burden, die completely and go forward**

Die completely (Num 11:26-35) - Obey the will (Eze 26:15-27)

1.【Deny oneself and without one's desire】26-30 Moses was God's specially chosen people. His meekness was above others. He was broad-minded. Moses was faithful as a servant in all God's house. His aide Joshua was jealous when he saw two men did not go to the Tent but prophesied in the camp. Not only was Moses not jealous of others, instead he wished that all the Lord's people were prophets. He denied himself and left nothing for himself. He had the heart of God and was worthy of a prophet whom the Lord knew face to face.

※【Deny oneself to obey the will】15-18 Ezekiel was a prophet in the age of Judah's subjugation and captivity who completely denied himself to obey God's will. He obeyed to be the sign personally. He endured the pain of the sudden death of his wife and was prohibited to lament to give a pre-sign that the holy temple which Israel boasted of would also be destroyed suddenly. He was willing to obey just like Moses.

2.【Die completely to the flesh and go forward】31-35 The cravings of the people came and insisted to eat meat. In God's wrath, He promised them to have meat for a whole month until it came out of their nostrils and they loathed it. (Ps 106:15) As expected, when the quails were driven in, the greedy people went day and night to catch them. While the meat was consumed, God struck them with a severe plague. The place was named Kibroth Hattaavah (the grave of those who yielded to craving). The flesh must die and bury with Christ. We cannot go forward unless we die completely.

※【We will be destroyed if we boast and are in the flesh】19-27 The people did not understand the strange action of the sign of the prophet. So the prophet obeyed to declare again that God would desecrate what they took pride and the delight of their eyes. Disasters would come and they would not mourn or weep but would waste away because of their sins and groan among themselves. Those who indulge in their craving will harm themselves. What their forefathers did, they did the same and came to a tragic ending! The flesh must die thoroughly and then we may proceed; otherwise we will be punished and be destroyed.

**Ps 128 / Rev 17:14 Main theme: Fear God, obey the Word and be faithful to the consignment will overcome the enemy and be fruitful**

**-Fear God / Overcome the enemy**

The enemies unite to attack the Lord and those who belong to Him. The Lord is tender like a lamb to the Father. His weapon is not of the flesh. He denies Himself to obey the will and waits for God to put his enemies under Him. We who follow the Lamb closely will also overcome.

(1)【Blessed is he who fears God and obeys the Word】1-4 We ought to learn from the tenderness of the Lamb to obey, Joseph's turning away from evil and doing good, and Abraham's obedience to sacrifice his beloved Isaac. These are good examples of fearing God. Seek to understand and live out the Word. Make every effort to know God - act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God. Be diligent to pursue in the Lord and labor in His work, then we will overcome the enemy and bear choice fruit.

(2)【There is true blessing and eternal blessing from God】5-6 The worldly

blessing will be grabbed away and turn to calamity. Only by fearing God and obeying His Word, He will give blessing which cannot be taken away, so you may see the prosperity and peace of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

**Central point of the wheels: Fear God, obey the Word, die completely and overcome to go forward to bear fruit**

Dear Lord, may you let me understand the corruption in my flesh. Let me look to the cross and be freed by the Holy Spirit and overcome!

**Num 12 / Eze 25**

**Main theme: Jealousy and slander bring disasters, blessed is he who is humble and faithful**

**-Slander / Jealousy**

Golden verses: Num 12:3,8 Eze 25:17

A discussion on slander and jealousy - on one side it concerned Miriam and Aaron were jealous and talked against Moses, thus provoked God's anger and punishment. On the other side it concerned all the enemies of God's chosen people like Ammon, Moab and Esau who belonged to the flesh and lust. They were jealous, fret and took revenge while the chosen people were taken captive and thus were judged by God. Moses was a very humble man and did not defend for himself but he interceded for the slanderer. Ezekiel obeyed courageously to attack the sins of the nations and became our example.

**A. Do not be jealous, do not slander, God witnesses and God judges**

God witnesses (Num 12:1-8) - God judges (Eze 25:1-11)

1.【A challenge on the leader】1 Miriam and Aaron did not beat their body. They did not stand at their position or submit to authority. Instead they were jealous of Moses which was not a small quarrel between three sister and brothers of a family. It was a challenge of a prophetess and a high priest against the highest leader. It was even a resistance and non-satisfaction of the sovereignty of God.

※【A challenge on the chosen people】1-11 Ammon, Moab, Edom and the elect were brotherly countries. Ammon and Moab were the descendants of Lot. They belonged to the flesh and was the son of lust. Edom was Esau and was of the flesh. But these three nations hated Israel. They gloated over the suffering of Israel and showed violence on her. The Philistines also treated the elect with ancient hostility. On one side was the jealousy from among the workers. On the other side was the hatred from external enemies. We ought to trust in the Holy Spirit to overcome.

2.【Forget how it comes to being】1 Miriam had forgotten about God's grace of selection. How she matched with Moses by the side of the Red Sea and led the women to praise the Lord. But now she became arrogant and was supercilious. She forgot about herself and violated God.

※【Ungrateful】1-11 Moab was the descendant of Lot and a relative of Abraham. But she was ungrateful and became an enemy of God's people. Miriam was ungrateful and arrogant and was against her brother.

3.【Slander】1-2 Miriam and Aaron denied the highest position of Moses. They talked against Moses for marrying a Cushite. Actually they deliberately belittled Moses and exalted themselves. They were unwilling to submit to God's authority. 'Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?' exposed Miriam's nature of jealousy and struggle for power. (Gal 5:26)

※【Jealous】1-11 Ammon, Moab and Edom hated God's chosen house of Jacob. Similarly, Miriam and Aaron's slander on Moses was also due to jealousy. Ammon cried 'Aha' when he saw the sanctuary was desecrated and the land of Israel was laid waste. He clapped his hands and stamped his feet, rejoicing with all the malice of his heart against the land of Israel. Moab and Seir said, 'Look, the house of Judah has become like all the other nations.' The Edomites acted with violence, gloated and took vengeance against their brother Jacob. On one side was words of slander. On the other side words of arrogance, both came from the nature of jealousy.

4.【God is the witness】1-8 "He is faithful in all my house. ....Why then were they not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?' Moses was God's faithful housekeeper. Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth! He was silent and did not defend for himself. But God personally witnessed for him.

※【God's Spirit inspires】Ezekiel was a four living creatures' worker. He served faithfully before the throne and was discerned in the spirit. He never proclaimed his own words but was inspired to prophesy. He faithfully proclaimed God's righteous judgment. He and Moses were both workers verified and witnessed by God.

5.【Put the old self to death】1-8 Miriam and Aaron were jealous of Moses. In fact it was their old self that caused the trouble. Therefore we ought to put the old self to death by the cross everyday and trust in the Holy Spirit to overcome our arrogance and jealousy. (Pro 27:4)

※【Put the inner enemies to death】1-11 Ammon, Moab and Edom also represented our inner enemies. We must look up to the cross everyday and die together with Christ to live out the new man. (Ro 6:1-8)

**B. Jealous and was punished, intercede with love and take the lesson and go forward**

Intercede (Num 12:9-16) - Be punished (Eze 25:1-17)

1.【God punishes】9-12 "Envy rots the bones." (Pro 14:30) The anger of God burned against Miriam and Aaron. Miriam took the lead to hate Moses and was severely punished by God with leprosy. Aaron immediately acknowledged his foolish sin and begged to God. Discipline and punishment are from God's righteousness and love. Thus we ought to take lesson in trembling!

※【God attacks】1-17 The Lord would stretch His hands to attack the nations of Ammon, Moab, Edom and Philistia. The land of Ammon would turn into a resting place for sheep. God would give them as plunder to the nations and cut them off from the nations. God would also avenge on Moab and Edom. He would attack the Philistines and cut off the Kerethites. As a prophetess, Miriam violated God and was also punished! Among those who approach God, He will show Himself holy!

2.【Intercede】13 Moses was not mindful of his personal grudges and interceded for Miriam. He was full of God's mercy and cried out to the Lord to heal her. He did not defend for himself and endured silently without resentment. He interceded for the slanderer. He was such a person who overcame evil with good and had a forgiving mind. Thus he was blessed by God to speak face to face with him above any ordinary prophets.

※【Prophesy】1-17 Ezekiel had fellowship with God before the throne. He had a jealous heart for the enemies. He proclaimed God's prophecy of judgment. On one side was Moses' intercession with love. On the other side was Ezekiel's prophecy in the spirit and intercession for the people of God.

3.【Take lesson and go forward】14-16 Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days in shame. This caused trouble to the community and delayed the whole camp to go forward. Miriam took the lesson thoroughly and returned to the camp and the whole division of Israel continued their march.

※【Take lesson and be favored】17 The punishment of Ammon, Moab, Edom and Philistia from God was to make them know the Lord was God and could not be mocked. Then they would take lesson and be favored before God's righteous judgment.

**Ps 129 / Rev 17:15 Main theme: Sin controls all people; blessed is he who saves men. Those who hate men will wither.**

**- Save people / Hate people**

The whole earth is under the hand of the wicked one. We shall overcome by the Lord and be sanctified, proclaim the gospel to all people so they may be

blessed.

(1)【The enemies came repeatedly to afflict】1-3 God's real children who keep God's command and witness for Him are the thorn of the evil who always want to conspire against them. Though they are oppressed and deeply hurt, the evil cannot overcome them.

(2)【The Lord has cut the cords】4 Only by confession and repentance, God is righteous. He will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. He will cut us free from the cords of the wicked. We shall exalt the Lord's salvation to all people to repay His kindness and inherit the great blessing He promised to Abraham.

(3)【Those who hate Zion will retreat in defeat】5-8 The Edomites who belong to the body, the Ishmaelites who belong to the flesh, the Moabites who belong to hypocrisy, the Hagrites who belong to the slave of philosophy and the basic principles of this world, the Ammonites who are self-righteous, the Amalekites who belong to the sinful nature, the disbelieving Philistines, Tyre, the great harbor of all nations, the Assyrians who confuse the truth and the covetous descendants of Lot, all of them hate Zion. They do not pursue in truth and love. As a matter of fact they destroy God's plan. Their ending is withering and will turn back in shame. They hurt themselves and hurt others. They are unable to receive the blessing from God and is our warning.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not be jealous or slander, be humble to take lesson and overcome to go forward**

Dear Lord, may you let me trust in the Holy Spirit to beat myself, not to be jealous, or swerving but pursue the inner blamelessness!

**Num 13 / Eze 26**

**Main theme: Believe in the Lord's word and act. Then we will take possession of the land. Those who do not believe will fall down.**

**-Faith / See with the eye**

Golden verses: Num 13:30 Eze 26:5

A discussion on faith and seeing with the eye - on one side it concerned the ten explorers who brought bad report because they only saw with their eyes of the greatness of the enemy. They lost their faith. Only Caleb and Joshua reported by faith that it was the good land promised by God. On the other side it concerned Tyre who represented the world and its power, prosperity, arrogance and anti-God. But the prophet prophesied it would be destroyed and turned to nothing. This teaches us not to be tempted by the festivity of the world. We ought to take possession of the everlasting good land promised by God with faith which is the unsearchable riches of Christ.

**A. If we love the world, everything will turn to nothing shortly. Explore the good land by the promise**

Explore the land (Num 13:1-24) - Prophecy (Eze 26:1-14)

1.【Explore the promised good land】1-16 God ordered each tribe to send one man to explore the land of Canaan given by Him. All of them were leaders of the tribes shouldering with important mission. The purpose of exploring the land was to let the whole of the Israelites to go and take the inheritance promised by God to accomplish the promise and will given by God to their forefathers.

※【See the glorious beautiful land】1-2 Ezekiel the prophet was ordered to proclaim the prophecy of judgment of the nations which was the worldly judgment before the realization of the kingdom of the Messiah so they might know the sovereignty of the Most High God. Ezekiel was able to peek in the spirit and prophesy the spiritual beautiful land so the chosen people might return to enter the glorious kingdom of God.

2.【Full of sinfulness】1-2 The various tribes of Canaan were full of detestable idols and evil customs. There was also perverse immorality like having sex with close relative, lying with one of the same sex, adultery with animals or to sacrifice their daughters to the false gods. In all these they had defiled themselves and the land. Thus they were full of sins and God would thrust them out and gave the land to the Israelites for their inheritance (Lev 18, Gen 15:16) showing God's righteousness, holiness and jealousy of sins!

※【Avenged due to sin】1-2 The prophet prophesied Tyre would be avenged. Not long after Judah was subjugated (2 Ki 25:1-17), Tyre was arrogant toward Judah's fall and when Jerusalem was burned. She gloated and thought she was able to replace Judah to be the door for the trade of the north and south and enjoy the rich benefit. God brought many nations against her and avenged her for her sins. The Canaanites and the people of Tyre would be avenged for their heinous sins. God's people would be refined and sanctified finally to gain the good land of Canaan as their everlasting inheritance.

3.【Explore carefully】17-20 Moses instructed the explorers to go up through Negev and on into the hill country so they might see the whole land from high. He required them to peek the land in detail including whether the people were strong or weak, few or many, the natural environment, their defensive measures, the condition of the soil - fertile or poor, and the harvest of the trees. It was then the season for the first ripe grapes. Moses also ordered them to be brave to bring back the fruit of Canaan to be the witness of the exploration of the good land.

※【Exposed deeply】1-14 Ezekiel had the spiritual insight of everything. He uncovered deeply the sins and result of Tyre. Through the superficial stability and prosperity, he saw her future broken and desolate ending. On one side was to explore the good land. On the other side was to uncover Tyre. May God give us the spiritual insight and the confidence horizon.

4.【Occupied by the enemy】21-22 The explorers went up through the Negev and came to Hebron which was long been occupied by the three tribes of Anak. Hebron (fertile land, ally) was a beautiful city of the good land, the spiritual peak. The three generations of Israel had lived in Hebron and had close communication with God to establish the alliance. Is the Hebron in our heart been occupied by the three enemies?

※【Demolished completely】3-6 Tyre represented this dazzling human world was indestructible and prosperous for a time. But it would be destroyed completely. Even its rubble would be scraped away only to be a place to spread fishnets. On one side was Hebron on the good land forever belonging to the people of God. On the other side was the worldly Tyre who became the plunder of the nations.

5.【Return abundantly】23-24 They reached the good land and had a panoramic view. They enjoyed the abundance of the good land and brought back the choice fruit of Canaan. The two of them carried a cluster of grapes on a pole and came back with abundance. No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him. (1 Co 2:9)

※【Being looted with nothing left】7-14 Though Tyre had rich wealth, a strong and beautiful city, fine houses, temples and sacred poles. But the attack of Babylon would loot her completely. Everything under the sun is meaningless! On one side was exploring the good land while on the other side was pursuing the world. Therefore, do not love the world but gain the spiritual and everlasting portion of heaven from God. (Col 2:9-10)

**B. Gain the land by faith regardless of the environment for anything against God will be destroyed**

Will overcome (Num 13:15-33) - Will be destroyed (Eze 26:15-21)

1.【Witness the good land】25-27 The explorers explored the land for forty days running around the whole area which was a good place! They came back and reported: the land was really a land flowing with milk and honey. The heavenly good land referred to the hope to which He has called, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength. (Eph 1:18-19)

※【Prophesy will be destroyed】15-18 In the prophecy the prophet saw Tyre was destroyed and fell by the blink of the eye. The islands and the cities who used to trade with her were terrified. Even the princes bemoaned and trembled for her and took up a lament. How she was destroyed and she has turned to nothing. But we will sing of God's song of mercy!

2.【See the enemies' greatness with the eyes】28-33 Of the ten who explored were filled with an unbelieving heart. They only saw the great size of the tribe of Anak and their fortified cities. There were also the Amalekites, the Hittites and Jebusites who lived there. But they did not see the Lord and His promise were greater than anything. They had turned the good land of flowing milk and honey promised by God to a land which would devour them. They looked at themselves as grasshoppers before them. They only saw with the naked eye and had forgotten the good promise of God.

※【Watch the enemies' result by faith】19-21Tyre and the tribe of Anak were both the enemies of God. The prophet was able to see in his eyes the final result of Tyre. God would make them desolate and they would go down to the pit forever destroyed. The ten who reported badly only saw from the outside like a man of the flesh. They were unable to accept the things that came from the Spirit of God. (1 Co 2:14)

3.【Firmly believe in God's words】30 The ten who gave a bad report together caused a storm in the community. Only Caleb and Joshua spoke in faith. (Num 14:6-9) Those who have faith will see God only and cannot see difficulty. Caleb trusted in God and stood up. On one side he appeased the people and on the side he was full of faith and courageously witnessed the good land. "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." He was very bold and had nothing to fear!

※【The Lord's words will accomplish】19-21Ezekiel was like Caleb, a prophet filled with faith. He was not only the prophet of Israel but also the prophet of the nations. Every prophecy from him was 'the Lord said'. Through him God declared His prophecy, not only to fulfill the history but also on the final days of God's chosen people and all the nations. The Lord will fulfill His words. His words stand forever. Ezekiel and Caleb were able to proclaim God's words courageously because they strongly believed in God and all His words. One was able to see personally on the good land. The other was to see personally in the vision and they are true!

**Ps 130 / Rev 17:16 Main theme: The enemies fight against one another.**

**Pray for redemption and wait watchfully for the Lord's coming**

**-Plead / A big fighting**

(1)【Plead by faith】1-2 Cry out to the Lord in times of darkness, struggle and difficulty like Esther who risked her life to cry out of the depths. Jonah knew by faith God would rescue him when he was in the great depth of the sea.

(2)【Consecrate and pray for grace】3-4 Do not be afraid of the darkness outside or when it floods but be trembled when there is sin inside. Only be humble to ask for forgiveness for oneself and for others and we will be free from disasters to gain blessings.

(3)【Wait watchfully and put hope】5-6 Do not put your eyes on anything, just put your hope in God's promise. During the time of waiting, make every effort to enter perfection and be watchful to pray and be fervent to do good. The Almighty God will turn darkness to light.

(4)【Lead others to put hope in the Lord and be saved】7-8 As the Lord has mercy and abundant salvation, if we look up to Him, He will deliver us from every sin so we may be flawless to stand before the Lord happily.

**Central point of the wheels: It is valueless to love the world but plead and wait, and take possession of the land by faith**

Dear Lord, may you take away my faithlessness and my greed and desire for the world. Prioritize your promised inheritance and take possession by faith.

**Num 14 / Eze 27**

**Main theme: To trade with the world will go to destruction. Follow the Lord wholeheartedly will gain inheritance**

**-Disbelieve / Go to destruction**

Golden verses: Num 14:24 Eze 27:35-36

A discussion on disbelief and going to destruction - on one side it concerned due to disbelief of the Israelites, they could not enter the good land promised by God. Only Caleb and Joshua firmly believed in the promise of God. They followed wholeheartedly and entered the land. On the other side it concerned Tyre who traded with the nations and flourished abundantly and was perfect in beauty. But they abandoned God and the result was destruction. We ought to follow the Lord to walk a path of faith without lingering on to the world. Then we will gain the everlasting inheritance.

**A. Do not betray, do not boast but witness the promised good land**

Betray (Num 14:1-9) - Boast (Eze 27:1-11)

1.【Betray against God】1-3 The bad report of the explorers made the community raised their voices and wept aloud. They grumbled against their leaders who were against God. They were not willing to part with the world and wanted to go back to Egypt which was betraying against God. Their unbelieving heart was against the will of God. They were afraid that the enemies would overcome God and concluded their wife and children would be taken captive. The community who sang the victorious song had now complained and wailed.

※【Gloat】1-2 Ezekiel the prophet obeyed to take up a lament for Tyre. Tyre's gloating at God's people was similar to the complaint of the people. Both betrayed God. The nature of the old self would yearn for the world though we have been redeemed by God. Tyre struggled for supremacy on the sea and the quarrel of the people in the desert finally brought grief sorrow and they were punished for this sin.

2.【Rebel against God】4 Moses and Aaron were chosen by God to be the leaders of the whole people to lead them to exit Egypt and cross over the Red Sea. This was all due to the will and the power of God. But now, the people abandoned the leaders and forsook God's will. They wishfully thought to put up their own leader to go back to Egypt. This was a great rebellion to God.

※【Drive toward destruction】5-11 Tyre was hailed as a beautiful merchant ship representing the splendor of this age. The skilled men of Sidon and Tyre were the oarsmen and seamen, and also the veteran craftsmen and sailors, plus the mighty and tough able men had added splendor and luster to bring her beauty to perfection, like a pearl on the sea. But they were driving toward death and everlasting destruction! The people wanted to set up their own leader and were also running toward the path of death and trapped in sin.

3.【Witness the good land】5-9 When Moses and Aaron were alone without help, they fell facedown and begged for God's mercy. Caleb and Joshua boldly stood up and witnessed by faith, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good!” They encouraged the people to go and take possession of the land by faith and swallow the enemies up. They ought not to rebel against God for with His presence, they would be invincible.

※【Boasting falls】3-4 By the natural condition Tyre traded with the countries and became incomparably prosperous. Thus she became arrogant and boastful. “I am perfect in beauty!” Caleb and Joshua held a heart with total trust in God. They witnessed the good land promised by God! What Tyre boasted of had turned suddenly to nothing, for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations. (Pro 27:24) What Caleb witnessed was the heavenly glorifying good land which was everlasting. We ought to long for a better country, the city with foundations. (Heb 11:16)

**B. Do not covet wealth, do not disdain God but deny oneself to intercede**

1.【Disdain the promise】10-11 “How long will they refuse to believe in me…”Faced with such rebellious and stubborn-hearted people, God was grieved. God had performed many miraculous signs. But they still would not believe and even wanted to stone the two witnesses. They disdained God and His promise. They were blindly covetous on Egypt and the worldly things.

※【Boast on the property】12-25 What Tyre boasted of was the great wealth of goods as the merchants gathered and trade was prosperous. All tribes came to exchange for her goods. As such she was filled with heavy cargo in the heart of the sea. However, this was of the world and momentary wealth. But what God promised to the Israelites was heavenly and everlasting inheritance. They disdained and disbelieved and became suicidal. The Lord's words were more precious than thousands of pieces of silver and gold. His promises were our heritage. (Ps 119:72)

2.【Intercede before God】12-19 God once again reiterated in His wrath to destroy the rebellious people so the descendants of Moses might become a nation greater and stronger than they. But Moses cared about the name of God and the interest of His people more than his own benefit. He disregarded everything but denied himself to intercede. He grabbed the mercy of God and begged God to forgive the sins of the people once again.

※【Trade before men】12-25 Tyre the great harbor of the nations, had very frequent trades. All nations came to trade with her and she became the center of trade of the sea. We ought to communicate with God and not to trade with the world, just like Moses did not consult with men but he interceded before God. He was answered and stopped the wrath of God.

**C. Follow the Lord wholeheartedly and do not grasp the world lest we may doom to destruction**

Fall down (Num 14:20-45) - Destruction (Eze 27:26-36)

1.【Follow the Lord wholeheartedly and gain inheritance】20-35 Due to the bad report of the ten who explored, the people disdained the word of God. They belittled and disbelieved and thus were heavily punished. God cannot be mocked. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished. (Exo 34:7) Whoever treated God with contempt would fall in the desert and no one entered the good land except Caleb and Joshua. They were worried that the children might be taken as plunder, but God brought them to the promise land. God is righteous and faithful. Caleb had a different spirit. He followed wholeheartedly without compromising or to please anyone. His faithful eyes were set on the promise of God.

※【Grasp the world and end up with nothing】26-27 Tyre was the great ship of the age full of cargo. But she was broken by the east wind and sank into the heart of the sea. Everything is meaningless under the sun. If we grab the world, all the cargo will turn to nothing momentarily. The nations were terrified. The islands were horrified. We ought to learn from Caleb to see through everything to follow the Lord wholeheartedly and receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken. (Heb 13:28)

2.【A miserable ending】36-45 God's punishment was severe. The ten who gave the bad report were struck down and died of a plague before God. Only Caleb and Joshua survived and testified the words spoken to Moses and Aaron by God. The people did not listen to the warning of Moses. In their sorrow, they insisted to go up to attack the Amalekites and Canaanites. They went to the other extreme. In their presumption, they went up but the ark of the Lord was still in the camp. Without the presence of God, they routed before the enemy as their result. This was a deep lesson.

※【Everlasting destruction】30-36 She could not escape the misfortune of destruction though Tyre was prosperous in the past. She used to enjoy the continuous wealth of the nations. But in an instant, it turned to nothing. The seamen, the oarsmen, the soldiers and the mariners lamented for Tyre. The wicked will be avenged. Those who are evil will harm themselves! “What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mt 16:26)

**Ps 131 / Rev 17:17 Main theme: The enemies unite together to attack. Be steadfast to trust in the Lord and obey His will to rest**

**-Peaceful / The enemies unite**

When the enemies unite together and darkness reign, then

(1)【Our heart turns to the Lord without wantonly】1 Our heart ought to turn to the Lord and our eyes ought to keep to His ways. (Before the Lord Jesus was crucified, He went before the Lord to request that God's will be accomplished on Him.) So do not act wantonly.

(2)【Be steadfast to obey the will and let our heart be at rest】2 Be steadfast to trust in the Lord and He will keep you in perfect peace. Daniel had a spirit ready to die to obey the will of God. Thus when he learned of the decree, he knelt before God three times a day. He prayed and gave thanks just as he had done before. (Dan 6:10) His soul was full of rest.

(3)【We ought to put our hope in the Lord forever】3 Do not fix your eyes on

the environment, on people or on yourself. Just put your hope on the promise of God like Abraham was fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. So let us lead all the ends of the earth to put hope in the Lord and we will be saved.

**Central point of the wheels: Abandon the world and follow the Lord to obey the will and rest to take possession of the land**

Dear Lord, may you let me abandon completely all the secular, be free from all entanglement and follow you wholeheartedly to gain the everlasting good land by faith.

**Num 15 / Eze 28**

**Main theme: Blessed is he who gives thanks and offers. Be arrogant and faithless will be cut off**

**-Give thanks / Be ungrateful**

Golden verses: Num 15:39 Eze 28:2

A discussion on giving thanks and being ungrateful - on one side it concerned God promised the Israelites mercy to enter the good land after their failure. They might offer the thanksgiving offering to fulfill their special vows or freewill offering to be favored and guarded. On the other hand it concerned the king of Tyre was arrogant. His heart became proud on account of his beauty and was ungrateful. Thus he was punished. This teaches us to obey the Word humbly, be grateful to serve the Lord and be pleasing to Him.

**A. Give thanks and offer, be redeemed by grace; arrogant and be punished**

Give thanks (Num 15:1-21) - Arrogant (Eze 28:1-19)

1.【Be willing to offer to God】1-10 God will forever keep His covenant and show mercy to His people! Following the shameful failure of the people in the previous chapter, God turned to show His unlimited mercy, surpassing all disbelief and sin. God promised when they had entered the good land, for the special vows, whether offerings made by fire or freewill offerings, they had to offer drink offering and grain offering at the same time. The grain offering represented the perfect life and livelihood of Christ. The drink offering represented Christ poured out His life completely. Thus the devotee ought to live and die for the Lord (2 Co 5:15), a freewill offering to give thanks. The quantity of the fine flour, oil and wine for the grain offering and drink offering varied for different kinds of sacrifices showing God's consideration and reasonableness for the devotees! We ought to be humble to give thanks forever, be willing to offer and to fulfill our vows to repay God's love!

※【Think oneself as God】1-2 God is zealous and avenges on His adversaries. The ruler of Tyre was haughty and claimed himself to be God. He would be severely punished. In the pride of his heart he said, "I am a god, I sit on the throne of a god in the heart of the seas." This was the greatest rebellion toward the Most High. He was a man and not a god. Those who sacrifice freewill offering will let God be the center. The ruler of Tyre was arrogant and self-centered. He forcibly occupied God's sovereignty and position. We ought to honor God and obey to lead a life of humility, thanksgiving and sacrifice.

2.【God's wisdom】11-16 God's plan of salvation has come to all the men of the earth including His elect and the Gentiles. God ordered the native-born people and the aliens living among them to follow the same rule to present an offering made by fire as an aroma pleasing to the Lord which would be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. This was the hidden mystery for ages, that was the Gentiles in Christ and the chosen people would share the salvation, so that no one might boast before Him. (1 Co 1:26-31) We ought to sing to God and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God!

※【Men's wisdom】3-10 The ruler of Tyre was such arrogant and thought himself as wise as a god. By his wisdom and understanding in trading, he had increased his gold, silver and wealth. He became more arrogant and did not understand God. How could he be wiser than Daniel? It was the wisdom of those of this age who are coming to nothing. (1 Co 2:6) They were contrary to God's salvation. Their result was tragic destruction. Only God's wisdom may bring us to the everlasting kingdom of Christ.

3.【Give thanks and offer to God】17-21 God's promise and will cannot be changed. Though the Israelites were full of corrupt nature, God still would lead them personally to enter the good land. God ordered them to enter the good land to enjoy His abundance. They had to present a cake from the first of their ground meal and offer to God, representing Christ was like wheat being crushed completely. He suffered and died for us. He died and was raised and became the firstfruits. (1 Co 15:20) We ought to be thankful to offer ourselves to gain the life that is raised from the dead and to live before God. (Jas 1:18)

※【Ungrateful and against God】11-19 This king of Tyre was the anointed guardian cherub in Eden. He was created perfect, full of wisdom and all prepared. He was adorned with all kinds of precious stones. He walked among the fiery stones. Due to his beauty, he became proud and appropriated all the abundance and honor. He was against God and ungrateful. He desecrated the holy land. He was driven and threw to the earth. He was finally destroyed and reduced to ashes. We ought to understand the truth of ourselves deeply. We must not be against God, arrogant or ungrateful. Instead we should be humble, thankful and glorify God and let Him enjoy our offering of thanks and praise!

**B. Confess and be forgiven, obey the Word and revive; going against God will be avenged**

Confess (Num 15:22-41) - Revive (Eze 28:20-26)

1.【Confess and be redeemed】22-29 The love of salvation of God towards the chosen people never changes. Whether of the unintentional sins of the community or of a person, God's sin offering is forever effective. All we had to do was to acknowledge our unintentional wrong and offer an offering made by fire and a sin offering together with a grain offering and a drink offering. The priest would then atone for their sin and they would be forgiven. Christ becomes our everlasting priest who replaces all the sacrifice and offerings so we may be redeemed by grace and be cleansed.

※【Go against God and be judged】20-23 Sidon was a country of the island (Isa 23:2) who relied on her wealth and merchandise and became proud. They were against God's people. Thus God would be against her and inflict punishment on her. Christ's salvation is to let men be justified by faith without condemnation and be away from the judgment of the last day. When men reject the salvation, they will encounter God's righteous judgment.

2.【Sin purposely】30-36 God's laws are solemn and cannot be infringed on. Anyone who sinned defiantly, despised God's word or violated His orders would be cut off from the people because he blasphemed God and his sin would be on him. Whether native-born or alien would come to the same rule under the strict and supreme order. A man who gathered wood on the Sabbath day had purposely violated the rule 'do not light a fire on the Sabbath day'. (Exo 31:15; 35:2-3) He had to be put to death. This warns us that if we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left. (Heb 10:26-29)

※【Be the enemy intentionally】24 The neighboring countries of Israel were intentionally against the people of God. They hated the chosen people and pierced them like briers and thorns. God would execute judgment and they would then know the Lord was God. God's throne was established long ago and from all eternity. His judgments are true and just! We ought to tremble to obey and rest and do not sin purposely.

3.【Obey the Word and be sanctified】37-41 God ordered them to make

tassels on the corners of their garments with a blue cord on each tassel to remind them not to forget they were the people of heaven so they might remember to obey all the commands of God without pursuing their own desires and sight to commit adultery. They were to be holy to God. (Jn 17:17)

※【Return and revive】25-26 Through the long period of suffering under captivity, God had refined His people to abandon evil and to observe the Word and be holy. All the countries of Sidon and Tyre who were against God's people would be judged. They would be relieved from their oppression. They would return from all the people and be revived to enter the glorious kingdom of Christ to enjoy rest eternally.

**Ps 132 / Rev 17:18 Main theme: Escape from the power of sin, vow to build the temple, shine and be filled with grace**

**-Rejoice / Under control**

The kings of the earth are all under the control of the evil one. The flesh may feel comfortable but the spirit is bound with affliction. Only by accepting the Lord and pursue in Him may they be released with rejoice, because the Lord comes to save us from sins.

(1)【Determine to seek rest and rejoice】1-10 We must possess a spirit to suffer and swear to determine not to consider the flesh. We must be diligent without ceasing to seek till we find the ark - that is God's words and receive the ark to a well prepared dwelling so the Lord may rest in it. Then all people will be favored and we pray we may be in the Lord's lasting grace.

(2)【God gives this promise to those who love Him】11-18 Even God swore to bless that your descendants will have the authority. God is willing to dwell on the holy mountain forever so the provisions are abundant. Then the priests and the saints will sing with joy while your enemies be put to shame. The one whom God loves will be resplendent on the earth to glorify Him and benefit men!

**Central point of the wheels: Humble and be redeemed; free from the bondage of sin and give thanks to serve the Lord**

Dear Lord, may you let me not be arrogant and ungrateful but humble to give thanks, willing to offer and love you above everything.

**Num 16 / Eze 29**

**Main theme: Arrogant and selfish and be thrown down the pit; deny oneself for the Lord will be rewarded**

**-Jealous / Arrogant (Rebellious / be punished)**

Golden verses: Num 16:5 Eze 29:21

A discussion on jealousy and arrogance - on one the side it concerned the Korahs were jealous of Moses and Aaron. They united to rebel; that was to attack God. As a result they received the appropriate punishment and fell into the grave alive. On the other side it concerned the king Pharaoh was arrogant and against God. He became the staff of reed for the house of Israel and was also punished.

**A. Do not be jealous, do not be arrogant. He who attacks God will be avenged**

Jealous (Num 16:1-24) - Arrogant (Eze 29:1-10)

1.【Jealous and contend for power】1-3 With Korah the Levite as the mastermind, he allied with Dathan and Abiram, the Reubenites and 250 leaders to contend for power with Moses and Aaron. They were originally peers and the descendants of Kohath. But they were unsatisfied with their position and jealous of the ministry of the priest. They gathered to attack Moses and Aaron and said, "You have gone too far!. The whole community is holy..... Why then do you set yourselves above ..." They attacked the leaders that was rebellious against God. This exposed they were uneasy with their job and attempted to compete for the highest position.

※【Presumptuous and go against God】1-10 Egypt was a strong and prosperous ancient empire. Pharaoh Hophra was arrogant and contemptuous and anti-God, that was mocking. (Pro 21:24) He overrated himself and boasted he made the Nile. He did not know that all the abundance of the Nile was given by God. Man is of the dust and will turn to dust. There is nothing to boast of. Envy rots the bones and a haughty spirit before a fall. We shall not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (Gal 5:26)

2.【Warn the Korahs】4-11 When Moses heard this, he fell facedown and gave it to the Lord. He exalted God's sovereignty and waited for His instructions and judgment. He had a clear insight in the spirit. He was able to see through the conspiracy of Korah that was to seize a higher position and privilege. Thus Korah and his followers were not arguing with Moses and Aaron. Instead they argued with God. Moses rebuked them for looking down on God's choice and ministry. He specifically warned that their banding together was against God. Who was Aaron that they should grumble against him?

※【Warn Zedekiah】1-10 Ezekiel the prophet was like Moses. He prostrated before God to wait for His will and order in the turmoil of the attack of the enemy. Thus when the holy city was besieged by Babylon and Egypt withdrew his troops, he was discerned of the future and inspired to prophesy. God's words came to him to prophesy against Egypt who was then strong. She would be judged by God. He also warned Zedekiah the king of Judah not to be wishful for Egypt's help. On one side was the warning of Korah and his followers while on the other side was the warning of the king of Judah. They ought to rein in at the brink of the precipice and be humble to repent.

3.【With wild ambition】1-3 Korah and his followers were ambitious and vainly thought to plot against God's high priest. This was a rebellion against God's highest sovereignty. Korah seemed to be fighting for power for the community. In fact, he was not submissive and tried to get the priesthood. He wishfully thought to get something more than his own position. Moses and Aaron were called by God and set by Him. The priesthood was given to Aaron and his family. No one takes this honor upon himself. Aaron represented the honorable great high priest who has gone through the heavens, the Son of God Jesus. Even His honor was not taken upon himself.

※【Think oneself as God】1-10 Pharaoh was arrogant. He boasted of himself and thought himself as wise as a god. He placed himself as high as God. Thus God was against him. He ordered the prophet to prophesy against him. He assumed he had the power. He thought Egypt was indestructible and became the support of the other nations. He was just as presumptuous as the rebellious ambition of Korah and his followers. Both their actions profaned God. Egypt was a staff of reed for the house of Israel. Those who leaned on Egypt would tear open their shoulders and break the backed. The prophet exhorted the people not to lean on the reed of Egypt. He was unable to help himself and thus both would be hurt. Only the Lord is God! Anyone who wishes to be equal to God like the ambition of Korah and his followers would be destroyed and come to nothing.

4.【Adjudicated by God】4-14 In order to confirm God's choice, Korah and his followers and Aaron would take their censers with fire and incense. The man the Lord chose would be the one who was holy. Moses sent men to summon Dathan and Abiram. But they refused to come. They were furious and complained unceasingly and blindly craved for Egypt. They were deadly loyal to Korah and God would sanction them.

※【Hooked by God】1-10 Pharaoh the Egyptian king thought himself was as wise as a god. Though he was like a great monster lying among the streams in a rampage manner, God would be against him. God would put hooks in his jaws and make the fish of the streams stick to his scales. They would be pulled out from among the streams and be left in the desert to be the food for the beasts and the birds. Pharaoh was anti-God and Korah's rebellion would be judged and sanctioned by God.

**B. The rebels were punished and the arrogant humbled**

Be punished (Num 16:15-50) - Humbled (Eze 29:11-21)

1.【The rebellious were punished】15-40 The next day Korah and his followers 250 of them plus Aaron, each held their censers filled with fire and incense stood before the Tent of Meeting. Korah took this chance to gather the community to attack Moses and Aaron. The glory of the Lord appeared to the entire assembly. God meant to destroy the whole assembly. But after the intercession of Moses and Aaron, God relented. Therefore God ordered the assembly to move away from the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram lest they would be punished also. This showed in God's wrath, he remembered mercy. God made the ground split apart so the rebellious followers were swallowed alive into the grave. Then fire came out from God and consumed the 250 men who were offering the incense. God's love is like a consuming fire and His jealousy is also like a consuming fire. This was the result of the arrogant and rebellious. God ordered that the censers be taken out of the fire and hammered into sheets to overlay the altar to be remembered by the Israelites. Lord Jesus was smitten by God because of our rebellion. (Isa 53:4)

※【The arrogant is punished】11-16 The prophet prophesied a sword would be brought against Egypt. All men and their animals would be cut off like the rebellious followers of Korah who attacked the leader. They were severely punished so the arrogant would humble. Egypt would become desolate for forty years with no one to live on. The Egyptians would be scattered among the nations. After the forty years, God would let the captivated return and be the lowliest of kingdoms and never to exalt itself above the other nations. When the Israelites saw the downfall of Egypt, they ought to think of their iniquities without leaning on the strength of Egypt.

2.【Burn incense to stop God's anger】41-50 Under the influence of the rebellious followers of Korah, the Israelites still complained to Moses and Aaron. They attacked the leaders and provoked God's anger. Thus the plague started. Moses and Aaron silently endured all this and fell facedown to intercede. Moses considered God's mind and told Aaron to put incense in the censer and hurry to make atonement for the Israelites. Aaron stood between the living and the dead and the plague stopped, bringing back the wrath of God.

※【Intercede and see revival】21 Ezekiel was a prophet and a priest. On one side he interceded for the people and on the other side he prophesied in the spirit. God would make a horn grow for the house of Israel and they would be revived. God would open his mouth boldly among men to show that the prophecy would be fulfilled. Then they would know the Lord was God. Ezekiel, Moses and Aaron had the mind of God. Their fire of love burnt in them and through the love of intercession, they breached the gap and retrieved God's wrath.

3.【Be faithful to God's consignment and pleases God】41-50 The duty of Moses and Aaron was to burn incense and intercede for the people with the love of God to breach the gap and retrieve God's anger. They were utterly devoted and pleasing to God. They were remembered by God. We have the heavenly great high priest to intercede and redeem our sins, so we may be waived from the wrath of God!

※【Be faithful to God's consignment and God recompensed】17-20 The king of Babylon obeyed God's will to plunder Egypt and God gave the land of Egypt to him because he and his army obeyed to attack Tyre and got no reward. This time God rewarded him for their service; moreover, Moses and Aaron were faithful to their assignments, they would even be rewarded by God and forever remembered!

**Ps 133 / Rev 18:1 Main theme: Holy and united, grace comes like falling rain and all the land shines**

**-United / Shine**

(1)【How good and pleasant to be holy and loving】1 Brothers love one another just like Ornan and Araunah. They were mutually considerate and caring. This is wonderful.

(2)【Holy and loving glorify God and benefit men】2 It is like precious oil poured on the high priest. This oil is the love of holiness and this love comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith so the Lord's heart is satisfied and grace falls like rain flowing to all nations. Prayer in one accord in the upper room will make the spiritual rain fall and the gospel is spread to the ends of the earth.

(3)【God bestows His blessings】3 With truth and love, the Lord is present and he bestows blessings like the dew falling on the Mount Zion. Abraham risked his life to rescue his captivated nephew Lot and Melchizedek blessed him. God bestows true blessings and everlasting blessings which no one can take away.

**Central point of the wheels: Those who are jealous will be punished. The arrogant shall humble and serve the Lord in unity.**

O Lord, may you cleanse the church and remove the jealousy, contention and the corruption of lust so we may be holy and united to inherit the kingdom of God.

**Num 17 / Eze 30**

**Main theme: Act according to the Lord's words, sprout and bear fruit; do evil and be punished**

**- Change / Perish (God tests / God judges)**

Golden verses: Num 17:7-8 Eze 30:25

A discussion on changes and destruction - on one side it concerned the staff of Aaron, the chosen priest of God died and experienced the change of resurrection. It sprouted, blossomed and bore fruit. On the other side it concerned Egypt and its alliance would soon be punished. The end of all things is near. The world and its desires pass away. We ought to unite with the Lord and listen and walk His Way so our lives will change and die completely to bear fruit and glorify God.

**A. Judgment is near. The arrogant will be punished and we will be tested before God**

Verify (Num 17:1-7) - Judge (Eze 30:1-19)

1.【God differentiates】1-4 After Aaron had burned incense and atoned for the Israelites to stop the plague, God ordered the twelve leaders of each tribe to take their own staff with their name written on it in order to halt the complaint of the people on the priest. Aaron's name was also written on the staff of Levi. The twelve staffs were placed in front of the Testimony and differentiated by God. In this way, God had set apart the godly for Himself. (Ps 4:3)

※【God judges】1-2 Ezekiel the prophet was instructed to declare the day of the Lord was near. They ought to wail. Egypt and her allies ought to be judged. He foretold the last day of the nations to be punished had come! The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly. (1 Th 5:1-3) We ought to be alert in the evil trend of the last days to set apart to be holy to serve God in a godly way as a priest. We must tremble in the light to be saved from the judgment of God's wrath.

2.【Listen to God's words before the Ark】4 The staff represented the authority and power of God and also the worker himself. Those staffs were placed before the Testimony of the Tent of Meeting. In the Testimony was the two tablets written by God, representing God's words, God's covenant and God's will. Before the Testimony was the Most Holy Place, a place to meet God face to face. Workers must retreat to the Most Holy Place to listen to God's voice, receive His judgment and let the royal law be written in their heart through the Holy Spirit, and then we may exhibit the glory and power of God.

※【God's words show His power】3-12 The prophet prophesied that Egypt and his ally troops would fall. God used the sword of Babylon to attack Egypt and set fire to burn him and everything he had. The power of this fire and sword brought destruction to Egypt and he came to naught. This sword and fire represented God's judgment. The word of God is the sword of the Spirit (Eph 6:17) and can pierce through our inner world. The Lord's word is fire which can burn away our cravings of sinful man and boasting (Jer 23:29; 1 Jn 2:16) May the fire of the Holy Spirit do the work of burning and cleansing in our heart. (Isa 4:3-4)

3.【Stop the complaint】5-7 God ordered the twelve staffs be placed before the Testimony to testify that the one chosen by God would sprout. This stopped the complaint of the Israelites to Moses and Aaron and also to stop the pride and dissatisfaction of the rebellious followers of Korah. God cannot be mocked; He will show His majesty and awe!

※【Stop the arrogance】13-19 The prophet prophesied God would punish Egypt for his pride due to his force and destroy the idols and images which he boasted of. There would no longer be a prince to rule over them. The complaint of Israel and the pride of Egypt would stop. God would not tolerate! All the important cities of Egypt would be destroyed just like the followers of Korah and his remaining power would be destroyed completely. This showed the righteous judgment of God. Then they would know the Lord is God.

**B. do not betray, die to the old self and let your life blossom and bear fruit**

Change (Num 17:8-13) - Die completely (Eze 30:20-26)

1.【There are changes in life】8-9 The next day Moses entered the Tent of Meeting and brought all the staffs to the people. Who would have thought Aaron's staff had died and came to life after one night's transformation? It sprouted, blossomed and produced almonds. This is life's wonderful transformation! Thus this verified that Aaron was chosen by God to set apart to be holy as a priest. God confirmed his heavenly ministry. There was no change in the others staffs; still a dried staff.

※【A fatal attack】20-22 God's word came to Ezekiel again. Pharaoh was presumptuous and against God. God would send him a fatal attack and break his arm so he could never rally. Pharaoh represents our old self and has to be severely dealt with. Then our live will change with witness.

2.【Never wither before God】8-9 Aaron united with God before the atonement cover. After one night's transformation his staff sprouted, blossomed and produced fruit. It was never withered with the pouring of the living water. It was completely God's work and the work of the Holy Spirit. (Rev 22:1)

※【Men-made river dries up】12-13 Pharaoh of Egypt was against God. He depended on his arm , wisdom, strength, chariots and horsemen. God would dry up the streams of the Nile and lay waste the land and everything in it. Further, the Egyptians would be scattered among the nations. Aaron united with God like in the living water which never dried up. God's work would overcome finally and men's work would completely be ruined.

3.【Die and resurrect】8-9 Aaron's staff was transformed through one night's work. The dead staff became a live staff. It's sprout, flowers and fruit all coexisted. Once when workers are taken by God, they will have the infinite might in life.

※【Forever perish】13-14 Egypt and his idols were a staff of reed. Whoever leaned on him would be broken momentarily and destroyed quickly. The chosen workers must die completely to the world and evil. Then they will have the revival power.

4.【Praise and glorify God】8-9 The staff of Aaron blossomed represented the workers were able to release the fragrant smell of Christ and lead men to know God (2 Co 2:14-15) and to praise, triumph and glorify Him.

※【Put to shame and groan】24 After the spanking by God, Egypt was like a mortally wounded man. He could only groan before the king of Babylon. On one side was praise and glorifying God but on the other side was shame and groan.

5.【Flourish and bear fruit】8-9 Aaron's staff had gone through the change in life and bore fruit by the Spirit. (Gal 5:21-22) If we remain in the Lord, the Lord will remain in us. Then we will be fruitful and bring men completely before God.

※【Wither and taken captive】23-26 Pharaoh and Egypt were completely destroyed. They were scattered among the nations like an unproductive branch being thrown outside and burned. If our inner Pharaoh does not die, we cannot lead men to the Lord; instead we become their stumbling block.

6.【To be remembered forever】10-13 Aaron's staff was put in front of the Testimony to be kept as a remembrance for the rebellious and a witness for

the priest set up by God. Later on, the two stone tablets, the gold jar of manna were also placed in the ark to be remembered forever so the rebellious might take the warning.

※【Forever in shame】Not only was Egypt, this staff of reed, was broken; the good as well as the broken one were cut off and even being burned like the rest of the eleven staffs. They had no witness. The same staff was taken back forever in shame.

**Ps 134 / Rev 18:2 Main theme: Stand firm in truth and warn aloud for God will bless us**

**-Lift up the hands / Aloud**

(1)【Stand faithfully in the temple by night】1 The old Eli slept in the night. Samson, Saul and Balaam were drunk in the night. We must not be a wicked lazy servant. We ought to be the Lord's faithful servant, imitating Moses to be faithful in all God's house.

(2)【Pray watchfully and preach aloud】2 We will overcome if we raise our hands and be alert. If we lower our hands the enemies will win. (Exo 17:11) We must be watchful over ourselves and all our flock. This is the requirement of the Lord and also for the age. (Eze 22:30)

(3)【Will receive blessings from the Almighty One】3 Whoever is faithful and loyal to the Lord will receive the help from Him and gain great blessings.

**Central point of the wheels: Die completely and change, serve the Lord watchfully; the wicked will fall**

Dear Lord, I am willing to unite with you in one heart, to witness my change in life, die completely to my old self, serve faithfully and bear good fruit.

**Num 18 / Eze 31**

**Main theme: Be arrogant in grace and fall; be faithful in your duty and enjoy the best portion**

**-Be dutiful / Be arrogant**

Golden verses: Num 18:30 Eze 31:14

A discussion on being dutiful and arrogance - on one side it concerned the priests and Levites were chosen by God to keep their post to be dutiful and enjoy their portion. On the other side it concerned Egypt and Assyria were arrogant and presumptuous and would be punished so as to let the Israelites take the lesson. This teaches us to be humble and take the lesson, be faithful to serve the Lord, bear the weakness of others to intercede for them and lead all sinners to leave death and enter life to enjoy the holy portion.

**A. Be faithful to the holy ministry, serve the Lord wholeheartedly, do not be arrogant to tower proudly on high**

Be dutiful (Num 18:1-7) - Arrogant (Eze 31:1-10)

1.【The duty of a priest】1-3 After the armed rebellion of the party of Korah, God directly told Aaron about the duty of a priest and a Levite. Clearly, the priesthood of the descendants of Aaron was holy and could not be infringed on. They ought to be more trembling to obey and humble to minister carefully. Again, this showed that the Levites could not enjoy the same privilege as the priest.

※【The duty of a prophet】1-10 God's words came to Ezekiel again through the downfall of Assyria to warn Egypt that the mockers had to humble themselves. The duty of a prophet is to prophesy and warn others. The authority and the ministry of a priest come from the Most High God. They are faithful to their duty and no one can take it away.

2.【The heavenly honor】1-3 Aaron was the high priest specially chosen by God. No one could take his honor upon himself except by the calling of God. He had to wear the sacred garments which were dignified and honorable. He was to set apart for the Lord as a priest. (Exo 28:2; Heb 5:4) Christ as the everlasting High Priest is even more dignified and honorable.

※【The worldly power】1-10 Who could be compared with Pharaoh in majesty? However, it was only worldly majesty. What could he boast of? When his spirit departed, he returned to the ground; on that very day his plans came to nothing. (Ps 146:4) The party of Korah were just as arrogant as Pharaoh. They were unwilling to submit to God's authority or take their position. They wishfully thought to seize the highest authority of office of a priest. Thus God confirmed the power of a priest. The majesty of Pharaoh was ruined in a moment and he was severely punished.

3.【Undertake humbly】1-3 God ordered Aaron and his descendants to serve God as priests before the ark of the Tent of Meeting to take the place of the house of Israel. How important it was! This ministry was given to the descendants of Aaron and no one could take it away. They had to bear the responsibility for offenses against the sanctuary and also the priesthood. Aaron himself had once worshiped the gold calf and committed great offenses and thus he had nothing to boast. Now he was giving such important duty and ought to be deeply ashamed. Therefore he was able to humble to bear all the offenses against God.

※【Arrogant and self-deceiving】1-10 Assyria was the lead of the nations like a tall cedar in Lebanon with beautiful branches towered on high. The beasts shaded under him. For generations, the nations were under his protection. His power exceeded the surrounding nations. Even the trees of the garden of Eden envied him. But he was arrogant and self-deceiving. He did not know it was God who made him flourish and prosperous! This teaches us not to be arrogant but to humble and submit under the hands of God. Nor should we be self-deceiving or thought ourselves terrific. What do we have that we did not receive? We ought to be contrite and humble like Aaron, then we may be a priest to bear the weakness of others.

4.【Be humble and watchful】1-7 The important duty of the descendants of Aaron was to be alert to watch over the sanctuary and the altar lest wrath came again to the Israelites. God gave the ministry of a priest to them as a gift to serve Him and it was a great favor! Therefore we ought to be faithful to His assignment, and be humble and watchful to serve in a dedicated manner.

※【Boastful and arrogant】1-10 Assyria was the rod of God's anger and the club of His wrath. God sent him against a godless nation to discipline a people who angered Him. But he was arrogant and destroyed totally. He also boasted against God as if its top was above the thick foliage and the trees in heaven were not as beautiful as him. (Isa 10:5-7) So, our old self is like this too! We ought to deal with the arrogance of our old self. Then we may be humble and watchful to be dutiful to accomplish our work.

5.【Submit to God's power】1-7, 22-23 The Levites could not go near the furnishings of the sanctuary or the altar. They were chosen by God to join Aaron and serve him. Therefore they had to keep God's order and be responsible for the care of the Tent of Meeting and all the work at the Tent. They had to submit to authority without overriding their position. The Israelites could not go near the Tent of Meeting. The Levites had to do the work at the Tent of Meeting and bear the responsibility for offenses against it. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

※【Stand on the position of God】1-10 God used the frenzy, arrogance and punishment of Assyria to warn Egypt. Egypt too was domineering and insufferably arrogant. Pharaoh took the position of God and thought himself as wise as a god. He did not submit to authority. He did not know God was the Most High and unique. Egypt and Assyria represented the enemies in our heart and the anti-God power. In order to minister faithfully, we must use the power of the throne to overcome them and unite with the Lord to submit to God's power and overcome ourselves and the world.

**B. Serve the Lord humbly and enjoy the abundance; arrogant and ungrateful will fail**

Enjoy the abundance (Num 18:8-32) - Encounter defeat (Eze 31:11-18)

1.【Enjoy the reward】8-24 The priests were specially chosen by God to set apart and serve Him wholeheartedly. They had no share or inheritance in Israel. God was their inheritance and their share. (Deu 18:1-5) They enjoyed whatever was set aside from the gifts of all the wave offerings of the Israelites. Every male might eat the part of the most holy offerings that was kept from the fire. Everyone in the household of the priest who was ceremonially clean might eat the rest of the holy offerings. Everything in Israel that was devoted to the Lord was theirs. It was an everlasting covenant of salt before God. The Levite too had no share and no inheritance in Israel. They had to work at the Tent of Meeting; therefore they were given their reward. The tithes that the Israelites presented as an offering to the Lord were given to the Levites.

※【Be avenged】11-18 God is righteous. He will give to each person according to what he has done. (Ro 2:6) Assyria and Egypt were proud and had forgotten themselves. Thus God raised those who were powerful among the nations to deal with them and they were avenged. The priests and the Levites set apart for the Lord and served before Him. Thus they enjoyed the everlasting share as a reward. The ruin of Egypt brought a warning to the neighboring countries so they might not be proud.

2.【Give thanks and offer the best】25-32 The Levites were favored to enjoy the tithes from the Israelites presented as an offering to the Lord. They too ought to obey God's order to present a tithe as offering to give thanks to the Lord to repay His kindness. The best part which they had presented would go to the priests. In this way, the Levites would not be guilty of defiling the holy offerings.

※【Did not ascribe glory to God】11-18 Pharaoh the Egyptian king was incomparable in his splendor and majesty among the trees of Eden. But he did not know that all the abundance and honor he enjoyed was from God. He did not give the glory to God. Therefore he would be brought to the earth below among the uncircumcised and forever destroyed. The Egyptians attached great importance to circumcision and burial. They considered going to the grave among the uncircumcised was shameful. This also warned the Israelites not to lean on to Egypt but to enjoy the Lord's safe pasture. God's promises are faithful. The Israelites shall bring the whole tithe into the storehouse and give to the Levites. Then God will throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing. (Mal 3:10)

**Ps 135 / Rev 18:3 Main theme: Being tempted and fall; give thanks and pray watchfully, and overcome the enemy to take possession of the land**

**-Pray watchfully / Fallen**

To unite with the world like Solomon, Saul, Samson and Balaam etc, their result is fallen.

(1)【Obey the Lord's name and minister in the Lord】1-4 Call on the Lord's name and you will be saved. The Lord's name is the Word of God. (Rev 19:13) The Lord's Word cleanses whoever believes in Him and sanctify him to be His faithful servant, so he may stand firm in the truth and be watchful for the whole house of God. This is the people chosen by God.

(2)【God will do great for those who obey Him】5-14 He will clear away all their inner and outer strong enemies so they may take possession of the land. God's words always stand firm and His name endures through all generations. God's people were once led astray and failed. But after God's discipline, He has compassion on them and vindicated his people.

(3)【Worship idols and become a deadly life person】15-18 The idols are wrapped with gold and silver. They are shining and charming. If we do not pray watchfully, we will be led astray. Our hearts become calloused and can hardly hear with our ears. Our eyes are closed and cannot pray with our mouth. Nor can we speak any words of God and thus become a living dead man who will harm ourselves and others.

(4)【Give praise to God when favored】19-21 God's children who violate and rebel will fall in the desert. But those who fear the Lord, are far from evil and obey the Word by Him till the end can persist in His grace. Thus we ought to praise the Lord.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not be arrogant, do not be be tempted; be dutiful, obedient and take possession of the land**

Dear Lord, may you let me be humble in trembling, be faithful to serve, bear others' weakness and intercede for them and lead men from death to life.

**Num 19 / Eze 32**

**Main theme: Be cleansed and save men by the Lord; be wanton, harm others and go down to the pit**

**-Redeem / Doom to destruction (Consecrate / Harm oneself)**

Golden verses: Num 19:9 Eze 32:14

A discussion on redemption and doom to destruction - on one side it concerned God ordered to burn a red heifer to ashes to make the water of cleansing so that whoever touched the dead body of anyone would be cleansed. On the other side it concerned Egypt (the world) was punished for being proud like those nations who were against God with the same result. This teaches us to cleanse our trespasses and iniquities with the water of cleansing. We also need to grab the lost souls away from death lest they will doom to destruction.

**A. Do not be proud lest we may fall; by redemption our sins may be removed**

Save others (Num 19:1-10) - Harm others (Eze 32:1-16)

1.【Deny oneself to save others】1-3 God ordered to slaughter a red heifer without defect or blemish and that had never been under a yoke and burn completely outside the camp. This heifer was the representation of Christ's sacrifice for men. Christ is the heifer who is holy, righteous, without sin, without blemish and has never been under a yoke. He had become for us the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in sinful man to wash away our sins like scarlet. (Ro 8:3; Isa 1:18) As the Scripture says, "Christ gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father." (Gal 1:4)

※【Scourge the people】1-2 God's words came to Ezekiel the prophet again. He ordered him to continue to prophesy against Egypt that punishment would come. Pharaoh the Egyptian king was like a lion among the nations. He was once mighty and originally the head of the nations. He was like a monster rampaging in the seas, churning the water with his ruthless feet. He scourged the people and muddied the streams and brought disasters to the neighboring countries. On one side was the heifer that represented Christ while on the other side was the monster that represented Pharaoh. On one side was denying oneself to save others while the other side was bringing calamity to the country and to the people. Is our heart reigned by our old self or by Christ? Is sin be the king or righteousness be the king?

2.【Be petty and low】1-3 The red heifer was silently led to the place of slaughter representing the humble sacrifice of Christ. He obeyed willingly without resistance and died for us on the cross (Php 2:6-10) to be the good witness!

※【Seek hegemony】1-16 Pharaoh was proud of his power. He dominated in the seas with great power. He was presumptuous and self-deceiving. Compared with the lowly image of Christ, there was a great contrast. By the sword of Babylon, God would make the brutal fighters of Egypt fall. Their pride would come to nothing and the land became desolate. We ought to take the Lord's yoke upon us and learn from Him, for He is gentle and humble in heart and lowly to the end. Therefore God exalted him to the highest. (Mt 11:29)

3.【The effect of redemption】1-10 The whole of the heifer was burned outside the camp. The priest had to take some cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet wool and throw them onto the fire to be burned to ashes. By the cross, the body of sin might be done away with. (Ro 6:6; Gal 5:24;6:14) Then he would gather up the ashes and used in the water of cleansing for purification from sin. This represented Christ gave himself as a ransom for all men. Only His blood may atone sins forever and lead us to be near God. (1 Ti 2:6) This shows the great effect of the redemption of Christ.

※【The power of judgment】1-16 Due to pride, Pharaoh the Egyptian king bullied and created confusion. Thus God declared his day of judgment was near. God raised Babylon and a great throng of people to cast the net of God's judgment upon him to haul him up to be thrown on the mountains and be hurled on the open field to be eaten by the beasts so the valleys were filled with their remains. On one side we see the price of death of Christ's redemption. On the other side we see the deserved judgment of Pharaoh. One side was the everlasting effect of Christ's redemption while on the other was the incomparable majesty of God's judgment. Christ's redemption makes us come out of darkness into His light. When Pharaoh was snuffed out, heaven and earth were darkened; the sun and the moon did not give their light. The church ought to be a lamp of salvation that shines on earth so men will abandon the dark and come to light and be favored by deliverance to avoid the judgment of the last day.

4.【Enjoy salvation together】9-10 God ordered the ashes of the red heifer to be used in the water of cleansing for the community of Israel. The effect of redemption was also prepared for the aliens living among them. This was the everlasting ordinance showing God's love was great, so that the Gentiles and God's people might both enjoy the salvation.

※【Suffer affliction together】1-16 The rumor of punishment and destruction of Egypt troubled the hearts of many peoples and made them tremble. God brandished the sword toward Egypt before many peoples and their kings so he fell down. The punishment of Egypt became a warning to the nations. On one side was God's redemption also came to the aliens living in Israel. On the other side was God's punishment toward Egypt brought disaster to many peoples so they constantly lived in fear and trembling for their life. On one side showed God's mercy while the other showed God's righteousness. The last day will come. Who can escape from the wrath of the Lamb on the throne?

5.【The everlasting song of joy】1-10 God ordered the red heifer be burned to ashes and used in the water of cleansing for purification from sin and impurity. This water of cleansing is the fountain to wash away sin opened by God, the fountain of salvation. We will forever sing the joyous song of salvation to proclaim the gospel of Christ so men may draw water from the wells of salvation. (Isa 12:3)

※【The everlasting lament】1-16 The disasters of Egypt represented the calamity that will soon come upon the world. All the abundance, wealth and the power of Egypt had turned instantly to nothing. The prophet obeyed to take a lament for Pharaoh the Egyptian king. The daughters of the nations would mourn for her disasters. The destruction of this world will become an everlasting lament. "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." (2 Co 6:2)

**B. By the redemption of the Lord, obey to consecrate lest we may doom to destruction**

Be redeemed (Num19:11-22) - Everlasting destruction (Eze 32:17-32)

1.【Be cleansed by grace】11-13 The water of cleansing was the only way of deliverance prepared by God for the people who was defiled by the dead body while they were on their journey in the desert. (Ac 4:12) Whoever touched the dead body would be unclean for seven days. On the third day, he had to purify himself by the water of cleansing. Then on the seventh day, he would be clean. This teaches us we have to be cleansed by grace and not by our own method. The dead body represented the secular impurity. If the people were contaminated, they would defile the Tent of Meeting of the Lord because God dwelled in the tent of Israel. How watchful they had to be, to be away from all impurity and detestable things.

※【By ourselves we will go down to the pit】17-32 On the fifteenth of December, the word of God came to Ezekiel the prophet again. He obeyed to wail for the hordes of Egypt. The Egyptians had been boasting of the beauty and abundance brought by the Nile. They thought they had made it for themselves. (Eze 29:3) "Are they more favored than others?" They would soon go down to the pit with the daughters of might nations and be laid among the uncircumcised. The once mighty leaders had already fell down to the pit. Where was their beauty? Egypt was also thrown in the grave. The world and its lust were like unclean dead body. We must set apart to be holy for the Lord and be cleansed by grace lest we will be destroyed like the mortal men.

2.【Be cut off for not consecrating】14-22 No matter inside or outside the tent, whoever touched the dead body would be unclean for seven days, whether in the open field or in the grave. They had to pour the living water on the ashes of cleansing and take some hyssop and sprinkle the water on the unclean so he might be cleansed. This was done by faith and the Holy Spirit to cleanse and be holy. (1 Co 6:11) But the one who was unclean and did not purify himself would be cut off from the community lest he defile the sanctuary.

※【Rely on wealth will doom to everlasting destruction】17-32 After Egypt went down to the grave, he met those who were strong before, Assyria, Elam, Meshech, Tubal, Edom and Sidon. They did all kinds of evil on earth and made others tremble in the land of the living. They oppressed others by their wealth. Now they all had the same fate and were thrown in the grave and never be remembered by men. How empty is the worldly honor, wealth and force! Those who depend on wealth and merchandise boast. They are proud of their power and will not cleanse themselves. Not one can redeem themselves from God's wrath. They will be forever cut off. (Ps 49:6-7)

**Ps 136 / Rev 18:4 Main theme: By God's everlasting love and almighty, we may exit the world and overcome the enemy to take possession of the land**

**-Give thanks / Come out**

Listen to the voice from heaven: God's children need to come out from the power of the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does, lest we may be afflicted by sin. But we may come out only by trusting in the Lord.

(1)【Listen completely to the Lord and seek good for God is Almighty】1-20 Be favored by faith. We ought to give thanks to God for His enduring love and obey the Lord's words and seek good earnestly. Love the Lord wholeheartedly and you will see his almighty. He created everything. He created something from nothing. He made the great lights. If we obey His words and cleanse ourselves, we will be an instrument for noble purposes and mightily used by the Lord. If we obey the Lord, the Red Sea which cannot be crossed over will become walkable. God can make those amazing great enemies surrender and destroy them.

(2)【Humble to obey the Word and take possession of the land and benefit men】21-26 If we really obey the Lord's Word, we will truly be His people and take possession of the land. If we always humble and tremble at the Lord's words, God will take care and keep us safe. He will send us out to rescue the thirsty souls of the world. We ought to give thanks and sing praise to the Lord for all the help from heaven so we may glorify God and benefit men.

**Central point of the wheels: By the Lord's everlasting love, consecrate and**

**depart from sin to save men from death**

Dear Lord, may you let me be consecrated by grace, be far away from sin, preach salvation and lead others to be saved lest we may doom to destruction.

**Num 20 / Eze 33**

**Main theme:** **Honor God as holy, preach God's words and His words come true**

**-Take lesson / Warning (Violate / Self-deceiving)**

Golden verses: Num 20:12 Eze 33:11

A discussion on taking a lesson and warning - on one side it concerned Moses was attacked and incited due to the Israelites quarreled for water. They did not honor God as holy and violated His order. As a result they and Aaron could not enter the promise land. On the other side it concerned God set Ezekiel as the watchman of the house of Israel. He was faithful and watchful to warn people. God's mind does not desire the wicked and righteous men to die. We ought to take a lesson from the failure of the antecessors and consider the heart of God to be a faithful watchman to warn others to turn from evil. Then we may receive the everlasting inheritance from God.

**A. Not be the flesh but honor God as holy and warn other to turn from evil**

Rebuke angrily (Num 20:1-13) - Warn (Eze 33:1-16)

1.【Cannot enter the good land】1 After the Israelites had circled around the desert for thirty eight years, they arrived Kadesh. Miriam the prophetess of the age died there. She once led the women dance and sang the song of salvation by the Red Sea. But she was not able to stand the long test in the desert and became jealous of Moses and slandered with Aaron. She was punished and could not enter the good land. We too ought to tremble and take the lesson to bury our hidden jealousy in Kadesh so we may enter the good land promised by God.

※【Be turned away from the good land】The background of this chapter was after the subjugation of Judah (verses 21-22). Israel was originally the prince of God full of honor among the peoples. They were the people specially chosen by God. But due to rebellion they abandoned God, worshiped idols and committed adultery. Thus they provoked God's anger and were driven out of the good land with the same tragic result of Miriam. We ought to put the flesh to death by the Holy Spirit, bury the old self and keep the good inheritance given by God to us.

2.【Did not take the lesson】2-9 Though the new generation who grew up in the desert saw by themselves the previous generation fell in the desert due to rebellion, they did not take it as their warning. When the community had no water, they gathered to attack Moses and Aaron repeating the same error. This did not take the lesson and sinned greatly against God.

※【Did not take the warning】1-5 Ezekiel obeyed to tell the people of the duty of a watchman so when they heard the trumpet they might take warning without dying of sin. Whoever heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning, his blood would be on his own head. If he had taken warning, he would have saved himself. The new generation of Israelites still did not take warning and failed God's expectation. We ought to be humble and contrite in spirit, and tremble at the Lord's words, then we will save ourselves.

3.【Prostrate and intercede】6 Other than enduring silently when faced with the unreasonable argument of the people, Moses and Aaron withdrew to the door of the Tent of Meeting and prostrated before God to seek an answer. Thus the glory of the Lord appeared to them. God condescended and bore their burden. He told Moses to take the staff together with Aaron and stand before the community and speak to that rock so it might pour out water for the community and the animals to drink.

※【Be the watchman】7-9 Though the house of Judah was already subjugated and taken captive, God's mind was still on His people. God set Ezekiel to be the watchman of the house of Israel to warn them to turn from evil and avoid death. This showed that God was expecting the wicked to repent and did not delight in their death. Similarly, God cared about the people and ordered to give them water. This exhibited God's mercy and compassionate heart. All watchmen of the age shall on one side retreat before God and prostrate to intercede and on the other side warn the people who is doing wicked. God stated very clearly that if the watchman did not speak out to dissuade the wicked, God would hold him accountable. As Paul said, "Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1Co 9:16) How important it is for the watchmen to carry the duty to rescue men from death!

4.【Violate God's command】10-13 Faced with millions of the community who attacked him, Moses could not endure the fury in his heart. His anger caught him. He rebuked them hardly and fiercely struck the rock twice violating God's order. Moses was the watchman of the whole house of Israel but he was not constantly watchful over himself. Thus he was incited and said rash words and caused trouble! (Ps 106:32-33) He should have waited for God to handle. But he did not exalt God as holy and as a result he was punished by God. Both he and Aaron could not enter the promised land.

※【Honor God as holy】10-16 "Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel!" Ezekiel was the watchman put up by God. Every word and phrase declared by him to the house of Israel expressed the mind of God. Though he had to face a rebellious house whose forehead was hard and the heart was obstinate (Eze 3:1-11), he was not at all infuriated. He did not do by his will but proclaimed God's words faithfully without error. God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Nor does God take pleasure in the death of the righteous due to his evil. God wants us to turn from the evil way and do what is just and right, follow the decrees that give life and do no evil. Then we will live. The watchman must consider the mind of God, exalt Him as holy and proclaim whatever God orders. Moses was caught by his flesh and did not consider God's love. God was not angry but he was angry. He did what God did not command. How regretful that he was unable to enter the good land! In everything Ezekiel exalted God as holy. He was a faithful watchman and an example of all workers.

**B. Do not be self-deceiving, turn from evil and inherit the land, the Lord's words will fulfill**

Violate the command (Num 20:14-29) - Self-deceiving (Eze 33:17-33)

1.【Presumptuous and unreasonable】14-21 The king of Edom was presumptuous and unreasonable. He did not allow the Israelites to pass through his territory and threatened to attack them. Though Moses said in a humble manner, he did not show the least bit of brotherly affection. Later on, he became worse still as their enemy for generations. Thus the Israelites turned away and bypassed Edom. They did not fight with the flesh for God would deal with each man according to all he did.

※【God will judge】17-22 In order to rescue the captive, God wanted the prophet to declare the way of the Lord was just. He would judge each one according to his own ways. What God stresses is that men truly return to good. God loved Jacob but hated Esau. (mal 1:2-3) God's judgment on Edom was just. Edom did not show mercy and judgment without mercy would be shown to anyone who had not been merciful. (Jas 2:13; Ob 1:21)

2.【Violate the command and be punished】22-28 Though Aaron was specially chosen by God as the first high priest of Israel, he too was punished with Moses for violating His command and could not enter the promised good land. This displayed that among those who approached God, He would show Himself holy! Aaron died on Mount Hor. His son Eleazar continued to be the high priest so the service in the Tent of Meeting was continued to the next generation.

※【Self-deceiving and be punished】23-29 When the city of Jerusalem fell, the remaining people thought Abraham was only one man, yet he possessed the land. But they were many; surely the land had been given to them as their possession confidently. They did not learn from their forefathers to be faithful to God. Instead they committed all kinds of sins and were no different from the captives. Such self-deception would certainly be under the judgment of God. They ate meat with the blood still in it and looked to their idols. They shed blood and committed detestable things like committing adultery. How could they possess the land? God would make their land desolate and terrifying. Then they would know that the Lord is God. Even Aaron the high priest was avenged due to violation, let alone the sinful people. We must not be self-deceiving. We ought to turn from evil, then we may enter the good land.

3.【Mourn and take lesson】29 The death of Aaron brought great sorrow to the whole house of Israel. They mourned for him thirty days. Aaron could not enter the land of Canaan and this was a serious lesson to all the priests, Levites and leaders. We ought to know the Lord is a God majestic in holiness and awesome in glory. The leaders were punished for committing sins and we must take this lesson!

※【Listen but does not act】30-33 It was regretful that the captives asked the prophet of the prophecy while they were listening and discussing. However, they listened but did not put them into practice. They did not wail or take any lesson. With their mouths they expressed devotion, but their hearts were greedy for unjust gain and treated the words of the prophet as a love song. But God comforted the prophet that the words he proclaimed would be fulfilled and soon be fulfilled. Due to violation, Aaron could not enter Canaan but died in the desert. This teaches us we ought to listen and act, act and be firm on God's orders.

**Ps 137 / Rev 18:5 Main theme: Blessed is he who loves the Lord above everything and hates sin to the utmost**

**-Love the Lord / Hate sin**

Do not think that God does not mind that sins fill the earth and unrighteousness is everywhere and we may still enjoy sumptuously. This is God's tolerance. When God comes to account for the days, where can we stand by then?

(1)【Worry what the Lord worries】1-4 It is not by kneeling down to drink by the rivers of Babylon, but to remember the holy mountain. How can we sing and make music at times of captivity?

(2)【Love the Lord above everything】5-6 God's mind is to let salvation be proclaimed to all nations through Jerusalem. We ought to learn from Daniel to focus constantly at God's plan and call on the holy city three times a day. Even though we may be thrown into the lions' den, we will not stop. This is truly loving God above everything.

(3)【Hate sin to the utmost】7-9 Further we have to hate the enemies the most for the enemies kill God's people through crime. Therefore we do not look at or be afraid of Babylon's prosperity and power. Her final days will soon come. Edom who is on the side of the enemies will also receive his retribution. We must be thorough in removing evil. Do not show pity to their infants but to dash them fiercely to death. Just like Peter who tried to do

favor at no great cost to himself, he exhorted the Lord not to take the suffering of the cross. The Lord severely rebuked him in front of the people, "Get behind me, Satan!" The Lord also said a little lustful or evil thought will drag us to hell. Thus we ought to have the determination to die to remove all wickedness by the Lord.

**Central point of the wheels: Honor God as holy, love God and hate sin, warn and save men**

Dear Lord, may you let me listen in trembling, honor you as holy, be a faithful watchman to warn others to turn from evil and return to God!

**Num 21 / Eze 34**

**Main theme: The evil shepherd fattens himself; the good shepherd listens to the command to lead the sheep to inherit the land**

**-The good shepherd / the evil shepherd (Deny oneself / fatten oneself)**

Golden verses: Num 21:8-9 Eze 34:15-16

A discussion on good shepherd and evil shepherd - on one side it concerned Moses endured the complaint of the people and continued to lead them in the desert journey to overcome the ferocious enemies East of River Jordan. On the other side it concerned Ezekiel severely rebuked the evil shepherds of Israel. They only took care of themselves without caring for the injured and lost sheep. We ought to consider the mind of God to deny ourselves to suffer and seek the lost sheep and take care of them according to the will of God so they may enjoy the rest and abundance of God.

**A. Do not fatten oneself, lead others to be saved and gain the living water**

Deny oneself (Num 21:1-20) - Fatten oneself (Eze 34:1-16)

1.【Overcome the enemy by God】1-3 The king of Arad who lived in the Negev heard that the great army of Israel was pressing on to the border. He immediately led his troops to attack. This time the people took the previous painful lesson (Num 14:39-45) and dared not fight by presumption. Instead they humbly vowed to God and asked for help. As a result, they were granted by God and were victorious. They completely destroyed them. They experienced God's presence and faithfulness and rejoiced.

※【Anti-God brings disasters】1-10 The kings of Israel ought to have imitated king David to follow God's will to shepherd the Israelites and lead them to destroy the surrounding enemies. But they were contemptuous and did not trust in God leading to the captivity of the people and subjugation and God's expectation was let down. God would let them be accountable. God called on the shepherds to listen to His words. This teaches us we ought to obey and trust God in everything. Then God will help us to overcome evil. If we are rebellious, God will be against us and we will encounter shameful result.

2.【Deny oneself to shepherd the sheep】4-7 Under the leading of Moses, the people continued to go forward. They had to go around the land of Edom along the route to the Red Sea. The people were corrupt in flesh. Due to the road was long and uneasy, they spoke against God and Moses. They also detested the manna and felt it miserable. Moses had shepherded them for forty years through the vast and dreadful desert and endured the people's attack again and again. When they were troubled by the venomous snakes and cried out, Moses denied himself to be faithful. Again he interceded for the sinful people to seek God's forgiveness.

※【Only take care of oneself】1-3 Woe, the shepherds of Israel were selfish who only took care of themselves. Not only did they not be dutiful to shepherd the people of God, they devoured the people, ate the curds and clothes themselves with the wool. Moses was a good shepherd who denied himself. But they were greedy and shameless bad shepherds who fattened themselves.

3.【Were saved and went forward】8-10 The flesh of the people did not die. They craved for Egypt like being bitten by the snake. Therefore God used venomous snakes to punish them, so they would suffer and then turn to God for forgiveness. Due to the intercession of love by Moses, the merciful God prepared a wonderful method for those who were bitten by the snake. God ordered Moses to make a bronze snake and put it up on a pole, so whoever was bitten could look at it and live. This represented Christ was being put on the cursed cross, that everyone who believed in Him may have eternal life. (Jn 3:15; Gal 3:13) The people were favored and healed. They continued to go forward.

※【Were harmed and lost】4-6 The kings throughout the generations of Israel were like bad shepherds. They were selfish and covetous. They did not care for the life and death of the flock. Thus they wandered and suffered. God's people was for a long time under the severe oppression and ravage from Assyria, Egypt, and Babylon just like a weak and sick flock scattered among the nations suffering painful torment without anyone to look for. Moses represented Christ, only Christ is the good Shepherd. He will not only lay down his life for the flock but he also seeks and saves what was lost. (Lk 19:10) We too ought to consider God's mind to seek the lost sheep, so they will look up to the cross and be saved and not be lost again.

4.【Drink the living water and go to the mountain top】11-20 The Israelite division came to Beer and dug a well for water to enjoy the living water of the Holy Spirit among the vast desert. This was God's wonderful spiritual favor. On one side they praise by faith and sang to the well, "Spring up, O well!" On the other side there were leaders and nobles with scepters and staffs. They gained the living water of the Holy Spirit which is not by men's way, but by the leading of the princes. They dug up all the blockage completely and saw the flowing of the water. They drank with joy and were full of the power of the Holy Spirit. They climbed from the valley in Moab to the top of Pisgah and overlooked the promised good land full of rejoice.

※【Return to the good land to enjoy abundance】11-16 God's promise and the prophecy of the prophet are true and trustworthy. The time will come and God himself will search the captives and lead them to their own land. He himself will be the shepherd. He will shepherd the flock with justice in the ravines and in all the good pasture. He will heal the injured. But he will destroy the sleek and the strong (the leaders who oppressed the people). The people will return just like the Israelites marched in the desert. God will bestow a well of living water. However, we must dig out all our wickedness, then we may gain the living water. Christ is our fountain of living water. We need to dig out every greed and selfishness and sing by faith. Then we will gain the living water of the Holy Spirit and ascend the spiritual peak and continue the march to gain the good land promised by God.

**B. Overcome the enemy and gain the land, return and be blessed for the Lord's words will come true**

Overcome the enemy (Num 21:21-35) - Live in peace (Eze 34:17-31)

1.【Do wicked and be avenged】21-32 The Israelites sent messengers to the Amorite king to for a passage to pass. But Sihon the Amorite king was tyrannical and unreasonable. He started a war with the Israelites. He was presumptuous and arrogant. But the people destroyed them by God and took all their cities. His land came to the hands of the Israelites. From verses 27-30 was an ancient battle song describing Sihon the Amorite king devoured Moab. He had a glorious victory and all the triumphant news came. But when his head was turned by success, he was destroyed by the army of the Lord. He who does evil will be avenged.

※【Do wicked and be punished】17-22 God would execute judgment in His flock to uphold righteousness and rescue the weak. Those 'sleek and strong sheep' were crafty and seized. They grabbed to enjoy the good pasture and drink the clean water. Then they ferociously trampled and muddied the water. They but the weak sheep with their horns. God would execute judgment. Those religious leaders were the same. They let their old self be the king and were blinded by gain, just like the Amorite king was overbearing and wishfully thought he might eat up the people of God by one mouthful. The Most High God would make righteous judgment.

2.【Overcome the enemy and gain the land】33-35 How faithful was God's promise! How he promised he would fulfill. Og king of Bashan became arrogant when he saw the troops of Israel was heading towards them. He led his army and fought with them. Under the guidance of Moses and the promise and faith of God, they fought bravely against the enemy like what they did to Sihon the Amorite king. They destroyed them totally leaving no survivors and they took the land east of Jordan.

※【Live peacefully in the good land】23-31 God's eternal plan was on Israel and Mount Zion. His will could not be rejected. How God's promise was fulfilled on the forefathers to destroy the enemies completely and gain the land east of Jordan, it would be fulfilled on the descendants also. The prophet prophesied God would place over them a descendant of David (Christ) to be a good shepherd. He himself would shepherd the captives and set a covenant of peace with them to rid the land of wild beasts so they might live in the good land peacefully forever and become a fountain of blessing. Similarly, when our lives have been dealt with and all inner enemies been destroyed by the Holy Spirit without being a slave to sin, we too will enjoy the presence of God's peace, freedom and abundance in the redemption of Christ.

**Ps 138 / Rev 18:6 Main theme: Sin brings double the revenge; pray watchfully and obey the Word then blessings surpass the promise**

**-Double the reward / Double the punishment**

The great prostitute tempted all the people in the world. She was drunk with the

blood of the saints and will have to pay back double the punishment.

(1)【The Lord's words exalt above all things】1-2 God will treat those who obey the Lord's words with love and faithfulness, and even for more than He promised. Didn't Joseph and Job receive more than they expected?

(2)【Call humbly and be stouthearted to obey the Word】3-6 God let those who prayed humbly be stouthearted, so they might obey the Lord's Word to glorify God and benefit men. But those who did not inquire of God or overcome sin by the Lord like Esau and Samson, they were proud and failed disgracefully at the end.

(3)【The Lord will save me and guard me】7-8 We ought to obey the Word by the Lord. Though we may be in trouble or distress, the Lord will save me and fulfill his purpose for me. I will look up to the Lord's mercy and tremble to accomplish His work. May the Lord do not abandon me so I will be favored, loved and sustained.

**Central point of the wheels: Prioritize the Lord's word, deny oneself and shepherd the sheep, destroy the enemy and take possession of the land**

Dear Lord, may you raise up faithful shepherds who are willing to deny themselves to seek the lost sheep and take care of your church according to your will.

**Num 22 / Eze 35**

**Main theme: Greedy and hateful, overtaken by sin and take the road to one's doom**

**-Greed for wealth / Hatred**

Golden verses: 22:12 Eze 35:13-14

A discussion on coveting wealth and hatred - on one side it concerned Balaam became the accomplice of the king of Moab because he was greedy for the unrighteous fee. As a result he depraved and became a false prophet. He neglected God's repeated hindrance to act corruptly to curse the people of God. On the other side it concerned Edom's hatred toward Israel was unyielding as the grave. Thus revenge would overtake them. This warns us that we ought to remove the covetousness and jealousy in our heart lest we may run a sinful destructive path.

**A. Do not be covetous, do not be hateful; obey God's will to avoid the punishment**

Greedy for wealth (Num 22:1-20) - hatred (Eze 35:1-9)

1.【Hatred and murder】1-6 The Israelites came to the plains of Moab which was the last stop before the people crossed the river to gain the land. They met the challenge from the Moabites and the Midianites that was Satan's damage on God's will. Balak (the destroyer) the Moabite king saw that the Amorites fell tragically before the Israelites. He was afraid this would threaten his interest. When he saw the people of God, he feared and hated them. Then he joined the Midianites to deal with Israel. Balak was full of tricks and vicious. He sent messengers to invite Balaam to come afar to put a curse on God's people.

※【Hatred and homicide】1Before the return and revival of the Israelites, the prophet was ordered to set his face against Mount Seir to prophesy against Edom. For generations Edom was against the people of God. He did not show mercy and gloated. When the Israelites were in distress, he did not only looked on unconcerned, he even took the chance to take revenge. Moab and Edom were related to the chosen people of God by blood, but they were full of hatred. They became the enemies of their kindred and were against God. Did we conceal any hatred on our brothers in our heart? Whoever hates his brother in is the darkness. Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer. (1 Jn 2:11; 3:15) We ought to seek peace and love one another to remove every jealousy and hatred within churches and families and live out the love of Christ. (Col 3:12-15)

2.【Ask while knowing the answer】7-14 The elders of Moab and Midian used money as a bait to summon Balaam to put a curse on God's people. Their intention was evil. In the book of Revelation we also see the beast and the false prophet acted in collusion together to harm the people of God. Balaam who was greedy for wealth knowingly understood God's righteousness and awe. God would not tolerate anyone to curse His people. But he was unwilling to give up the benefits before his very eyes. He knowingly inquire to disguise his covetous nature. God's answer was certain. How could he curse the people! Balaam could only give up and reluctantly refused the invitation of the messengers.

※【knowingly violate】1 Edom was the brother of Jacob, the descendant of Esau. They knowingly knew Israel was the chosen tribe of God and a descendant blessed by God. But he harbored an ancient hostility and was against them just like Balaam coveted fee for divination from Balak and knowingly inquired. He sinned purposely and sinned more and more.

3.【Deceitful and self-deceiving】15-20 Faced with the more numerous princes who were more distinguished than the first and the more reward, Balaam had long drooled. But before the messengers, he pretended to refuse and said, "Even if Balak gave me his palace filled with silver and gold, I could not do anything great or small to go beyond the command of the Lord my God." This exposed the true face of his cunning and deception. "With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain." The result of inquiring was, though God allowed him to go, He strictly warned him, "do only what I tell you".

※【Overtaken by sin】2-9 Ezekiel the prophet was just opposite to the greedy prophets. He obeyed God's will firmly and prophesied faithfully. He never tried to please men nor compromise. Through him God prophesied Mount Seir would be a desolate waste forever without any inhabitant. Edom killed and shed blood and was not compassionate to his brother. Thus God would deliver him to the sword. The retribution for sin would pursue him. Then he would know the Lord. Retribution would come to all nations and people who brought harm to God's people. Balaam did not hate sin and would ultimately be overtaken by it and he was killed with the Midianites. Woe to them! They have taken the way of Cain; they have rushed for profit into Balaam's error. (Jude :11)

**B. Do not walk one's own way, do not slander, die to the old self to avoid being judged**

God is angered (Num 22:21-41) - God judges (Eze 35:10-15)

1.【Greedy for wealth and rebellious】21-30 Balaam was greedy for the reward. He bent on his own way and ran the rebellious road. Though God allowed him to go, He was angry with him. The angel drew the sword and for thrice he blocked his way. The donkey was blocked and turned off the road into a field. She had no way and crushed Balaam's foot. Finally she laid down under Balaam. But Balaam was still obstinate. He beat the donkey for three times and would have killed her right then. Ultimately God spoke to Balaam through the donkey. Balaam was greedy for money. His rebellion had reached to a point which could not be more.

※【Greedy and jealous】10-11 Edom was full of hatred for Israel because their land was fertile and produced abundantly while Mount Seir was desolate and barren. They were ambitious on Israel. Now that these two nations were facing foreign aggression, they took advantage of this and occupied their territory. Balaam was blindly covetous. He acted perversely so God was angry with him. Edom seized the possession of Israel and God would judge them. God will never abandon His people. "Even though I the Lord was there." The land of Canaan will always be God's inheritance under His hands and no one can take it away.

2.【Act corruptly】31-35 Balaam was blinded by the bribery of the enemy. He could not see the angel draw out the sword to kill him until God opened his eyes. Then he was terrified and fell facedown. Though he acknowledged in his lips 'I have sinned', his heart was greedy for unjust gain. Thus he acted corruptly and was hell-bent to resist stubbornly to God's will. God could only let him run his destructive way without remedy.

※【God examines】12-13 Edom was boastful and against God. He attacked the mountains of Israel and said, "They have been laid waste and have been given over to us to devour." God had heard all the presumptuous and slanderous words. Balaam turned to his own way and did not submit to discipline. God saw his presumptuous action in rejecting His will. The righteous God examines men's heart and mind. He is everywhere. Does He not fill heaven and earth? (Jer 23:24)

3.【Run toward destruction】36-41 Finally Balaam got his wish and went to the Moabite town. The Moabite king personally went out to meet him and set a great feast and regarded him as an important guest. Balaam ate and drank with the enemy of God and ran a path of destruction with them.

※【Do evil and be avenged】14-15 Ezekiel the prophet suffered all his life to proclaim the Word to please God. He firmly obeyed God's orders and declared His prophecy. The prophet prophesied Israel would revive later and rejoice. Edom rejoiced when the inheritance of the house of Israel became desolate. Thus God would make them forever desolate. Then they would know the Lord was God. The jealousy and hatred of the Moabites, the gloating of Edom and Balaam, the accomplice of Balak would all receive the righteous retribution of God. "Lord God Almighty, true and just are your judgments." Rev 16:7)

**Ps 139 / Rev 18:7 Main theme: He who glorifies himself or be self-deceiving will go to destruction; he who examines himself and consecrate will live forever**

**-Consecrate / Self-deceiving**

The prostitute glorifies herself and is self-deceiving. Thus her ending is destruction. We ought to consecrate completely and run an everlasting path.

(1)【God examines me and knows me full well】1-6 God is all knowing. Thus we ought to live before God in every act and every move and every word. God's unsearchable love will set His eyes on His children.

(2)【I have no place to hide from God】7-12 God is everywhere. Even though we flee to the heaven or hide in the depths or fly to the end of the earth or hide in the darkness, we cannot escape from the hands of God.

(3)【I am fearfully and wonderfully made】13-18 God is omnipotent. If we humble before God's words, we will be edified to become an instrument fit for His use. Whoever loves the Lord will understand how wide and long and high and deep is His love. At the end Job understood God's intention to allow him to endure great suffering. How precious it was!

(4)【Hate evil】19-22 The result of the wicked is being cut off. They speak

with evil intent, misuse the Lord's name, wrongly explain His words and lead others to run the wrong path. We ought to have nothing but hatred for the enemy of God.

(5)【Remove the inward evil and run an everlasting path】23-24 Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. May the Lord search, test and remove all my inner evil thoughts so I may be in God's grace persistently and lead me to run an eternal path.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not be covetous, do not hate, examine oneself and consecrate lest sin overtakes you.**

Dear Lord, may You remove my greed and hatred so I will be humble to take lesson and obey your will firmly and be guarded forever.

**Num 23 / Eze 36**

**Main theme: The enemy tried many ways to harm. God did great things for His name.**

**-Curse / Revive**

Golden verses: Num 23:9, 21-23 Eze 36:24-27

A discussion on curses and revival - on one side it concerned Israel was the chosen people of God and no sorcery could harm Jacob because God was with them. So the curses of Balaam turned to blessings. On the other side it concerned Israel was taken captive to the foreign land. When they were contrite and turned from sin, they were gathered again to go back to their homeland. God made the curses turned to blessings. We ought to make up our mind to please God and do not be used by Satan like Balaam (a glutton) due to greed for wealth and become his instrument. We ought to be watchful anytime to be on guard to imitate the Lord not to change, jump or worship in the tests.

**A. Listen to the Lord's words, preach the Lord's words; the enemy curses but God blesses**

Curse (Num 23:1-12) - Bless (Eze 36:1-15)

1.【A prophet of sorcery】1-6 Balaam was born in Aram which was the hometown of Abraham. He practiced divination and was greedy. He only seek his gain and in fact he did not fear God. He responded to the invitation of the king of Moab and came. He followed the ceremony of the foreign gods to sacrifice and built seven altars which was not according to the pattern of sacrifice of God. Later, he sacrificed with Balak. So this proved that the false prophets used self-imposed worship which was specious without the godly power.

※【God's prophet】1 Ezekiel was a prophet of God. Though he was in the captive land of Babylon, he feared God and was away from sin. He was sent to proclaim God's will faithfully. He proclaimed the prophecy of the revival of Israel. Balaam was sent by Balak and God saw his sacrifice as detestable. Ezekiel was a prophet full with God's Spirit and His words while Balaam was filled with the customs of the cult. God would make him be accountable.

2.【God will bless】7-12 "How can I curse those whom God has not cursed? How can I denounce those whom the Lord has not denounced?" God would not listen to Balaam and made his words of curse to an oracle of blessing. The kingdom of the Most High God rules over all which Satan's power cannot change (Pr 16:1) because "there is no wisdom, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the Lord." (Pr 21:30)

※【God is in jealous wrath】1-7 The prophet prophesied against the surrounding nations who devoured the people. Due to their sins, Israel was given to the hands of the enemies and became desolate. But the enemies gloated and harbored evil thoughts. They thought that the everlasting mountains and hills might become their inheritance, just like Balak thought it would be easy to make a curse on God's people and overcome them. God who had chosen Israel would show His wrath against the enemy. If God has not cursed, how can the enemy curse? When the people were refined, God would show His mercy and turn the curse to blessing. The surrounding nations would bear their own shame and be cursed.

3.【God blesses and the enemy can do nothing】7-12 The Almighty God has the sovereignty! God put His Spirit and His words in Balaam's mouth, so he made a wonderful oracle of blessing. This was not from the covetous nature of the prophet. Israel was a people who lived apart. They were specially chosen by God to set apart for the Lord. God lived among them, so who dared to provoke them? The descendants of Jacob were blessed and were numerous as dust. Who could count them? The promise of God to Abraham and his descendants was faithful and Balaam blessed them. Balak could no longer continue to hear it and he was helpless. God breaks the spirit of rulers; He is feared by the kings of the earth. (Ps 76:12)

※【God blesses and nothing to boast】8-15 Israel was a people who lived apart. But they did not set themselves apart and caused themselves to be defiled and became desolate. When the time came, he would produce branches and fruit. God was concerned for him and looked on him with favor so he might multiply in number without losing children in shame. This was the work of God. It was all God's grace that Israel was favored and revived. There is nothing to boast of. The curse of Balaam turned to blessing was also the work of God. The enemy was helpless! But Balaam could not gain any blessing from God. Instead the retribution which the wicked feared and the curse would come upon him.

**B. Confess and turn from sin, obey the Word and be blessed, overcome the enemy and bear fruit**

God's presence (Num 23:13-30) - God revives (Eze 36:16-38)

1.【Ordered to bless】13-20 Balak the Moabite king still did not give up. For the second time he took Balaam to the top of Pisgah and still used the pagan's ritual to sacrifice herd and flock. Again, God's words came upon Balaam and made him turn the curse to His blessing. Balaam was ordered to bless and he could not change God's will because God does not lie or change His mind.

※【Cursed by God】16-21 When Israel entered the good land, he worshiped idols and committed adultery. He was corrupt ethically. He killed men and shed their blood and greatly violated God. He defiled the good land. God punished them and scattered them among the nations. God's name was also profaned. Balaam was a false prophet. But God turned his tongue to bless. Once the people sinned, they would be punished and brought curse on them. We ought to obey and keep the covenant, and then we may avoid the disasters and be blessed.

2.【God's presence is unbeatable】21-26 Israel was a redeemed people. In God's redemption, He did not see the misfortune or the misery of Jacob. God was with them. They had the strength of a wild ox which was unbeatable. God protected them and there was no sorcery against Jacob and no divination against Israel. They were strong like a lion. If they did not destroy all their enemies, they might not live in peace in the good land. The more Balak heard, the more he became angry. He asked Balaam neither to curse nor to bless Israel.

※【Deeply confessed and be revived】22-31 God made Israel return and revive to show the holiness of His great name and He could not be profaned. Balaam was greedy for the fee for divination. He misused God's name and greatly profaned Him. God would gather the Israelites and let them be favored to be God's children; just like the prophecy of Balaam, God would see them in His redemption. God would cleanse them with clean water and give them a new heart and a new spirit. He would remove their stubborn heart of stone and replace with a humble heart of flesh. He would put His Spirit in them to keep the covenant and obey the Word. They would then enjoy the abundance and be fruitful. They would loathe themselves for their detestable practices. God will bestow blessings and dwell in them forever and no one can harm them!

3.【Being led by the enemy】27-30 Thereafter Balak took Balaam to another place and wishfully thought to change a place of curse. Poor Balaam was at the mercy of the enemy taking him here and there. Then Balak took him to the top of Peor, a high mountain on the plain of Moab. Balaam became the slave of the enemy, a slave to sin. (Ro 6:16) God's workers ought to be a submissive slave only to please God. Whatever you do, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Col 3:17)

※【Preach according to God's will】32-38 Ezekiel was God's prophet. He was upright and outspoken and proclaimed God's will firmly! Balaam the false prophet was entangled by sin. He was trampled and shamelessly covetous. The prophet finally warned Israel not to boast of their return and revival but be ashamed and disgraced for their conduct. The re-built of the desolate land of Israel would be like the garden of Eden, full of men and flock. The returned people became the witness of the revival of Israel. God's name would be shown as holy. Ezekiel prophesied in faith no matter the enemy plotted or cursed. The Lord had spoken and He would do it. The prophecy of Balaam would also be fulfilled. But he himself would be killed together with the enemies. (Num 31:8)

**Ps 140 / Rev 18:8 Main theme: Sin and will be punished, pray to be freed from the enemy's plot, obey the Word and save men**

**-The enemy's plot / God's power**

(1)【Discern the enemy's plot and pray to be freed from the trap】1-5 May the Lord rescue us from evil. The wicked plot evil. Their tongues are as sharp as a serpent's and they pour out poison. They hide a snare and spread out the cords of their net and traps.

(2)【Pray for God's protection to destroy the enemy】6-10 Fighting is not by the flesh and blood. Let us beg our Almighty Lord to strengthen us and shield our head by salvation so we will not fall into the trap of the wicked. May God's words be like burning coal to destroy the enemies so they may never rise.

(3)【The Lord will secure justice for the poor】11-13 If I fall into the trap and do evil and commit sin, I will be hunt down by disasters. But if this poor man cries out for himself and others, the powerful Lord will vindicate for him. He will rebuke Satan for me and clothe me with His righteous garments. God will shed light upon the righteous so I may keep the Lord's Word firmly and dwell and walk with Him. We will harvest with joy and grace will come upon all men.

**Central point of the wheels: Confess deeply and pray to turn from sin so the enemy's curse will turn to blessing**

Dear Lord, may you let me be contrite and consecrate, make up my mind to please you and forever be protected in your love.

**Num 24 / Eze 37**

**Main theme: Do not fear, obey the Lord's word, pray for the dried bones to turn to a great army**

**-See in the spirit / Pray according to the will**

Golden verses: Num 24:17-18 Eze 37:9-10

A discussion on seeing in the spirit and praying according to the will - on one side it concerned the oracle of Balaam prophesied the glorious kingdom of the Messiah and when the time comes this will be fulfilled. On the other side it concerned Ezekiel the prophet saw the vision of the dry bones live. This prophesied the return of Israel and the Messiah's reign will be fulfilled. We ought to imitate Ezekiel to be filled by the Holy Spirit to see and pray thoroughly. We also ought to take the rejection of Balaam's greed and rebellion by God as our warning.

**A. Obey to prophesy the dry bones can live and be bold as a lion**

Exalt (Num 24:1-13) - Come to life (Eze 37:1-14)

1.【How beautiful】1-6 Balaam saw God had turned the first two curses to blessings. Thus this time he would not resort to sorcery. God's Spirit came upon him, so he saw a vision from the Almighty and fell prostrate. In his oracle he described how God blessed the people, "how beautiful are Jacob's tents!" God dwelled among His chosen people and displayed His glory. "How beautiful are the dwelling places of Israel!" Their Tent of Meeting was full of God's presence and beauty. The valleys and rivers of Israel were the gardens watered by God. They were like fountains with unceasing flow of water exhibiting God's abundance and prosperity.

※【How dry】1-3 The Spirit of the Lord came upon Ezekiel and set him in the middle of a valley full of bones. After the Israelites had entered the good land, they forsook God and thus lost the praise, fame and honor promised by God. (Deu 26:16-19) They were like dried bones. They encountered God's great wrath and were taken captive to the plain of Babylon. If Israel united with God and were holy to God, they would be full of honor and beauty. But if Israel forsook God, they would look ugly and dried up. He strongly believed that only God could turn the dry bones to life and revive the beauty of Israel.

2.【The kingdom will be exalted】7-9 The oracle of Balaam was a prophecy indicating the will of God on Israel and His plan of redemption. The king and the kingdom of Israel did not only refer to David and his kingdom. It also referred to Christ and His kingdom would be exalted. God would make Israel strong like a lion. When Christ comes again, He will crush all His enemy states. Israel would become the head of the nations and no one would dare to provoke her. The promise of God to Abraham would be fulfilled on the chosen descendants.

※【Become a great army】4-10 Israel was subjugated and taken captive like the dry bones on the valley. Not only did they lose the honor as the prince of God, they also lost the power to go against the enemies and were devoured by them at their will. But God's will never changes. Ezekiel prophesied as commanded to the dry bones by faith and also to the breath. While he was speaking, he saw the bones shook and came together with tendons, flesh and skin and came to life. They had revived with the strength of a wild ox and became a vast army. By praying in the Spirit and prophesying, the dry bones had turned instantly to be fighting warriors. The prophecy of Balaam's oracle had also fulfilled. The kingdom of Israel will be exalted like the dry bones revived and be unbeatable.

3.【God changed the curses to blessings】10-13 Balak was the mortal enemy of Israel and also an enemy of God. He had ordered Balaam successively for three times to curse the people of God. God turned the tongue of Balaam and made him blessed three times. He was furious and corruptly said to Balaam, "I summoned you to curse my enemies, but you have blessed them these three times." The will of God will overcome! The greedy Balaam made a futile effort.

※【God opened the grave and enter the good land】11-14 Due to violation, Israel suffered the curse from God and was taken captive to Babylon just like entering the grave. But God did not forget His people and He never abandon them. In the long period of captivity, they were like living in a grave, just like the Israelites met the curse and plot of murder of Balak. But God's will was not like this. He ordered Ezekiel to prophesy again. God would open the grave so those people who were in living in darkness and in the shadow of death might see the light and enter the good land back to their homeland. Similarly, God would turn the three curses of the enemy to three blessings. God had spoken and He had done it. The enemy had gone to the grave fulfilling God's righteous retribution. (Num 31:8)

**B. Do not see now, return and unite; the enemy will go to his doom**

Gain the land (Num 24:14-25) - Return (Eze 37:15-28)

1.【Christ be the King】14-19 Though Balak sent Balaam to go home at once, but God's Spirit was still on him. So he uttered the fourth oracle and proclaimed the will of the Most High. The theme of the prophecy discussed on the revival of the kingdom and the sovereignty of Christ. Israel was a redeemed people. God saw him, but not now and not near. He saw him in the Spirit and in God's redemption. A star and a scepter rise out of Israel. This prophesied Christ. The stars appeared when Christ came on the first time. His second coming was also like a star appearing. (Mt 2:2; Rev 22:16) He will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. (Rev 12:5) When David reigned, he did destroy Moab and Edom and other enemies (2 Sa 8:2-14) and gained their land. When Christ comes, He will rule and destroy the surrounding enemies and gain all the land. And the kingdom comes!

※【Unite and return】15-23 Ezekiel obeyed to take two sticks of wood as a metaphor to prophesy the re-union of Judah and Israel. Both the north and the south nations were being taken captive by Assyria and Babylon successively because they forsook God and worshiped idols. They were scattered among the nations being enslaved and tortured. Until the second coming of Christ, the nations will be crushed completely. God will gather His people from the nations (Mt 24:31) and lead them to their homeland. The north and south will unite and rebuild their home. They will no longer be defiled by the idols or detestable things. God will cleanse them to be a holy people and a kingdom of priest. The prophecy of Ezekiel and Balaam will be fulfilled.

2.【Anti-God will forever be in destruction】20-25 The Moabites and the Midianites had hated God's people. They were afraid the Israelites would kill them completely. Thus in Balaam's oracle, it prophesied the fate of all nations who were against Israel to warn them. Though the Amorites were the first among the nations, he would come to ruin at last. (Exo 17:8-16; 1 Sa 15:1-3) The Amorites were the descendants of Esau. Their old self was extremely corrupt. Once again God reminded the generations to contend with the Amorites and blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. (Deu 25:17-19) The Kenites referred to a tribe of Midian. Asshur, Kittim, etc were nations against God. Their result was everlasting destruction.

※【Obey and be blessed forever】24-28 After Israel have united and returned, Christ will be their King and their shepherd. They will follow God's laws and be careful to keep His decrees. God will make an everlasting covenant of peace so they may enjoy forever the joy of His presence. God will care for them and no enemy can harm them. They will set apart to be holy to God forever. Israel will be a witness to the Gentiles. The nations who had persecuted God's people will be avenged and doom to destruction. The oracle of Balaam's prophecy will be fulfilled. But he himself would be killed for his greed and waywardness. God is great in His purposes and mighty in His deeds. (Jer 32:19) God will give to everyone according to what he has done.

**Ps 141 / Rev 18:9 Main theme: Pray watchfully, do not be tempted and be mightily used by God. To love the world is sorrowful**

**-Pray watchfully / Be tempted**

Those who seek the worldly pleasures and unite with the world will have a mourning result because what they get is like smoke and vanity

(1)【Seek good earnestly and offer the beautiful sacrifice】1-5 Pray watchfully and make every effort to go on to maturity. Do not let your heart be drawn to what is evil and your mouth with malicious words but walk in the good path of the Lord. May the Lord do not let me accept the delicacies of the wicked. Do not refuse a righteous man's rebuke or attack. This is the oil from the Lord. I still have to pray unceasingly for this evil generation like Esther who reversed the crisis.

(2)【Obey the Way and preach the good word】6-7 The unjust rulers will be thrown down. They harm themselves and others so their bones became a heap of rubble. (Mic 3:9-12) Whoever pray watchfully and obey the Word will speak eloquent words, the message from the Most Holy Place, so the bones will leave the grave and be united to be fighting warriors.

(3)【Lift up to the Lord and be free from evil】8-10 Our eyes ought to be like Elisha to fix on the prophecy of Elijah, the prophet. We must follow closely and silently so we may be free from the snare of wickedness lest we may

wail and die. Instead we will gain double portion of the spirit to accomplish the mission of God.

C**entral point of the wheels: See and pray thoroughly, be godly to turn from sin to destroy the enemy and revive**

Dear Lord, may you give me a prayer of faith so the dry bones will live to become a fighting warrior to grab and save the sinners to return to you!

**Num 25 / Eze 38**

**Main theme: Be watchful and jealous of evil, pierce through the enemy's trick. Be complacent and will be harmed**

**-Jealous of evil / Attack sin**

Golden verses: Num 25:11-12 Eze 38:23

A discussion on being jealous of evil and attacking sin - on one side it concerned the Israelite army faced the temptation of idols and adultery before entering the good land. On the other side it concerned after Israel's return, they encountered the assault of the powerful army of the strong enemies. But this was only the deception of Satan who wanted to hinder God's people to gain the land to corrupt the coming of the kingdom of Christ. But God's will must overcome and no one can counter. God will show Himself holy through the enemies. Phinehas and Ezekiel were full of God's jealousy. They would attack those who were against God and the power of sin to retrieve God's wrath.

**A. Do not be tempted, do not be complacent, pierce through sin and stop God's anger**

Temptation (Num 25:1-8) - Grab away (Eze 38:1-16)

1.【The trick of Balaam】1-3 The greedy Balaam was not resigned to his failure. In order to get the reward from Balak, he acted in collusion with Balak and set tricks to harm the people of God. He set stumbling blocks before them. (Rev 2:14; Num 31:16) His means was diabolic. He set traps to tempt the Israelites to sin and thus lose the blessing of God! The people could not stand the temptation of the women of Moab and Midian and indulged in sexual immorality. They also joined them to bow down to Baal and ate food sacrificed to their gods. They violated God's commandments and sinned greatly against Him. The people joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor. Thus the beautiful Tent of Meeting was defiled. God's anger burned against them. This was before they entered the good land, a great conspiracy of Satan to ruin God's will!

※【The evil plot of Gog】1-9 Israel was a people specially chosen by God and the center of His plan. Satan did everything possible to prevent and ruin! The prophet prophesied Israel would recover from war and return to her homeland to live in safety. Gog who was first to go against God would plot evil and come up to attack Israel because of their covetous and presumptuous ambition. On one side was the tricks of Balaam to tempt people to indulge in sexual immorality and idol worshiping. On the other side was evil plot of Gog to seize wealth and goods. Both were due to their nature of anti-God.

2.【To kill the culprit】4-5 The people who joined in worshiping Baal of Peor resulted in a plague. The leaders who took the lead were severely punished. God told Moses to kill them and expose them in broad daylight. Then God's anger would cease. This showed God's righteousness was jealous like fire!

※【God shows Himself holy】10-16 Gog came from a place far north with his troops like a storm to the center of the earth to attack God's people. This was out of the will of the Most High God. He would turn him around and put hooks in his jaws. God was angered and punished the Israelites and the leaders when they sinned, how much more would be done to the nations who were against God! God would avenge for His people. Then the nations would know the Lord and His deeds. God would show Himself holy on Gog. Among those who approach God, He will show Himself holy!

3.【Pierce through sin】6-8 Moses did not obey to kill and expose the leaders in the broad daylight before the Lord. He only ordered to kill those who had joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor. The plague was not stopped. When Moses and the community saw the wrath of God was not subsided, they did not know what to do but wept at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. During this crucial moment, a leader of the Simeon tribe dared to bring a Midianite woman to their tent and continued to sin. The matter was even worse. Only Phinehas was triggered with righteous anger. He stood up and pierced them through the body (Jas 1:14-15) and the plague was stopped.

※【Attack sin resolutely】1-16 Ezekiel the prophet was the same like Phinehas. He was discerned in the spirit and jealous of sin. The prophet obeyed to prophesy continuously to attack Gog of Magog and the princes. They were the head of the nations and were against God. The prophet prophesied the final result of the alliance of Gog. Through the ambition of Gog, God would exhibit His glory. The prophecy of the prophet was like the sharp spear in the hands of Phinehas which hit the enemy's sin fiercely. He pierced right into the vital point of the enemy and sharply pointed out their greedy ambition to warn the people of God that they ought to be watchful to guard against the enemy.

4.【Was not watchful】6 Faced with the wrath of God, Moses and the community only wept and were not alert. Thus Satan's attack was stronger resulting the leaders sinned against God again.

※【Did not put on guard】11-12 When the Israelites brought back their goods to the good land, they were complacent. They were not alert to guard against the intrusion of the enemy. The prophet prophesied Gog would lead his troops to attack the land which was without walls and without gates and bars. They would plunder them to the ground. The churches of the last phase would encounter Satan's evil plot to defile God's children and seize His inheritance! We ought to be watchful every moment to be on guard, to close the door of our heart tightly lest we will be trapped and harmed. (Pr 4:23; SS 4:12) We also need to be like Phinehas and Ezekiel to hate evil like his enemies, be jealous to attack crime to stop God's anger.

**B. Jealous and attack sin, destroy the enemy's plot; was given the peaceful covenant**

Attack sin (Num 25:9-18) - Destroy the plot (Eze 38:17-23)

1.【Be jealous and attack sin】10-13 Phinehas was as jealous as God. He pierced through evil and stopped God's anger. Thus God made a covenant of peace with him and his descendants and a lasting priesthood. Workers ought to have a spirit to please the Lord, to be jealous to attack crime and guard the truth. Then they will be rewarded by God.

※【Prophesy to attack the enemy】17-20 Since ancient times God prophesied through the prophets the one whom God wanted to attack was Gog. Though they were from different generations, they pointed out that the enemies would fiercely attack the land of Israel and plunder His people. (Jer 45:10; Da 1:40-41; Zep 3:8) At that time, God would be in fiery wrath and contend for His chosen people fulfilling the prophecy of the prophets.

2.【The warning of the plague】9 At that time those who died in the plague numbered 24,000 so as to warn the whole community to be far away from adultery and pursue holiness lest they might repeat the wrong. (1 Th 4:3-4)

※【The warning of the prophecy】17-23 The prophecy of the prophets were also to warn God's people not to be complacent but to fear God and obey the Word, and be watchful to guard against the enemies lest they might be plundered. The enemies are God's instrument of judgment for the purpose to refine them so they may inherit the everlasting kingdom of Christ.

3.【Kill the enemy and defeat crime】14-18 Phinehas pierced the two sinners to death on the spot. One was named Zimri (the singer) a leader of the tribe of Simeon. The other was Cozbi (false), a daughter of Zur (Num 31:8) one of the five kings of Midian. Their names and their ugly deed were recorded to

be a warning for future generations. Zimri as a leader, led the crime. He sinned knowingly and was guilty of a crime for which even death cannot atone. Cozbi took the chance to plot and tempted him to sin. Thus even death would not expiate all her sins. God is righteous! Thereafter God ordered Moses to avenge on the Midianites and kill them to ruin the trick of the Baal of Peor thoroughly. (Num 31:1) In order to destroy completely the influence of the heresy and evil, Israel could never seek a treaty of friendship with them as long as they live. (Deu 23:3-6)

※【Punish the enemy and destroy evil】21-23 The Lord's day of vengence had come. He would execute judgment upon Gog and his troops with plague and bloodshed. He would also pour down torrents of rain and burning sulfur on them. How God avenged on the Midianites, He would do the same to Gog because God is a jealous and avenging God. God would show His greatness and His holiness in the sight of many nations so the tricks of the enemy to defile and attack Israel would be ruined thoroughly. Then they would know the Lord was God. God will redeem His people to gain the inheritance and enjoy blessings forever. "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." (Rev 11:15)

**Ps 142 / Rev 18:10 Main theme: Plead to the Lord and be freed from the trap, freed from punishment and gain rich grace**

**-Rich grace / in punishment**

Be tempted by the world and fall into the trap, thus sin accumulated resulting in punishment

(1)【Plead to be freed from the trap】1-5 Pour out your complaint to the Lord. When my spirit grows faint, and men have hidden a snare for me and no one can help me, I will cry out to the Lord because he is my refuge and my portion.

(2)【Pray to be freed from the strong enemies】6-7 May God rescue me from my plight so I may repay His kindness and proclaim the Lord's name. The Lord is good to me and let the righteous gather about me.

**Central point of the wheels: Be jealous to attack sin, pray watchfully to overcome the enemies and do not be tempted**

Dear Lord, may you let me discern the trick of Satan, focus correctly and see thoroughly, pray and pierce thoroughly to retrieve the wrath of God.

**Num 26 / Eze 39**

**Main theme: Consecrate completely to be the Lord's fighting warrior; rebellious and fall down**

**-Die completely / Gain the land**

Golden verses: Num 26:65 Eze 39:28-29

A discussion on dying completely and gaining the land - on one side it concerned the old generation of Israel was rebellious and disbelieved. Thus they fell in the desert. The new generation was numbered to prepare to enter Canaan. On the other side it concerned in the final days the strong enemies besieged the holy land and the whole army fell. God protected His people to return and revive and gain the eternal inheritance. We ought not only to die with Christ, but also be buried and resurrect with Christ and enter the land of milk and honey promised by God and enjoy His abundance.

**A. Die to the old self, be a warrior, remove the sins and cleanse the land**

Die completely (Num 26:1-51) - Bury (Eze 39:1-20)

1.【Number the army】1-4 After the Israelites had wandered through the desert for thirty eight years and were ready to cross the Jordan River, Moses obeyed to obtain the total number of able body for the army in order to organize for war and to divide the land. This fully showed God's faithfulness. His covenant and promise were not ruined due to men's repeated wrong or rebellion. His will cannot be hindered! He has loved them with an everlasting love!

※【Destroy the enemy and gain the land】1-3 Ezekiel the prophet obeyed to prophesy again on Gog's invasion and the destined ending of their complete annihilation. This would not only warn the restored and complacent people, but also to see the will of God on the people through the shameful result of the enemy. He will never change! On one side was to number the people to destroy the enemies and gain the land. On the other side was the enemy invaded but were buried in the good land. Both were the deeds and counsel of the Creator. God's promises are always Amen. He would give the land of Canaan to them that He swore to their forefathers as their everlasting possession. (Gen 48:3-4; 50:24)

2.【Disbelieve and fall】1-4 Recalling the Israelites in the desert after exiting Egypt, they had once numbered the army. But due to rebellion and disbelief, they fell in the desert and were unable to enter the good land. Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts like the Israelites who rebelled and disbelieved and provoked God to anger in the desertion. (Heb 37-8)

※【Be against God and fall】1-5 The alliance of Gog represented the anti-God power of the nations. Behind them was the power of Satan, the spirits of demons controlling them to gather for the battle on the great day of God Almighty. (Rev 16:13-16) The prophet foretold that they would fall on the mountains of Israel and become the feast of the birds and the wild animals. The result of the judgment would come to all the power who was against God. On one side was disbelief and fell. On the other side was going against God and fell, warning us to tremble and be on guard! Do not bear an unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. (Heb 3:12; 4:2)

3.【Rebellious and fall into the grave】3-11 The number counted for the tribe of Reuben was less than the first time and his lesson was unforgettable! Their leaders Dathan and Abiram participated in the rebellion of the party of Korah and met a shameful ending. The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them and their families. The rebellious were destroyed. They went down alive into the grave! Two hundred fifty leaders were devoured by fire which was a lesson drawn from other mistakes! The line of Korah, however, in the rebellion of Korah did not follow and did not die out. Their descendants still served and worshiped God. God is righteous!

※【Blaspheme and be burnt】6-8 The rebellious situation of the alliance of Gog was like a mighty force coming on the mountains of Israel to seize God's inheritance. Such profanity on God's name was like the rebellion of the party of Korahs. The high and lofty One would never tolerate! How the party of the Korahs was severely punished, same would be done to the power of Gog. God would send fire on Magog and those who lived in the coastlands. The holy name of the Lord would no longer be profaned!

4.【Die to the old self and be a warrior】1-51 God ordered to number the various tribes so as to coordinate those over twenty years old and were able to fight to be ready for the battle. The desert was a place to bury the old self. In the first census, everyone died in the desert except Caleb and Joshua representing the fall of the old self. The second generation was counted represented the new creation would be the fighting warrior and gain the good land. The names of the five daughters of Zelophehad of the tribe of Manasseh were recorded in the census for their boldness to gain inheritance. God saw this was precious.

※【Bury the dead and cleanse the land】9-20 The Israelites would use the small and large shields, the bows and arrows of the enemy for fuel and burn them up for seven years. They would bury the dead bodies for seven months. Men were regularly employed to cleanse the good land thoroughly lest it might be defiled. All those who were against God, greedy, ruthless, the evil of shedding blood, the complaints of the Israelites for forty years to test God, idol worshiping, adultery, etc would all fall in the desert and be buried completely. Then they might be a fighting warrior to gain the land. On one side was to number the able men to gain the land. On the other side was to inspect the dead bodies and cleanse the land. We too, ought to continue to inspect and bury our old self so we may be counted to be a fighting warrior to grab to save the souls and gain the inheritance. At that time God will gain glory and His people be renowned.

**B. Divide the land and gain inheritance, return and revive and God's spirit pours out**

Divide the land (Num 26:52-65) - Return (Eze 39:21-29)

1.【Obey God's will and divide the land】52-56 After the tribes were being counted, God told Moses to divide the land. They were to divide, on one hand by the number of persons and on the other by lot according to God's will. They had no choice of their own but by the decision of His will lest quarrel might occur. (Pr 18:18) God's chosen people ought to value the land flowing with milk and honey promised to their forefathers and be totally submissive to obey God's will to divide the inheritance.

※【Sinned against God and lost the land】21-24 After the house of Israel entered the good land promised by God, they were tragically taken captive due to violation. God hid His face from them and gave them to the hands of the enemies to be trampled and fell by the sword. Thus they lost the good land. On one side was the new generation obeyed God's will and was numbered to divide the land. On the other side was the chosen people entered the good land and sinned against God and lost the inheritance. They would bear their own shame. After being beaten, they would truly know God and His holy name.

2.【Minister before God】57-62 The three tribes of the Levites Gershon, Kohath and Mirari were also counted and allocated to the service at the Tent of Meeting before God. They had no share or inheritance in Israel and the Lord was their inheritance. They enjoyed the sacrifice offered to God by fire and served God forever. (Deu 18:1-5) All the male Levites a month old or more were numbered to replace the firstborn of Israel to be holy to God! Nadab and Abihu died before God when they made an unauthorized offering. Thus it is not a matter of the amount of work done but on the godliness and obedience of oneself who is after God's own heart.

※【Return and serve the Lord】25-29 After Israel left Egypt, they ought to have obeyed and kept the covenant and be a priesthood of God to serve Him willingly. But instead, they worshiped other gods and provoked His anger. They were punished by God. Later on, due to God's mercy, He promised

them revival and to return to their homeland. After they were being strictly refined, they willingly ministered before God like the tribes of Levi who were numbered to be holy to God and served Him forever.

3.【Not one was left】63-65 In the first census, everyone died in the desert except Caleb and Joshua who had faith. No one was left. They went through a journey in the desert for forty years and experienced every hardship. They followed the Lord wholeheartedly till the end and had good witnesses.

※【No one was left outside】28-29 God promised the house of Israel they would return completely without leaving one in the other nations. "All Israel will be saved!" God's promise is forever faithful! (Ro 11:26) The mystery of the will of God will be fulfilled. On one side was the old self had to die in the desert and no one was left. On the other side was the return of the new creation and no one was left outside. When the house of Israel returned to God, He would no longer hide His face. God will dwell in Israel forever.

**Ps 143 / Rev 18:11 Main theme: Thirst for the world and be miserable, thirst for the Lord's word and to obey His will will be rewarded**

**-Thirst for the Lord / Thirst for the world**

Trade with the world and end with mourning and misery.

(1)【I am beaten and grow faint】1-4 I will confess and cry out for God is righteous and faithful. He will answer me. Though I am crushed by the enemy like those long dead, God has the power to rise me from the dead.

(2)【I raise my hands to the Lord and pray】5-12 I remember the deeds of God in the past and thirst to hear the Lord's gracious words so I may know the way I should go. May He rescue me from my enemies and teach me to do His will so I may become a slave to righteousness and accomplish His work.

**Central point of the wheels: Die completely and gain the land, thirst for the Lord's word and obey His will**

Dear Lord, may you let me experience the dealing by the cross, to be numbered by you as a warrior to gain all the lost souls back to you!

**Num 27 / Eze 40**

**Main theme: God exhibits His pattern, so let us understand and obey it, then we will see God's almighty**

**-Pray for inheritance / Gain the pattern**

Golden verses: Num 27:7 Eze 40:4

A discussion on praying for inheritance and gaining the pattern - on one side it concerned the five daughters of Zelophehad had a different spirit. By faith they asked for property and were answered by God and became a statute. On the other side it concerned Ezekiel sought deeply in the spirit to understand the pattern of the temple. This teaches us to value the spiritual property and blessings promised by God. We ought to make every effort to pursue them and understand what we are seeking and then we will gain them.

**A. Value the property, understand the pattern and know what you are seeking**

Property (Num 27:1-11) - Pattern (Eze 40:1-23)

1.【Request for property courageously】1-4 The daughters of Zelophehad the descendants of Manasseh came to the leaders and the whole community to request for their inheritance. Faced with the death of their father, they were not sorrowful or hopeless, but they considered the mind of God. Regardless of anything, they broke the record to request for inheritance. They did not have any worldly craving but value the inheritance of God. Thus they had the faith and boldness to make the request. This teaches us that we shall fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen (2 Co 4:18) to make every effort to seek the heavenly everlasting inheritance.

※【Seek for the pattern of the temple】1-2 Though Ezekiel was within the captives and the surrounding was in darkness, he had great faith to seek continuously. He was able to see something just like the five daughters were full of faith and hope on God's will and promise. The spirit of God was upon Ezekiel. He was brought to a very high mountain in vision and he saw the pattern of the entire sanctuary. This mountain is the center of the future kingdom and also God's most holy place. (Isa 2:2; Ps 48:2)

2.【State before God】5 Moses was God's faithful servant. He humbly stood at his position and stated the brave request of the five daughters before God and waited for His answer.

※【Measured by God】3 The prophet saw a hand holding a linen cord and a measuring rod in vision representing God's measurement. From the outer court of the sanctuary to the inner court and from the gate to the wall, all had to be measured by the standard of God; just like Moses stated the request of the five daughters to God and waited for His instruction. They sought the will of God and to the testimony. (Isa 8:20) The pattern of the spiritual worship is to worship in spirit and in truth. (Jn 4:23-24) The sanctuary of our soul ought to match the pattern of Christ.

3.【God's reply】6-11 The five daughters broke the regulations out of their faithful request and were answered by God as 'saying as right'. Thus it was ordered that their father's inheritance was given to them. God's grace came upon the whole house of Israel due to the request of the five daughters. From then, it was regulated that whoever had no son, the daughters might divide the inheritance. If he had no daughter, the inheritance would be given to his brothers. If he had no brothers, the inheritance would be given to the nearest relative in his clan. This had become the statute and decree. Their bold action not only favored themselves, but also to the descendants and future generations. (Ru 3-4)

※【God' instruction】4 Same as Moses, Ezekiel sought and received God's answer. He was instructed with the pattern of the sanctuary. God wanted him to look with his eyes and hear with his ears to understand tacitly. Then he had to tell the house of Israel so they would understand deeply the pattern of the sanctuary of the kingdom and worship God with the new pattern. God gave the instruction of the statues and decrees to inherit the possession to Moses so the people might keep in future generations. Thus the possessions of the various tribes and ethnic groups might be sustained without passing to another tribe. Every Israelite had to keep the land he inherited. (Num 36:9)

4.【In one spirit】1-11 The five daughters broke the record to inherit their father's inheritance. They were in one spirit. They valued God's grace and were not willing to give up their father's inheritance. They went in one heart to request for the inheritance by firm courage and trust. This created the precedent that daughters could inherit the father's inheritance and was recorded in their history. They fully gained God's reward and left a good witness!

※【With one measurement】5-23 The angel brought Ezekiel to the east gate that led to the outer court. He first measured the thickness and height of the surrounding walls. Then he measured the width of the threshold of the gate. The two sides of the gateway each had three alcoves for guarding. They were with the same measurement. The projecting wall on each side also had the same measurement, just like the five daughters of Zelophehad all had one spirit, one measurement and were all favored to enjoy God's grace. The structure of the north gate and south gate of the sanctuary's outer court were the same with the east gate. There were seven steps before it reached each gate, that was, to go on to maturity. (Hos 6:3; Heb 6:1)

**B. Consider the mind of God, request for a leader and seek deeply**

Deny oneself (Num 27:12-23) - In depth (Eze 40:24-49)

1.【Violate God's command】12-24 Moses was chosen by God to be the highest leader of the Israelites and His servant. God witnessed for him and talked with him face to face. But he was incited due to the rebellion of the community in Meribah and disobeyed God's command. He did not honor God as holy before their eyes. Thus he could not enter the promised land displaying God's righteousness!

※【According to God's measurement】24-27 The angel then brought Ezekiel to the south gate. He measured the projecting walls and the portico of the gateway and the seven steps, same as the previous measurement. The measurements were the same as the pattern of the east gate and the north gate. This same measurements were God's words which could not be violated! Moses was faithful and obedient all his life. He worked hard and was not upset by any criticism. But in this instance, he violated God's measurement and lost the perfect blessing and honor!

2.【Consider God's heart and pray】15-17 Moses was a selfless servant. How broad-minded and self-denying! He did not seek anything for himself and continued to consider God's mind till his death. He took priority on God's will. He only sought God's glory and the benefit of the people. He was not discouraged or pitied himself. Instead he prayed that God would set a leader lest the community of the Lord would be like a flock without a shepherd.

※【Pursue in depth】28-34 Ezekiel was brought by the angel from the outer court to the inner court to advance in pursuing and be more intimate with God, just like Moses considered God's mind to deny himself completely for the good of God's people. Ezekiel was brought from the south gate to the east gate, then to the north gate, all had the same measurement. What was different was each gate of the inner court had eight steps. We ought to make every effort to ascend the eight spiritual steps:- add to your faith goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. Then you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of Christ. (2 Pe 1:5-11)

3.【Chosen for the consignment】18-23 Joshua was chosen by God since youth. He humbled and denied himself to follow Moses. He was his helper. He once followed Moses to the mountain top and entered the Tent of Meeting. (Exo 24:13; 33:11) He never gave up any chance to be favored. Thus he was chosen to be the successor and was filled with the spirit of wisdom. Moses laid his hand on him and the whole community obeyed him. (Deu 34:9)

※【Faithful to God's consignment】35-49 The rooms facing south and north in the inner court were for the singers and the priests. They were chosen to set apart to be holy to minister God, just like Joshua carried the yoke in his youth. Only the sons of Zadok who ministered as priests might draw near to the Lord and serve. During the rebellious period of the dynasty of David,

Zadok sacrificed courageously. He was faithful and never led astray. Thus when Solomon reigned, he set Zadok and his descendants as priests to replace the clan of Eli. Similarly, from the battle with the Amalekites to exploring the promise land, he was being tested to be faithful till the end. We ought to follow the steps of the Lamb closely to be called, chosen and faithful followers. (Rev 17:14)

**Ps 144 / Rev 18:12 Main theme: Overcome the enemy by the Lord, do not long for the worldly treasures and bear righteous fruit**

**-Real treasures / Worldly treasures**

The worldly treasures will become nothing by the turn of the eye. David turned from the worldly temptation by the Lord and became a very precious instrument bearing righteous fruit. This is real treasure and makes people be blessed.

(1)【Overcome by the Lord with power】1-4 The Lord's words train me for battle so the people will subdue under me. The Lord knows and cares for whoever takes refuge in Him.

(2)【Pray that God will attack the enemy and save me】5-11 May the Lord rend heavens and come down so all the enemies will scatter and save me from their lies and deceitful hands. The words of honey of the prostitute are a deadly sword. (Delilah had shaved off the hair of Samson.)

(3)【Fully bear righteous fruit and all people are blessed】12-15 Trust in the Lord and overcome, then we may bear fruit. Our sons are like well-nurtured plants and our daughters are carved according to the pattern of the Lord's instruction. They are precious material for building the temple and fit the Lord's requirement. They are filled with every kind of provision. Our sheep and oxen increase by thousands. There is peace and prosperity in the land and people are led to the Lord. How blessed!

**Central point of the wheels: Pray for the inheritance, understand the pattern, overcome by God with abundance**

Dear Lord, may you give me the spirit of wisdom and revelation to understand the new pattern of the temple so my life may become abundant and follow you till the end!

**Num 28 / Eze 41**

**Main theme:** **Offer sacrifice without defect according to the time and take possession of more land by the Lord**

**-Offer sacrifice / Measure the temple (According to regulation / According to measurement)**

Golden verses: Num 28:2-3 Eze 41:18-19

A discussion on offering sacrifice and measuring the temple - on one side it concerned the Israelites offered sacrifice as a fragrant food to satisfy God according to the date and regulation. On the other side it concerned the structure and pattern of the outer and inner sanctuary were according to the measurement and requirement of God. We ought to enter the inner sanctuary through our daily sacrifice to understand God's will deeply and unite with Him to exhibit the glory and abundance of the kingdom of Christ.

**A. Obey to offer sacrifice and enter the inner sanctuary to satisfy the Lord's heart**

A regular offering (Num 28:1-15) - Enter the sanctuary (Eze 41:1-13)

1.【Offer sacrifice according to the regulations】1-8 Israel became the kingdom of priesthood of God. Before entering the promise land, God had set the detailed regulations for offering sacrifice including the daily offerings, the Sabbath offerings, the monthly offerings and the feasts for every year. It also included the quantity of the offering for the aromatic offerings by fire. They would be pleasing to God and satisfy His heart.

※【Measure the sanctuary according to the measurement】1-4 Ezekiel the prophet was brought from the inner court to the sanctuary. He saw the angel measured the length and width of the sanctuary and from the jambs to the entrance. Every part of the sanctuary was measured by the measuring cord, just like the Israelites had to offer sacrifices to God according to the regulations and was accepted. Our lives should also be measured every day by the Lord's words and unite with Him. On one side was offering sacrifices while the other was to minister according to God's will and pattern. Both were accepted by God.

2.【Satisfy God】1-8 Christ offered Himself to satisfy God. The Israelites also offered their aromatic offering by fire to God for His food to satisfy Him so He might enjoy. Whoever offers should not pursue to satisfy himself but to consider God's heart and accomplish His will.

※【Glorify God】1-13 The sanctuary which Ezekiel saw in vision, from the outer court to the inner court, from the holy place to the Most Holy Place, all fit to the pattern and measurement of God. This symbolized the people who had returned and were refined and became the glorious sanctuary of God. His glory filled the sanctuary. (Eze 43:1-5) The Israelites offered sacrifices according to God's will was also to satisfy and glorify God.

3.【Make regular offering to unite with God】1-8 Israel was set apart to be holy from among the peoples by God to be His chosen people. They ought to communicate with God and be united with Him through offering sacrifices to be a holy people. God ordered them to offer regular burnt offering each day. One lamb each in the morning and in the twilight together with the grain offering and drink offering representing to live and to die for the Lord. (2 Co 5:14-15) We too ought to lead a life of offering everyday that Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. (Php 1:20)

※【Enter the inner sanctuary to meet with God】1-4 The width of the three entrances of the sanctuary was from fourteen cubits of the sanctuary (Eze 40:48 the entrance was 14 cubits wide), to outer sanctuary was ten cubits wide and then to inner sanctuary was six cubits wide. They got narrower. This teaches us to enter the narrow gate and run a narrow path, (Mt 7:7:13-14) and offer sacrifices daily to live and die for the Lord and follow a suffering footpath of Christ. Then we will have a life of the inner sanctuary with the Lord face to face just like Moses and Ezekiel. They denied themselves to obey and offered themselves to enter the most holy place and understand the pattern of the whole Tent of Meeting and the sanctuary. We too, ought to offer regularly, enter the inner court to have close fellowship with God to deeply understand how wide and long and high and deep is God's love!

4.【More sacrifices more blessings】9-15 The Sabbath day represented the spiritual rest God reserved for His people. God stipulated that the Israelites had to offer a double portion for each Sabbath day and to worship God more. More was required for the first of every month. Apart from the grain offering and drinking offering, a ram had to be offered for the sin offering by the redemption of Christ. These were added apart from the regular offering. The more offerings, the more we love the Lord and the more grace!

※【The higher one goes the wider it is】5-13 Surrounding the sanctuary on the south, the west and the north were houses with three levels. Each level had thirty rooms to be used by the priests to place the holy things. The three levels of houses were wider as one went up and wider as one went higher. The spiritual pursuit of the priests ought to be like this. The more abundant the life, the wider the spiritual realm, just like Moses and Ezekiel reached the spiritual peak. All these are inseparable to the regular daily, weekly and monthly dedication of life. The path of the cross is to sacrifice, the more you deny yourself the more you gain. We must be totally crushed to offer completely and deny completely, then we will reach the abundant condition. We ought to insist on the dedication of life on a day by day, month by month and year by year basis to reach the spiritual broad place to glorify God more!

**B. Remember the Lord's love, fit to His measurement and display God's love**

Without defect (Num 28:16-31) - Fit the measurement (Eze 41:14-26)

1.【The Lord is the Lamb】16-25 The fourteenth day of the first month was the Lord's Passover to remember God led the Israelites out of Egypt through the blood of the lamb and were redeemed to avoid the plague of the firstborn. This represented Christ has been sacrificed. (1 Co 5:7) There was also the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days. The first and the seventh day ought to hold a sacred assembly and do no work. They could only offer more sacrifices to God with a thanksgiving and loving heart to offer the aromatic offering by fire. The church also ought to observe the Lord's supper according to His instruction to recall our iniquities and remember the Lord's love and love Him more deeply. (1 Co 11:23-25)

※【The Lord is the sanctuary】14 The sanctuary that the prophet saw also represented Christ who died and has risen. He was raised in three days. (Jn 2:19-22) We ought to worship God with a godly heart and do not forget His great love of shedding His blood and became the lamb of the Passover. He was slain to offer! The courtyard in front of the temple, the courtyard to the north, east and south of the outer court were one hundred cubits long. The spacious courtyard allowed those who came to offer and worship may enjoy God's unsearchable riches and great love of God together. The design of the entire sanctuary exhibited God's wisdom and great love!

2.【Without defect】16-25 All the offerings to God, whether male lambs, young bulls, rams had to be without defect. Then they would be accepted. Any ox or sheep with defect or flaw would be unclean and detestable to God. (Lev 22:17-25; Deu 17:1)

※【Be watchful to guard】15-21 There were walls and gates from the outer court to the inner court of the sanctuary. The inner court had narrow windows to guard against the enemy. The inner court of our heart ought to be like a garden locked up. Our offer ought to be sound and without defect, pursue the holiness of the inner heart, be alert to guard the heart. (SS 4:12; Pr 4:23)

3.【Reap the harvest】26-31 The Feast of Weeks was also called the Pentecost. This was on the second day of the seventh Sabbath after the Passover and we ought to offer the firstfruits to God. This represented Christ resurrected and the Holy Spirit descended to reap the first lot of spiritual harvest. We ought to pray for the Holy Spirit to fill us so the church may revive and grab the harvest to accomplish the great mission of gospel preaching assigned to us by God.

※【Display God's glory】23-26 Both the outer sanctuary and the Most Holy Place had double doors. Each door had two leaves - two hinged leaves convenient to open. If the churches keep the Word of God, they will be given an open door to grab to save the souls to reap the harvest. This door can be shut by no one. (Rev 3:8) Each door was carved palm trees representing the triumph of Christ. The cherubim represented the heavenly life displaying God's righteousness and glory. The church is the sanctuary of God and ought to be filled with the witness of Christ to lead thousands to enter the door of salvation full of God's glory.

4.【Sacrifice the new grain offering】26-31 During the Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended and the harvest was reaped. God ordered to offer the new grain offering. Christ has risen from the dead and became the firstfruits offered to God and the Lamb (2 Co 5:17; 1 Co 15:20; Rev 14:4) to serve in the new way of the Spirit. (Ro 7:6)

※【Set the bread of life】22 There was a wooden altar set before the door of the inner court. This was also named the table of the Lord, which was the table of the bread of the Presence. (Exo 25:23-30; Lev 24:5-9) The Lord is the bread of life who broke for us so millions may be satisfied. We ought to observe the Pentecost and be filled with the Holy Spirit to offer ourselves like a new grain offering and be completely broken and set, so people may gain life and be satisfied due to Christ.

**Ps 145 / Rev 18:13 Main theme: Do not be the slave of the world, preach the Lord's rich grace forever and be the righteous slave**

**- The righteous slave / the worldly slave**

Let us not be attracted by the fragrance of the world and do not work for food that spoils. Do not be the slave of the world. We ought to be contented with the food and clothing while we are staying in the world as alien. But we must be attracted by God's love every day and sacrifice the fragrant offering to Him. We shall work for food that endures to eternal life and be the righteous slave to preach God's rich grace every day till the end.

(1)【Preach the Lord's rich grace】1-7 Those who are favored will exalt the

Lord as great. They will honor His words as holy. They will praise and tell of God's mighty acts, great deeds and abundant goodness forever and ever.

(2)【God loves righteousness and is rich in love】8-17 He is good to all. He upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. He prays that everyone will enter His glorious kingdom.

(3)【Call on Him in truth and will be saved】18-21 He is good to all who calls on Him. Whoever obeys His command and trusts in His power will receive His care. The stubborn and rebellious will be destroyed. We ought to proclaim the Lord's unfailing love and righteousness.

**Central point of the wheels: Always sacrifice and measure, do not be a slave of sin and preach salvation forever**

Dear Lord, I wish to sacrifice myself, think of the things above and be your glorious sanctuary to satisfy your heart!

**Num 29 / Eze 42**

**Main theme: Eat the holy words and enter into perfection, be sanctified and guard against the enemy**

**-Die completely / Be sanctified**

Golden verses: Num 29:39-40 Eze 42:12

A discussion on dying completely and be sanctified - on one side it concerned that after the Israelites had entered the promised land, they ought to observe the feasts and sacrifice to remember God's love of redemption. They ought to have fellowship with God through the offering and die completely to the old self to unite with God. On the other side it concerned the prophet was brought into the room to eat the most holy offerings and was sanctified by the Word fit for the pattern of the Lord. We ought to die completely to the old self everyday by the cross and to set apart for the Lord and dwell in Him forever.

**A. Observe the feast and offer sacrifices, deny yourself and serve the Lord watchfully**

Be watchful (Num 29:1-11) - Deny yourself (Eze 42:1-12)

1.【The Feast of Trumpets, serve the Lord watchfully】1-6 The first day of the seventh month was the Feast of Trumpets representing before the Lord comes again, He will send the angels to blow the trumpet to gather the scattered people to return. (Mt 24:31) This also represents the church ought to blow the trumpet to prepare watchfully, to preach the gospel extensively and wait to be caught up. (Mt 24:42-46) The Israelites ought to hold a sacred assembly on this day and do no work. They were to declare the coming of the joyous day. They were to offer nine bull and lambs as burnt offerings to the Lord and a male goat as sin offering for atonement. These were in addition to the regular offerings. They were not to neglect the daily offerings and the usual ministry to communicate with God and be watchful to wait for the Lord's coming.

※【Enter the inner court and be sanctified to serve the Lord】1-12 Ezekiel was brought to the inner court to the rooms opposite the temple courtyard. The structure of the south side and the north side were completely the same. These rooms were set apart to be holy to be used by the priests. We ought to set apart to be holy to go into the Lord and serve Him in a godly and sanctified manner. The day of the Lord's coming is near! The feast of the Trumpets is coming. The church is a royal priesthood and ought to serve the Lord watchfully by blowing the trumpets of gospel to declare the Lord's praises. (1 Pe 2:9)

2.【Deny yourself to atone the sins】7-11 The tenth day of the seventh month was the day of atonement of Israel and they ought to hold a sacred assembly. This was a day of worship for all the people. No work was to be done on this day. They were to deny themselves and examine their own sins. The high priest had to make atonement for the Israelites by the blood of the atonement sacrifice to cleanse all the sins. This represented Christ sacrificed once for all and became the everlasting sin offering. "He loved me and gave Himself for me."

※【Deny yourself to bear the burden】1-12 The rooms opposite the temple courtyard were in two rows side by side with a distance of ten cubits representing the matching of the ministry. These rooms had three levels representing our lives ought to ascend step by step to the spiritual level. There were galleries on the third level which took some space. Thus the upper level was narrower than the lower and middle floors showing the priests who had reached the third level might deny themselves to bear so as to make others convenient and sacrifice themselves. Christ denied Himself to redeem our sins. We too, ought to deny ourselves and be willing to sacrifice to intercede and bear others' weaknesses. (Ro 15:1-3)

3.【Love the Lord wholeheartedly】1-11 Apart from the stated offerings for each feast, the regular burnt offerings with its grain offerings and the drink offerings had to be offered. This reminds us not to forget God's great love of redemption all our life to offer willingly to pour out our love to the Lord wholeheartedly!

※【Trust in the Lord wholeheartedly】1-9 The rooms had three stories and no pillars unlike the room in the outer court. The top story was narrower than the first and middle stories. In order to be a priest, he has to suffer and deny himself. Apart from the Lord, he should not rely on anything but to trust and love Him wholeheartedly. Only the Lord is the one you can trust!

**B. Eat the holy words of the Lord, unite with Him and separate the holy from the common**

Die completely (Num 29:12-40) - Separate to be holy (Eze 42:13-20)

1.【Unite with the Lord】12-16 The fifteenth day of the seventh month was the Feast of Tabernacles, a joyous feast day the Israelites rejoice on their harvest. There ought to be a sacred assembly and no work was to be done. They had to celebrate the feast for seven days. They had to offer according to the required number to unite with the Lord and love the Lord fervently through observing the feast and offerings. The total number of offerings exceeded the offerings of other feasts. The number of offering decreased day by day. The first day was to offer thirteen counts. Among them were thirteen young bulls for burnt offerings. On the second day were for twelve bulls. Thus they offered every day and died every day to their old personality and old self. This teaches us to offer every day to lead a life of the Feast of Tabernacles to dwell and rejoice together with God. This also represents the glorious, abundant and joyous kingdom of Christ.

※【Eat the holy words of the Lord】13-14 The north and south rooms facing the temple courtyard were the priests' rooms for putting the most holy offerings - the grain offerings, the sin offerings and the guilt offerings. The priests who approached the Lord would eat the most holy offerings in these rooms and be sanctified by the truth. This teaches us to eat the Lord's holy words on one side (Jn 6:55-56) to deal with our old self and be closer to God. On the other side to offer sacrifices every day to communicate with God and be united in one with Him! Whenever they celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles on the last year of the seven years, they had to gather the community to listen to the laws of the Lord to learn to fear God and obey every word of His laws. Then they would lead a godly life of dwelling and rejoice with God. (Deu 31:9-13)

2.【Die completely】17-40 The Israelites had to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days. Every day they had to offer the aromatic burnt offerings according to the quantity without defect showing that we should offer our bodies as living sacrifices and be transformed by the renewing of our mind without conforming to the pattern of this world. This is aromatic and satisfying in God's sight! In this way, they had to offer seven young bulls on the seventh day, that was, to be perfect before God. Simultaneously they had to offer a male goat everyday as a sin offering to be accepted in God's redemption. Christ and His cross had replaced all the sacrifices of animals and the offering. (Heb 9:11-14) They had to hold an assembly on the eighth day to deny themselves and to worship and minister the Lord wholeheartedly. Through observing the feast and offering sacrifices to let the old self die completely to become a kingdom of priests to enjoy the dwelling and rejoice with God and men.

※【Separate to be holy】15-20 The angel measured the surrounding walls of the court representing the walls of salvation (Isa 26:1) to separate the holy from the common. On one side was to deal with the old self through offerings and to put the old self to death completely. On the other side was to be guarded through the walls of salvation to separate from the common. The border of the sanctuary was five hundred cubits long on each side. It was a square, just like the holy city Jerusalem. It was also like the breast plate of the high priest mounted with twelve pieces of precious stones. They were precious and honored in God's sight. He paid attention on them and did not take His eyes off them and remembered them forever. (Exo 28:15-30)

**Ps 146 / Rev 18:14 Main theme: Do not covet the worldly taste, act righteously by the Lord and lead others to return to God**

**-Act righteously / Love the world**

To covet the worldly pleasures and walk in one's way will turn to nothing by an instant. But if we walk a righteous path by the help of the Lord, it may be narrow and bitter. We will glorify God and benefit others. So when the Lord comes we will reign together with the Lord.

(1)【Exalt and praise God for life】1-4 Take God as the center, exalt and serve Him all your life without putting your trust in princes and mortal men. Do not long to gain anything in the world for whoever labors in it is only chasing after the wind or clutching at shadows. All is meaningless.

(2)【Blessed is he who walk a righteous path by the help of God】5-10 By the help of the Lord, put hope in Him so our sins may be forgiven and our souls be satisfied. The truth sanctifies me to be released with freedom. The blind will be given sight without begging on earth. He will see the glorious beauty in heaven and be justified and righteous to walk with the Lord to rescue all those in hardship. There will be suffering on earth, but when the Lord comes, they will receive the reward. How blessed!

**Central point of the wheels: Die completely and be sanctified, lift up and trust in God to praise**

Dear Lord, may you make me be far away from sin, be sanctified by your Word,

put my old self to death, unite with You, trust and praise You.

**Num 30 / Eze 43**

**Main theme:** **Keep the covenant firmly, understand the law, be away from evil and be filled with God's glory**

**-Obey God's will / Understand the law**

Golden verses: Num 30:2 Eze 43:11

A discussion on obeying God's will and understanding the law - on one side it concerned the Israelites exalted God as holy no matter in making a vow or swearing an oath. They took God's will as their standard and not doing according to their own wish. On the other side it concerned the returned people treated serving God as their center. In everything they obeyed the pattern and law of the temple to be away from evil and pursue the most holy. Then God's glory no longer departed and dwelled together with them. In everything do not follow the evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. (1 Pe 4:2)

**A. Do not follow one's way and be misled, obey the Father's will and understand the law**

Obey the Father's will (Num 30:1-5) - Understand the law (Eze 43:1-12)

1.【Make a vow and fulfill it】1-2 God ordered the heads of the tribes: when a man made a vow or took an oath to obligate himself by a pledge, he could not break his word but had to do everything he said. If we have a spirit to offer to God, we ought to be firm forever without withdrawing or going back. Just like the beloved son of God, Jesus, He fulfilled the will of the Father God to be completely submissive to drink the bitter cup willingly. We ought to make a vow and fulfill the vow and obey the will to bear the cross till the end.

※【Full of God's glory】1-5 In his vision Ezekiel saw the glory of God coming from the east and came back again. The glory filled the temple. God's glory left the temple when Judah was subjugated and taken captive because they were full of deception and unrighteousness. They vowed but did not fulfill. How could the holy and righteous God tolerate! The prophet was the watchman of the house of Israel to warn the people on behalf of God. Now, he saw a vision again. He comforted the captives only if they would turn from evil and be honest without breaking their words to vow and fulfill, God's glory would fill the temple and be with them.

2.【Obey the Father's will】3-5 When a young woman vowed to God, it had to be accepted by the father to stand. If the father said nothing to her, the vow would stand. If the father forbid her, then it would not stand and God would forgive her. If we become the children of God by faith, we ought to honor the Father (Jn 1:12) and abandon our own ways and thoughts but obey the will of the Father God. (Ro 12:2)

※【God dwells in us】6-7 After the house of Israel returned, they obeyed God's will without being rebellious. God would return to the temple, the place of His throne and dwell among them forever. If we are humble to obey God's will, we will experience His presence forever.

3.【Obligate oneself】4 If the father agreed to the vow made by the daughter, she had to obligate herself according to her vow to separate from the common and be sanctified to be holy to God. This was pleasing to God.

※【Put away the prostitution】7-9 The house of Israel and their kings indulged in adultery and broke their promises with God without obligating themselves. Thus they were disgraced and taken captive. If they felt ashamed and were remorseful on what they had done, then they ought not do anything detestable to defile God's holy name. We too, ought to obligate ourselves in the Holy Spirit to turn from prostitution to glorify God's name.

4.【Understand God's regulations】1 Moses was the bosom friend and spokesman of God's will. He obeyed to declare God's statutes to the heads of tribes of Israel. This was to let the whole of the house of Israel to understand the instructions of vows so as to obey them to vow and fulfill just like the Nazirites who vow to separate to the Lord and be blessed by God for serving Him in a holy manner.

※【Understand God's laws】10-12 Ezekiel saw the entire vision of the temple after their return. He was instructed with the pattern of the temple, its exits and entrances and all its regulations. The most important was the law of the temple which had to be most holy representing the highest requirement and standard of God's holiness. Moses told the regulations of a Nazirite to the house of Israel while Ezekiel also told them the law of the temple, so that they might understand how to keep them and pursue God's most holy law which was holy without blemish and pure. This was pleasing to God and blessed.

**B. By redemption and keep the covenant firmly, obey to offer and God accepts**

Keep the covenant firmly (Num 30:6-16) - By redemption (Eze 43:13-27)

1.【Obey】6-8 If a young woman married after she made a vow and her husband heard about it and said nothing to her, the vow would stand. But if the husband forbade her, the vow would be nullified. (Eph 5:22) We too should submit to Christ in everything. Irrespective of anything, only the will of the Lord be accomplished.

※【Offer forever】13-17 In the vision, the prophet saw the altar of the temple was measured. This represented Christ and His cross. In order to rescue the sinners, He abandoned His honor in heaven and became the burnt offering and was completely sacrificed on the altar. The Lord loved us and denied Himself for us. May God use His cords of kindness and ties of love to hitch us and bring us to the horns of the altar and submit willingly to serve the Lord forever. (Hos 11:4; Ps 118:27)

2.【Not by ourselves】9-16 Any vow taken by a widow or divorced woman would be binding on her. The vow of a married woman would stand if the husband did not forbid her. If he disagreed, the vow would be nullified. It is by the grace of redemption of Christ to accomplish everything so we may fulfill our vow or obligation to God.

※【By redemption】18-27 After the purification of the altar, it might be used. The ceremony of purification was for a week. Every day the sin offerings and the burnt offerings had to be sacrificed according to the regulations. From the eighth day on, the people might bring in their regular offerings. All the offerings for the ceremony of purification represented Christ. (Heb 9:12) We ought to look up and trust in Christ to accomplish the salvation, whether fulfilling a vow or keeping the covenant.

3.【Keep the regulations firmly】16 God told Moses about the regulations of making a vow to remind the Israelites to give thanks to God and fulfill the vow lest they might omit to fulfill and sin against God. Therefore we ought to keep our vow without breaking the word or act wantonly.

※【Be faithful to serve the Lord】19 Within the Levites only the descendants of Zadok might stay near God and make sacrifice for the purification of the altar because they carefully kept God's instructions when the Israelites were led astray. They were faithful to watch over God's temple without abandoning Him. Irrespective of any circumstances, the one who vowed must keep the statutes firmly and serve the Lord faithfully without mocking.

4.【Man's pledge】9-15 If the husband agreed to the vow, the wife could not change her mind. She had to stand firm on her vow and deny obligating herself on her oath. This represented the church ought to submit to Christ and continue to live in Him. (Col 2:6)

※【God's covenant】24 When sacrificing the burnt offerings, the priests were to sprinkle salt on it before God for the returned people and their descendants to be an everlasting covenant of salt. (not wasted or turn bad Num 18:19) God's covenant is a covenant of salt which is never abandoned.

God wanted to show great favor to regain His people forever. Christ used His blood to set a new covenant with us. We should not fail God in His great love of redemption and serve Him with thanks and never be swerving.

**Ps 147 / Rev 18:15 Main theme: Build in the Lord and rejoice, the worldly trading is mournful**

**- Build / Trade**

If our hearts are like the robbers' den, trading with the world and pursuing fame and interest, we will flourish only for a short while and end with mourning. If we build in the Lord, there is everlasting value and we will be rewarded by Him.

(1)【Build in the Lord and be full of praises】1-4 Build yourselves up in the most holy faith and make every determination and effort to turn to God so the exiles may be gathered. Like a prodigal son, he returns after being beaten. God binds up our wounds so we may lead others to righteousness and shine like stars and be treasured by God.

(2)【Fear and trust in the Lord will be firmly established】5-15 If we humble in grace and do not rely on our strength or ability but trust in God's power and wisdom to pray for the spiritual rain and revival of the world, we will be firmly established by God. Then we may bear choice fruit, be abundant with spiritual food and God's words may be proclaimed quickly and extensively.

(3)【When the Lord gives the order, everything will be reversed】16-20 When God sends His word, everything will be back to life. The horrifying environment will change so God's children may go to the nations to preach the gospel and let all peoples obey the Word and gain the everlasting blessing!

**Central point of the wheels: Exalt God as holy, do not covet on wealth and benefit but give thanks and sacrifice offerings**

Dear Lord, may you make me exalt You as holy, not to follow man's desire but your will and live in your glory and presence!

**Num 31 / Eze 44**

**Main theme: Be attentive to obey, destroy the enemy completely, give thanks and offer eagerly**

**-Fighting warrior / The priest (Overcome / Be faithful)**

Golden verses: Num 31:22-24 Eze 44:15

A discussion on fighting warriors and the priests - on one side it concerned the Israelites had to kill all the Midianites and the enemies to avenge for themselves and become victorious fighting warriors before they took the land. On the other side it concerned the descendants of Zadok who wanted to minister before God had to undergo trials and not be tempted by idols. They had to be completely holy to become a faithful priest in order to inherit the kingdom of God.

**A. Destroy the enemies without leaving any future trouble and serve the Lord in a holy manner**

Destroy the enemies (Num 31:1-24) - Serve the Lord (Eze 44:1-14)

1.【Destroy the enemies and take possession of the land】1-2 Before the Israelites entered the land of Canaan, they obeyed to kill the Midianites, to take vengeance on them because they used tricks and temptation to trouble the Israelites. Only by destroying the enemy completely may they press forward to gain the land.

※【Serve God in a holy manner】5 God's will for the Israelites was to serve Him in the good land in a holy manner and become a kingdom of priests. God ordered Moses to destroy Midian, the enemy. He also ordered Ezekiel to give attention to the most holy law of the temple (Eze 43:12) and all the exits and entrances of the temple and sanctuary, that was, to understand the pattern of the ministry of the kingdom. (Eze 40:4) We must destroy all inner and outer enemies, then we may serve the Lord in a holy manner.

2.【Armed with weapon】3-5 Before the Israelites attacked the Midianites, they had to arm themselves ready for battle to be fighting warriors. There were twelve thousand Israelites who joined the battle. We must put on the spiritual armor (Ro 13:12; 1 Pe 4:1; Heb4:12) to be the fighting warriors of Christ Jesus.

※【Control one's temper】1-2 The east gate of the sanctuary had to remain shut and not be opened because the Lord, the God of Israel had entered through it. Our heart ought to be closed without being tempted by sin. Similarly, we must control our temper if we are a fighting warrior (Pr 16:32) to let God reign in us without allowing the sinful nature to reign. We must guard our heart and keep the command strictly. Then we may overcome the enemy.

3.【Be jealous and overcome the enemy】6 Phinehas was the commander-in-chief of the army. He had a jealous heart for God. He did not do by the flesh but he took with him articles from the sanctuary full of the spiritual authority. He blew out the trumpet and overcame the enemy. (2 Co 10:3-5)

※【Eat the Lord's holy words】3 The king entered the temple and ate in the presence of God. He united with God and used the Lord's words to pray to work with God. The spiritual leaders had to enter the sanctuary like the king and ate the holy words and be filled with jealousy and the authority of the Holy Spirit to attack crime fervently. Then they might lead the troops to overcome the enemy.

4.【Obey to kill the enemies completely】7-8 The Israelites obeyed the order of Moses to kill the enemy. They killed every man at one stroke and among them were the five kings of Midian and Balaam the false prophet. He deserved this ending. This will also be the final ending of the beast and the false prophet in the last days. (Rev 19:20)

※【God's glory filled the temple】4 When the prophet saw the glory of God filling the temple, he fell facedown. We must destroy the inner enemy completely and put the flesh to death thoroughly, and then we may become the glorious temple of God. We also ought to humble before God and do not be deluded by the false prophet and overcome the tricks of Baal of Peor thoroughly.

5.【Do not leave any future trouble】9-18 The Israelite troops captured the Midianite women and children and took all their herds and goods and returned full of plunder. But Moses was angry with the commanders because they did not thoroughly destroy the women who allured the Israelites to commit adultery in the case of Baal of Peor. They triumphed externally but left some future trouble and harmed their descendants. Moses the servant of God was alert and discerned. He led them to destroy the enemy thoroughly to breach the gap.

※【Breach the gap】6-9 Ezekiel was also full of God's jealousy and righteousness just like Moses. He severely rebuked the rebellious and detestable practices of the house of Israel. They allowed the foreigners to defile the temple of God and brought foreigners uncircumcised in heart and flesh in charge of the sanctuary. We too, ought to take the sword of the Holy Spirit to pierce through the trick of Baal of Peor to annihilate the evil power without leaving any future trouble and be a faithful one to breach the gap.

6.【Return to God and be holy】19-24 The camp of Israel ought to be holy for God moved about in the camp. After the troops of Israel returned from battle, they had to cleanse themselves outside the camp for seven days before they might come into the camp. All the plunder had to be put through the fire or be purified with the water of cleansing (Num 19:9) according to the purification regulations of Moses and be cleansed to be holy to God.

※【Remove the stumbling block】10-14 The Levites ought to be holy to God. But as they went astray, they departed from God and followed the idols and made the house of Israel fell into sin. They had to bear the consequences of their sin and could only have charge of the gates of the temple. They were not to go near any of the holy things. God is holy and cannot be mocked. We must be holy whether before or after the work or in our livelihood or in our ministry. We ought to remove the stumbling block of iniquity and serve God with clean hands and a pure heart!

**B. Share in the plunder, serve the Lord faithfully, God be our property**

Share (Num 31:25-54) - Be dutiful (Eze 44:15-31)

1.【Share in God's grace】25-31 After the troops came back victoriously, they first obeyed God's order to divide the spoils with the whole community at the rear showing God's mind. God's love was to let the participating troops and the whole community to share in God's grace. Both the troops and the community each had half the spoils. From half of the spoils of the soldiers' share, one out of every five hundred was set apart for the Lord. From the community, one out of fifty was given to the Levites. The share of the priests was exactly one tenth of the Levites' showing God' justice and wisdom!

※【Be blessed together】15-16,28-31 When the whole house of Israel was led astray, the descendants of Zadok were still faithful to carry out the duties of the sanctuary. They overcame the power of the idols. So only they were to go near to minister before God. The priests were dutiful in the sanctuary and took God as their inheritance. Thus they enjoyed the best portion and whichever was offered to God and the firstfruits were given to them to enjoy. When the people acted like this, they were greatly blessed before God, (Mal 3:10) just like when the troops came back and divided the spoils with the whole community to share God's grace. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

2.【To number earnestly】32-47 Moses and Eleazar the priest and the family heads of the tribes divided the spoils according to God's instructions. They had to count the total, whether persons and all kinds of cattle and share equally. This was a hard and tedious job but it displayed God's just and mercy mind.

※【Instruct in detail】17-26 Ezekiel the prophet wrote in detail of the priests' livelihood, marriage, daily life, clothing, behavior and ministry, all had to be according to God's instructions, so they might be away from impurity to serve God in a holy and without blemish manner and judge the people according to God's decrees. On one side was to obey and count earnestly. On the other side was to obey to instruct in detail. Both displayed God's great love of meticulous care and His requirement of righteousness and justice!

3.【Give thanks and offer】48-54 Due to the care of God's power, not a man was lost in the battle. The Israelite army was full of thanks and offered the articles of gold to God to make atonement for themselves and placed them in the temple as a memorial to witness the power of God!

※【Serve with grace】27 The priests were favored to minister God in the sanctuary. First of all, they had to offer a sin offering for themselves. They had to be consecrated by grace and then they would offer the sin offerings for the people. How noble was the duty of the priests! They offered themselves like precious gold offered to God. By the power of God's redemption, they shepherded the people and brought the house of Israel to set apart to be holy to God. They became the kingdom of priests exhibiting God's glory and all nations were favored.

**Ps 148 / Rev 18:16 Main theme: Woe to those who glorify themselves; honor the Lord's words and glorify Him and benefit men**

**-Glorify oneself / Glorify God**

All worldly beautiful clothes and expensive ornaments will wither and dry like flowers and grass in an instant and woe. Only by obeying the Lord's Word (that is the Lord's name Rev 19:13) as holy will we have the spiritual ornaments and become the Lord' beautiful instrument and be exalted by Him to glorify God and benefit men.

(1)【Those from the heavens shall praise the Lord's name】1-6 Those who are favored due to faith live in heaven and be God's angels and heavenly hosts, those who are mightily used and shine like the sun, the moon and the stars, or like Paul who had ascended to the heaven, would praise the name of God due the Word which they believe and are created.

(2)【Those from the earth shall honor the Lord's name】7-13 Every creation, all levels of men, animals and insects, birds whoever exalts the Lord's name will be favored, like Rahab the prostitute. Men would treat her as beasts and insects, but as she exalted God, she became the grandmother in the genealogy of the Lord Jesus. The robber on the cross was able to enter the paradise on that day. Whoever does not exalt God will have no share in

God's plan and will be avenged.

(3)【The Lord raises His holy people】14 He who always obeys the Word of the Lord is the real saint of the Lord. The horn of the righteous will be raised. By that time, he will reign with the Lord. We ought to give thanks and praise Him.

**Central point of the wheels: Destroy sin completely, exalt the Lord's words and serve Him faithfully**

Dear Lord, may you let me be holy and jealous, destroy all idols and sinfulness, be faithful and watchful, be tested by You and become your fighting warrior!

**Num 32 / Eze 45**

**Main theme: Remove the selfish motive, deny ourselves and obey the will to gain the promised good land**

**-Select the land / Present the land (For self / Deny oneself)**

Golden verses: Num 32:6-7 Eze 45:1-2

A discussion on selecting the land and presenting the land - on one side it concerned the Rubenites, the Gadites and the half tribe of Manasseh only valued the benefits before their eyes and abandoned the good land promised by God. They chose the land east of Jordan and lost the better one. On the other side it concerned the Israelites presented to the Lord a portion of the land as a sacred district to be the temple of the holy city to worship God as the center. There they enjoyed the glory and abundance of the kingdom. This teaches us to abandon everything on earth to gain the property destined by God.

**A. Remove the selfish motive, present the sacred district, follow wholeheartedly and gain the good land**

For self (Num 32:1-19) - For God (Eze 45:1-12)

1.【Select the land for oneself】1-5 Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh only valued the worldly belongings. Due to their wives and children and their large quantity of livestock, they selected the land on the east of the Jordan but did not value the good land of Canaan which God promised. They were short-sighted and looked for their own interest. They easily abandoned the good land God had destined and chose the inheritance outside the promise.

※【Present the land for God】1 Ezekiel saw in the spirit the glorious good land of the kingdom, the land of Canaan promised by God. When the Israelites allotted the land as an inheritance to enjoy God's abundance and peace, they had to present to the Lord a portion of the land, 25,000 cubits long and 10,000 cubits wide as a sacred district to repay God's love. On one side was selfishness and selected the land east of Jordan for oneself. On the other side was being grateful to present a sacred district for God.

2.【Take self as the center】1-5 The two and a half tribes only cared for the interest before their very eyes. They coveted the complacent enjoyment of the flesh and were unwilling to cross the river. They neglected God's will and cared only for their own choice. They were self-centered.

※【Take God as the center】2-3 The Israelites presented a piece of the sacred district, an area of 500 cubits long and wide as the sanctuary of God. This sanctuary was most holy (Eze 43:12) showing the people of the kingdom treated worshiping God as the center and God as the center, while the two and a half tribes did not have any position for God. They themselves were the center. They thought that godliness was a means to financial gain. They chose their own interest and not God as the center.

3.【Seek temporary comfort and obtain the less good】1-5 The Jordan was like a dead river. In order to gain the inheritance promised by God, we must cross the river to experience to enter death and live out anew, to die, to bury and to be raised with Christ. (Ro 6:4) The two and a half tribes were unwilling to cross the river and were satisfied with the east of Jordan. They did not seek to advance. They were unwilling to run the narrow path of the cross or to pay the price to obey God's will. They muddled along and were perfunctory.

※【Be near to serve the Lord and enjoy the best】4 The Israelites set apart to be holy and presented the holy portion for the priests who ministered in the sanctuary, those priests who drew near to serve the Lord. This would be their place of living and ministry. Their inheritance was within the sacred district presented to God to enjoy God's portion. On one side was the two and a half tribes were perfunctory and gained the less good land east of Jordan. On the other side was the descendants of Zadok who were priests had been through trials and enjoyed the best portion. We ought to forsake the less good, then we will gain the everlasting inheritance destined by God.

4.【Neglect the brothers】6-7 Moses was God's faithful servant. He was unselfish and only bore the thoughts of God. When he heard the words of the two tribes, he rebuked them for being selfish and complacent to stay on the east of Jordan. They did not care if their countrymen went to war resulting the Israelites were discouraged and would not go to gain the land, just like the spies who gave a bad report previously and brought bad influence on the whole community.

※【Take the interest of the overall situation】6 Adjoining the sacred portion, that was the south of the sacred portion was the city belonging to the whole house of Israel. The other land was divided among the various tribes. The whole house of Israel ought to treat God as the center just like Jerusalem is the center of the kingdom. God's mind was to let the whole house of Israel gain the land. But the two tribes only cared for themselves and neglected their brothers. They did not consider God's mind and take the interest of the overall situation.

5.【Follow the Lord wholeheartedly and gain the good land】8-15 Moses used the past example to warn them now in a serious manner lest they might repeat the wrong. Those who were contemptuous to God fell in the desert and only Caleb and Joshua who followed God wholeheartedly gained the good land promised by God. The two tribes were unwilling to part with the east of Jordan or cross the river to gain the land promised by God. As a result, they were the first to be taken captive. (1 Ch 5:25-26) This is our everlasting warning.

※【Serve the Lord faithfully and gain the everlasting property】5 Within the land of the Israel, there was a part 25,000 cubits long and 10,000 cubits wide which belonged to the Levites who served in the temple. The Levites had no portion or inheritance in the land of Israel. But they enjoyed a share in the kingdom. We ought to have a different spirit to unite with God, follow Him wholeheartedly and be dutiful in our ministry. Then we will be rewarded to gain the good inheritance.

6.【A compromise idea】16-19 The two and a half tribes were bent on valuing the land east of Jordan. They put forward a compromise. On one hand they would let their women and children and livestock stay on the east of Jordan and build pens and cities for them. On the other hand they would arm themselves to help the brothers in battles and then return to the east to gain the land.

※【An accurate standard】7-12 Bordering the side of the sacred district would belong to the prince as their inheritance. They would no longer infringe on the land of the people. The duty of the prince was to practice justice and righteousness without oppressing and dispossessing the people. God stipulated every measurement had to match the accurate standard of God, the righteous and just standard of God. To the law and to the testimony. (Isa 8:20; 2817) The two and a half tribes did not take God's will as the standard. By their own selfishness, they negotiated with God and finally put forward the compromise deviating from God's will and the righteous requirement.

**B. Get rid of the selfish motive, obey and act, lead others to deny themselves and offer**

Listen and act (Num 32:20-42) - Offer sacrifice (Eze 45:13-25)

1.【Keep the promise firmly】20-32 Moses promised the vow of the two and a half tribes before God but they had to fulfill the promise. They agreed and did according to God's instructions. Thus Moses declared this to Eleazar the priest and Joshua and the family heads of the Israelite tribes who would later divide the land. After Joshua had led the people cross the Jordan, they obeyed and helped their brothers to go to battle. (Jos 4:12-13)

※【Keep the regulations firmly】13-20 When Israel had lived in the good land peacefully and enjoyed God abundant provisions and the broad and fertile pastureland, they ought to have a thankful heart and offer their wheat, oil and sheep according to the regulations. Besides this, each year the priest had to offer the ceremony to purify the sanctuary. They had to take the blood of the sin offering to atone the sins of the people who sinned unintentionally or through ignorance. Irrespective of the people or the priests, they had to keep the regulations of offering and atonement! The two and a half tribes too ought to keep their promise to help their brothers to attack the enemies and accomplish God's will.

2.【Destroy the enemies and gain their land】33-42 Moses gave to the Gadites, the Reubenites and the half-tribe of Manasseh the land of Sihon king of Amorites and the land of Og king of Bashan. They gained the land after

Moses led the people destroy the two kings east of Jordan and they were annihilated.

※【Observe the feasts and rejoice】21-25 In ministering the kingdom, God reiterated the importance of observing the Passover every year. The prince had to observe the feast and make offerings to remember the Israelites were redeemed by God to escape from the house of slavery. On the fifteenth of the seventh month they had to observe the Feast of Tabernacles and be happy to recollect the life in the tent when they were in the desert in those days. This was just like Moses who led the people out of Egypt and destroyed the enemies to observe the feast happily on the land blessed by God. We ought to trust in the great power of the cross to subdue men's heart and grab to save the souls. Then we may enjoy the everlasting joy together!

**Ps 149 / Rev 18:17 Main theme: Worldly treasures will turn to nothing, obey the Lord's words humbly and be filled with power and glory**

**-Salvation / Worldly treasures**

The worldly riches will turn to nothing in an instant. Only be humble to receive the Lord's salvation will we be filled with power and glory.

(1)【The humble will rejoice because of His salvation】1-5 Those who pursue the worldly riches will come to nothing in the end. Whoever humbles to receive the Lord's salvation like Naaman went down the Jordan seven times and his life was changed. He experienced the victory and was sanctified. How joyous to sing the new song!

(2)【All the saints will be filled with power and glory】6-9 All the saints of God have this power and glory to use the spiritual power, that is the word of God, like a double-edged sword, to attack the people and nations of the world. They may use the power of the throne to bind the kings and nobles who are against God to restore the whole land and men's heart may return to God.

**Central point of the wheels: Deny everything and gain the good land, be the saints and sing the new song**

Dear Lord, may you let me no longer select my own path but follow You wholeheartedly to go forward and sing together with all the people!

**Num 33 / Eze 46**

**Main theme: Recollect the spiritual journey and take warning, offer the good sacrifice and destroy the remaining enemies**

**-Take warning / Serve**

Golden verses: Num 33:55-56 Eze 46:9

A discussion on taking the warning and the ministry - on one side it concerned the Israelites recollected their journey in the desert and their corrupt flesh as their warning. On the other side it concerned the regulations of the feasts and sacrifice of the redeemed people in the kingdom. We ought to take deep warning, lest we may fall. (1 Cor 10:1-11) We also have to put our flesh and old self to death by the cross so we may offer ourselves completely and unite with the Lord to serve Him in a godly manner to become a glorious dwelling of God and to prepare for the coming of the kingdom.

**A. Recollect the spiritual journey and take warning, offer the good sacrifice and worship God**

Warning (Num 33:1-36) - Worship (Eze 46:1-15)

1.【Remember God's love forever】1-4 The Israelites recalled their journey in the desert after they exited Egypt. First of all they remembered God's great love, His redemption through the lamb of the Passover so they became the army of the Lord and marched out of Egypt boldly. God killed all the firstborn of Egypt and corrupted their gods to waive the Israelites from the plague of the firstborn. We ought to remember God's great love of redemption all our life.

※【Worship to God】1-5 After Israel was redeemed and returned, they would restore the spiritual worship including the Sabbath, the New Moons and their daily offerings in the sanctuary of their kingdom. The meaning of worship is to remember and praise God and due to the urge of God's love to offer ourselves. Through sorrowful punishment, the returned people then began to understand the great love of God just like the redeemed people who had exited Egypt. The sequence of worship was, first, the prince had to enter by the east gate and stand by the gatepost. The priests were to sacrifice offerings in the inner court, while the people had to worship at the outer court. We too, ought to offer ourselves to repay God's eternal love without living for ourselves but for the Lord who died and was raised for us. (2 Co 5:14-15)

2.【Give praise for the grace】5-7 The Israelites experienced God's faithful care on all the stops of the journey. He led them through pillars of cloud and fire. When they camped near Migdol, they met the pursuit of the army of Pharaoh. Pharaoh turned his mind and led his special troops and chariots to chase after the Israelites trying to prevent the people to go forward. At the point of death, the people was rescued by God. They went down the Red Sea in dry land while the whole of Pharaoh's troops were overwhelmed in the sea. The Israelites had a total victory. They sang the song of God's salvation by the coast and praised God was majestic in holiness and awesome in glory!

※【Give thanks】6-8 On every Sabbath and the New Moon when the prince entered the east gate to worship, the priests had to prepare the sacrifices to offer burnt offerings and fellowship offerings for the prince and the people so the redeemed people who were scattered among the nations would give thanks and offer. Due to God's unfailing love and His faithfulness to raise from death to enter life just like the forefathers crossed the Red Sea and were rescued from death, they gave thanks and sang praises to God. The fellowship offerings included the thanksgiving, to fulfill a vow and freewill offering. We ought to sacrifice thank offerings and praises to God. (Ps 50:14-15; Heb 13:15)

3.【The old flesh tested God】8-16 After the people crossed the sea, they arrived the desert of Shur. They traveled for three days but could not find water. At Marah they complained because the water could not be drunk as it was bitter. Thereafter in the Desert of Sin they complained again for food. They could not part with the meat pot in Egypt. God sent manna to them as their daily bread. Again in Rephidim they quarreled due to lack of water and put God to the test. (Exo 17:1-7) And again in Kibroth Hattaavah they craved for other food. (Exo 11) How corrupt is the old flesh which always complains and puts God to the test.

※【The godly heart comes before God】9-10 The Israelites had to come before the Lord at the appointed feasts and worship with a godly heart. But those who were corrupt in flesh and ungodly and unfaithful could not come. God had set the sequence to enter or exit to come before Him. Whoever entered by the north gate to worship had to go out the south gate; and whoever entered by the south gate was to go out the north gate. This was not only the sequence of worship (1 Co 14:40) but also displayed the godliness in spiritual worship! Therefore we ought to put the flesh to death by the Holy Spirit and to set the mind on the Spirit, and then we may serve the Lord in a godly manner and walk through the desert road in our life.

4.【The leaders sinned】17 The people had stopped at Hazeroth for many days because Miriam and Aaron both attacked and slandered Moses. Thus Miriam had leprosy and was kept out of the camp for seven days. The leaders were jealous and sinned and thus affected the whole camp. They could not move forward. This is a deep lesson!

※【The prince offers sacrifice】11-12 In the worship of the kingdom, the prince was the lead to represent the people to worship and offer. Every Sabbath day and the New Moon, the prince would prepare to offer the fellowship offerings to God. The people also worshiped willingly to God. The leaders had important influence! On one side was Miriam was punished and brought trouble to the people to halt in the move. On the other side was the prince took the lead to worship and the people were favored to serve the Lord.

5.【Revolve around the desert】18-36 The Israelites continued from Hazeroth and camped at Rithmah. (another name for Kadesh) They ought to go and gain the promise land by faith immediately. But they broke faith and abandoned righteousness. They were contemptuous at God's words and resulted in backsliding. They wandered in the desert for a period of thirty eight years long!

※【Offer sacrifice everyday】13-15 We cannot omit any usual daily worship in our spiritual ministry. God had stipulated the regulations for every day offerings. Every morning they had to offer the burnt offerings and grain offerings to God. This was their lasting ordinance. The Israelites revolved around the desert every day. They fell and lost their way because they did not offer every day. They did not unite with God and thus wandered around the desert and loitered and suffered tremendously!

**B. Destroy the enemies and gain the land, be sanctified by the Word and enter into abundance**

Destroy the enemies (Num 33:37-56) - Gain the land (Eze 46:16-24)

1.【Violate God's order】37-39 After wandering for thirty eight years, the Israelites came back to Kadesh. Again, they quarreled with the leaders due to lack of water. Thus Moses was incited and violated to strike the rock twice. He did not exalt God as holy before the Israelites. As a result he was not able to lead the community to enter the good land and suffered a great loss! (Ps 106:32-33)

※【Honor God and obey His order】16-18 In order to avoid the prince of Israel to misuse his power and seize the people's property resulting in their scatter and leave their inheritance, God set the limit of the authority of the prince on his inheritance. Moses was incited by the people to violate God's order and could not enter Canaan. As a leader and a prince, they ought to exalt God as holy and continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.

2.【Overcome】40-49 Before the Israelites had completed their journey in the desert, they struck Sihon and Og the Amorite kings in one fell swoop and destroyed them completely and had a great victory. Their victory was a victory of faith which was by the promise of God, a victory of God's will!

※【Be sanctified】19-20 Finally the prophet was brought to a piece of land at the rear court of the sanctuary where the priests cooked the guilt offering and the sin offering and bake the grain offering. The duty of the priests was to atone the sins of the people so they might be sanctified. They themselves also had to be sanctified by enjoying the most holy offerings. To eat the Lord's meat and drink His blood and to get along well deeply with God will then be sanctified by the Word and overcome. The Israelites' triumph over the enemy troops was a victory of faith and a victory of God's words. (Jn 6:55-56; 17:17)

3.【Destroy the evil and gain the property】50-56 At the last stop before the Israelites entered Canaan, they had undergone the lesson of Balaam and the Midianites. God sternly told them after entering Canaan, they had to destroy the enemies thoroughly including the high places and idols of the foreigners. They had to be destroyed completely lest they might leave any future trouble to their descendants. Thereafter they reiterated the rules for distributing the land by lot according to their clans.

※【Lead others to obey the Word and enjoy abundance】21-24 By the four corners of the outer court were the places for the Levites to cook the sacrifices of the people. The sacrifices were to be enjoyed by the Levites as well as for those who offered. These were the holy words of the Lord being abundantly provided to God's children so they might remove their inner impurity and overcome evil to be enriched by obeying the Word.

**Ps 150 / Rev 18:18 Main theme: Love the world and will mourn; love the Lord and lead all people to praise the Lord**

**-Praise / Mourn**

This world which has been controlled by the wicked and filled with evil will have an ending of being burnt to smoke. If we love the world, there will only be mourning and wailing. Those who love the Lord will receive the unexpected rich love prepared by Him. By then we ought to praise and lead all people to praise.

(1)【Give praise to the Lord in Him】1-2 Those who believe and obey the Word in Him will see God's mighty deeds. They experience His surpassing greatness and will emit thanksgiving praises.

(2)【Make use of all sorts of instruments to praise the Lord】3-5 At times we have to blow the trumpet to inspire men to rise and contend for the Lord. At times we will use the harp and lyre to proclaim the peaceful gospel that makes people rejoice. At times we will strike the tambourine and dance and rejoice due to God's salvation. At times we will use the instruments of strings and the sound of the flute to comfort and encourage others with tender voice and whispers. At time we will use the clash of cymbals to cry aloud to warn lest men will die. Therefore we ought to pray for the spirit of wisdom to fill us and be an expert builder to provide food regularly to glorify God and benefit men.

(3)【Lead all people to return to the Lord】6 Let everything that has breath turn back to the Lord to praise Him to share in the gospel's blessings.

**Central point of the wheels: Take warning, offer the good sacrifice and lead all people to praise God**

Dear Lord, may you let me take warning and be contrite, to live out your image and let all people praise and glorify your name!

**Num 34 / Eze 47**

**Main theme: The more we are measured by the Lord's words, the more living water is gushed out so all the land is revived**

**-Gain the land / Gain the living water**

Golden verses: Num 34:17-18 Eze 47:12

A discussion on gaining the property and gaining the living water - on one side it concerned the Israelites would inherit the good land of Canaan and its surrounding areas promised by God. On the other side it concerned the Israelites would enjoy the living water that brought glory and revival to their kingdom. We ought to inherit the property promised by God through faith and thirst to pursue the pouring of the living water by the Holy Spirit so our lives may become abundant to bear numerous fruit. Ezekiel saw the angel continued to measure toward the east. With the first measurement, water was ankle-deep. This shows that we may stand firm by the Holy Spirit. On the second measurement, water was knee-deep; that is to pray in the Spirit. (Jude 1:20; Ro 8:26-27) On the third measurement, water was up to the waist; that is to witness Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Ac 1:8) On the fourth measurement, the water became a river and we might swim freely in the great love of God. Wherever we go we may bring the abundant salvation to all people.

**A. Obey the will to divide the land, the Lord's word is the measurement, the living water flows freely**

The good land (Num34:1-15) - The living water (Eze47:1-12)

1.【God promised to bestow the good land】1-2 God's purpose to bring out the Israelites from Egypt was to lead them to enter the land promised to their forefathers, so they might worship and serve God there to enjoy His abundance and presence.

※【God promised to bestow the living water】1 God's everlasting plan was to gather the scattered chosen people from among the nations to redeem them to the kingdom of Christ and to enjoy the glory, abundance and peace. In the vision Ezekiel saw water coming out from the temple flowing abundantly, a promise to bestow the water of life. (Rev 20:6) On one side was God promised to bestow the good land while on the other side was God promised to bestow the living water. We request that God will bestow the living water of the Holy Spirit, then we may gain the promised good land. (Ac 1:8)

2.【Desire for the good land】3-12 God set the boundary of Canaan Himself. The southern side reached Egypt. The west side was the Great Sea. The north to Lebo Hamath and the eastern boundary was along the Jordan. This was the good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey! (Exo 3:8) "The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance." (Ps 16:6) We ought to desire for the everlasting inheritance when Jesus Christ is revealed!

※【Thirst for the living water】1-2 The living water of the Holy Spirit flowed from under the threshold of the temple toward the east. It is also flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb. (Rev 22:1) To him who is thirsty God will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. (Rev 21:6) We ought to desire for and value the inheritance promised by God (Deu 33:4) the spiritual abundance (Eph 1:3) and the assignment of the souls. (Lk 24:47-49) We also ought to desire for the living water of the Holy Spirit to gain the powerful and abundant life of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the mission assigned to us by Christ. (Ac 1:8)

3.【Destroy the enemies completely and gain the inheritance】13-15 God ordered the good land of Canaan be allotted to the nine and a half tribes as their inheritance. Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh had already gained the inheritance east of Jordan. The nine and a half tribes had to first overcome the various tribes of Canaan and to destroy them completely before they might gain the inheritance according to God's will. The sinful nature must be nailed on the cross together with Christ. Then we may enjoy the peace and abundance in the spirit.

※【Being dealt with and gain the living water】3-5 In the vision the prophet saw the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand. When he measured off a thousand cubits, the water went deeper. The measuring line represented the words of the Lord. (Isa 8:20). It also represented the standard of the cross. (Gal 6:14) We must be tackled by the Lord's words and the cross, and then we will have the advancement in life and the overflow of the living water of the Holy Spirit. On one side was to destroy the enemies completely and gain the inheritance. On the other side was being tackled to flow out the living water. The more we are measured by the Lord's words, the more living water we may flow out. After being tackled by the cross, our life will become more abundant!

4.【Gain the inheritance by faith】1-15 The promise of God's oath to the forefathers of Israel is forever faithful. God had instructed the boundary of the land of Canaan to the Israelites. The good land was right before their very eyes. This required their faith to grab the promise to inherit.

※【See the effect by faith】6-12 When the prophet was led back to the bank of the river, he saw wherever there was water, everything gained back life and was thriving. There were wonderful changes and effect:

(1) On both sides of the river, the fruits were plentiful and luxuriant, and every month would bear new fruit. (Rev 22:1-2)

(2) Lives were transformed and the water from the sea became fresh. Sorrow turned to joy.

(3) Swarms of fish grew and we became fishers of men (Mt 4:19) We ought to inherit the land by faith and see the wonderful effect of the Holy Spirit.

5.【Short-sighted】14-15 Though Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh gained their inheritance; it was outside the promise of God. By the sight of the flesh, they only saw the vicinity and selected east of Jordan which was the land outside the destined will of God. (Eze 47-48 This can be proved by the boundary of the kingdom.) This reminds us that the ministry and work in our live ought to be in God's will. Do not minister at the place which we fancied but in the will chosen by God.

※【The swamps】11 Where the river flowed, there was a thriving and reviving scene. Only the swamps and marches were a beach of stagnant water and mud, not being transformed by the salvation and the washing of the living water. It was a desolate and be left for salt. The two and a half tribes only pursued the satisfaction before their very eyes and could not see the destined blessings of God like swamps and salt land, withered and desolate, a waste to occupy the land.

**B. Being chosen to divide the land, through tests received a double portion**

Divide the land (Num 34:16-29) - The border (Eze 47:13-23)

1.【Follow wholeheartedly】16-28 God chose some people to assign the land. They were Eleazar the priest, Joshua (Num 27:21) and the designated leaders of each tribe except Reuben and Gad. There were ten of them. Among them were Joshua and Caleb who belonged to the first generation and had undergone trials. They were the courageous warriors who overcame thoroughly. The people of that generation had fallen in the desert due to disbelief. But Joshua and Caleb followed wholeheartedly for decades. Not only were they able to enter the good land, they were also chosen as leaders to assign the land.

※【Receive a double portion of inheritance】13-14 God ordered in the future kingdom the boundary of the land to be divided had to be according to the inheritance of the twelve tribes. Each tribe would inherit an equal share except Joseph who had two portions. In his sufferings, he overcame trials and hardship like Caleb and Joshua had a different spirit and followed wholeheartedly. They had great faith and were able to undergo severe trials. Though Joseph was not the firstborn, he replaced Reuben to be the firstborn and had two portions of land. (1 Ch 5:1; Jos 14:4)

2.【Gain the land by God's will】16-29 By God's will, Eleazar the priest, Joshua and the leaders of the nine and a half tribes divided the land of Canaan to the Israelites for their inheritance. The elders of today ought to oversee and shepherd the flock according to God's will. And when the Lord appears, they will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. (1 Pe 5:1-4)

※【Divide the land by an oath】14-20 In the kingdom, the division of the land of the twelve tribes would be by God's oath swore to their forefathers, (Gen 15:18-21) like their predecessors when they entered Canaan and divided the land. The boundary of the kingdom of Canaan far exceeded the previous boundary showing God's mercy was great! God's will and the promise of His oath will be fulfilled. We ought to imitate Paul who never disobeyed the vision from heaven all his life and gained the everlasting inheritance from God.

3.【Israel gained the land】16-29 The Israelite leaders obeyed to assign the land to the Israelites. This was an important preparation before entering the land. After the Israelites had entered Canaan and destroyed all the enemies, they obeyed to divide the land so the nine and a half tribes all had their inheritance. Not one of all the blessings of the Lord to the house of Israel failed, every one was fulfilled. (Jos 21:45)

※【The foreigners were favored】21-23 When God ordered the Israelites to allot their land for inheritance, He allowed the aliens to settle among them. On whichever tribe they had settled, they would gain their land on that tribe. How the forefathers of the Israelites gained the land by faith, similarly the aliens also gained the land by God's promise. On one side we see God's promise is forever faithful. On the other side it displayed God's mind was to let all the nations be favored by salvation. Halleluiah! Through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. (Eph 3:6; 1 Ti 2:4)

**Pro 1 / Rev 18:19 Main theme: Woe for being tempted to love the world; blessed is he who fear God and obey His Word**

**- Obey the Word / Long for the world**

To crave for the world may gain some benefit temporarily, but will turn to nothing in an instant and wail with woe. How foolish! Listen and follow the Lord's words will gain true wisdom:

(1)【The function of the proverbs】1-6 Allows men to attain wisdom, be disciplined in doing righteously and fairly, gain knowledge and discretion to discern the enemy's plot, be able to contend spiritually and understand the mystery.

(2)【Listen to the Lord's words and do not follow evil】7-19 Listen to the Lord will gain honor; be led astray to do wicked to harm others and benefit oneself will certainly injure one's life.

(3)【We ought to return due to the Lord's words】20-23 In the Scriptures, the Lord's words are true wisdom and they have been proclaimed everywhere. However the simple ones will only care for the worldly things before their eyes. We ought to return due to the Lord's rebuke.

(4)【Whoever does not listen to the Lord's words will encounter disasters】24-33 Alas, men mostly will not listen and disregard the Lord. They neglect the Lord's exhortation and become hard-hearted, wayward and complacent. By that time when disasters come suddenly, they will regret. Only listen to the Lord's words and in Him there is real peace.

**Central point of the wheels: Obey and wisdom will be abundant and**

**outflow the living water**

Dear Lord, may you make me thirst for the living water of the Holy Spirit and be measured by your words so the living water will flow out and bear numerous fruit.

**Num 35 / Eze 48**

**Main theme: Set up the forty eight cities to save those who have killed unintentionally and God is with them**

**- City of Refuge / The Holy land (Keep the land / Gain the land)**

Golden verses: Num 35:6-7 Eze 48:13-14

A discussion on the cities of refuge and the holy land – on one side it concerned the Israelites had set aside forty eight cities from their inheritance and gave to the Levites as their everlasting inheritance. On the other side it concerned the Israelites offered the holy land to the priests from their inheritance. The purpose of preparing the cities of refuge and the sacred portion was to let the chosen people become a kingdom of priesthood. Further they were to minister God as their center so that they would not only gain the promised inheritance and also their land might be guarded to avoid unintentional killing and defiling the good land. This teaches us to enter the cities of refuge (the shelter) to set apart for the Lord, so we may be guarded to serve Him faithfully and no longer go astray.

1. **Enter the city of refuge, listen to the judgment, do not go astray and become most holy**

The cities of refuge (Num 35:1-15) – The holy land (Eze 48:1-14)

1.【Offer the towns for the Levites】1-5 The Levites were chosen by God from Israel to set apart to be holy to Him and to minister in the Tent of Meeting. They had no share and no inheritance in Israel. (Num 8:16-18; Deu 18:1-5) God ordered to assign from the land of Israel forty eight towns to the Levites to live for their permanent possession, (Lev 25:33-34) so they might have enough rest and quiet devotion. Similarly, the pastureland around the towns extending to two thousand cubits had to be given them for their cattle, flocks and all their other livestock to enjoy their portion. This fully exhibited the care of God to the Levites so they might minister wholeheartedly and be dutiful.

※【Offer the holy land】1-7 In the kingdom, the land divided to the Israelites were thirteen parallel areas with the east and west borders. From north to south they were adjoined in sequence, twelve tribes each had a piece, seven tribes on the north and five tribes on the south. At the middle was the sacred district offered to the Lord including the holy city, the temple, and the land for the priests and the prince. The Israelites had to offer forty eight towns to the Levites and also to offer the sacred district to the priests to serve God forever to become the kingdom of priests. Both the towns for the Levites and the sacred district were prepared for the priests and the Levites. Therefore the place (the center of training) for the workers to be edified and retreat is very important.

2.【Enter the city of refuge】6-15 Among the towns which God ordered to give to the Levites, there had to be six cities of refuge so those who killed unintentionally might flee there to avoid the pursuit of the avenger to shed innocent blood on the towns God gave them for inheritance. (Deu 19:1-10) Three towns were assigned on both the east and west of Jordan. The cities of refuge were not only for the Levites, but were also set for aliens and any other people living among them so the salvation might come upon the whole world to rescue all who killed accidentally! Christ is the city of refuge so whoever flees to Him may be protected to preserve their life.

※【Live in the holy land】8-12 The Israelites offered the sacred district to the descendants of Zadok who were sanctified as priests for only they did not got lost. They lived in the glorious sacred district. How blessed were those who fled to the city of refuge or lived in the sacred district. They dwelled in the shelter of the Most High and disasters would not come near them. (Ps 91) Workers ought to flee to the city of refuge and dwell in the sacred district to unite with God, just like the woman who had given birth the male child. She had to flee to the desert to avoid the pursuit of the great red dragon. Then she might be protected to become the watchman of the age and stand at an invincible position! (Rev 12:13-14)

3.【The unintentional killer】6-15 Anyone who kills unintentionally, without malice aforethought is an unintentional killer. Workers ought to rescue men to avoid death. Unfortunately, their lives have disjointed with God like the head of an axe fell apart (Deu 19:5) and lost the power and love. They have unconsciously become a stumbling block to others, mislead others and hold up the souls and thus kill unintentionally. They must enter the city of refuge, retreat deeply in the Lord and unite with Him to regain the power.

※【Those who had gone astray】11 Those who had gone astray were the Israelites and the Levites who were unfaithful and rebelled in the times of David. They did not flee to the city of refuge and thus were swerving and lost. They feared death and betrayed the kingdom of David just like the unintentional killer who was hard to avoid harm. Workers are now led astray by the world of today and the heresy. They abandon the truth and must flee to the city of refuge and return to it.

4.【Accept the judgment】9-12 When those who killed unintentionally fled to the city of refuge, they had to stand in trembling before the community and accept the judgment. The Lord's word is light and righteous judgment (Ps 119:120) so they might be enlightened to be contrite and be favored with mercy.

※【Holy to God】13-14 The Levites were chosen to replace all the firstborn of Israel to set apart to be holy to God (Num 8:16-18) The land they gained in the kingdom was the same as the priests. This land was the inheritance given by God and was to be holy to God forever and not to be sold nor changed. We ought to accept the Lord's word of judgment and be holy to God and be sanctified by His Word (Jn 17:17) to dwell in Him forever.

**B. Die completely and gain the land, fit for God's measurement and God and men dwell together**

God dwells with us (Num 35:16-34) – Match the measurement (Eze 48:15-35)

1.【Violate knowingly】16-21 God set up the city of refuge to prepare for those who killed unintentionally. If a man struck someone with an iron object, a stone or a wooden object and killed him, or someone with malice aforethought and shoved another, these are intentional killing and they could not flee to the city of refuge. The avenger of blood would kill him. "Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man" (Gen 9:6) "Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer." (1 Jn 3:15) This warns us we ought to tremble at the Lord's words and never to violate knowingly and deprave in grace!

※【Cannot violate】15-22 The holy city was in the center of the sacred district with a square size of four thousand five hundred cubits long. Surrounding the city was the pastureland for 250 cubits wide on east side. The sacred district which the Israelites offered including the city was a square with a width and length of 25,000 cubits representing the New Jerusalem would be full of God's glory. The light of the salvation has shone to the ends of the world. (Rev 21:16) The two sides of the remaining land would go to the prince and had to fit the measurement of God to be careful to obey and could not be violated. Certainly we should not violate knowingly for God will not leave the guilty unpunished. (Heb 6:4-8)

2.【Saved by God's love】22-25 If without hostility someone threw a stone on another and killed him, the assembly had to judge according to the regulations and rescue him from the avenger of blood so he might flee to the city of refuge and be protected in grace and have peace. God's love is wide and long, and high and deep, only if we will flee to His shelter, we will be shown mercy!

※【Gain the land under God's will】23-29 Benjamin and the rest of the tribes extended from east side to west side on the sacred district and divided the land by sequence starting on the south side. To assign the land by allotment showed the twelve tribes of Israel were the center of God's plan and will. Though Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh chose the land east of Jordan, in the kingdom they would gain the good land of Canaan in God's will with the nine tribes together. Their sins would be forgiven to worship and serve God in one. They would also bind themselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant that would not be forgotten. (Jer 50:4-5, 20)

3.【Die completely and gain the land】25-28 The city of refuge is like the ark. Whoever enters the ark will be able to avoid the flood. There is hardship on earth, but in the Lord, there is peace. The unintentional killer could not leave the city of refuge on his own will, otherwise he would be killed. He had to live at ease in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest. Then he might return to his land and gain possession. The high priest represented Christ who has risen from the dead for us and becomes the everlasting High Priest. Whoever entered the city of refuge would experience the resurrection from death. When the old self dies completely (Ro 6:6-11) then he may return to gain the land and gain the souls.

※【Lead men to enter the holy city】 30-35 The shape of the holy city of the kingdom is a square with a width and length of 4,500 cubits. Every side has three gates in name of the twelve tribes representing the glorious new Jerusalem, the place of the fulfillment of God's mystery. (Ro 11:25-26; Eph 3:6-8) The mission of the church is to let the full number of the Gentiles come in to enjoy the everlasting joy in the New Jerusalem! The old self must die thoroughly, then we may bring others to the holy city in heaven.

4.【God dwells among them】29-34 The land of Canaan which the Israelites

had to enter was a sacred land. The holy God dwelled among them. The intentional killer had to be killed by several witnesses. They could not accept a ransom for anyone lest the land be defiled as God dwelled among them.

※【The Lord is there】35 Through long period of hardship and refinement, the holy city of the kingdom and the selected Zion will become the glorious holy city! (Jer 33:9) After the Israelites entered Canaan, they violated God and defiled the land and were thus thrown out of Canaan. Now they were redeemed and sanctified. The name of this city will be called 'the Lord is there'. God will dwell forever with them.

**Pro 2 / Rev 18:20 Main theme: Seek fervently, enter into perfection, turn from evil and God judges**

**-Seek / judge**

The evil power of the great Babylon has led many saints, apostles and prophets astray. When the time comes God will let her be destroyed. We ought to seek persistently and will be delivered by the Lord from evil because He judges for us.

(1)【How to seek】1-6 To seek the Lord, it must be sought in the truth of the Bible. We must be humble to accept, store up, pay attention, and apply the heart and also to cry aloud to the Holy Spirit fervently to enter the depth of the truth. Then we may be able to understand and find the knowledge of God.

(2)【Seek to understand and walk the Way and press forward】7-22 To seek to understand and obey the Word, we must be guarded to turn from the power of sin lest we will be destroyed. We ought to seek to know the Lord and make every effort to enter perfection to run the path of the good and the righteous. Then we will gain the precious promise so all peoples will be blessed due to us. The wicked who turns from the Word and shrinks back will be cut off by the Lord. We ought to imitate Paul to press forward toward his goal and be richly favored and rewarded.

**Central point of the wheels: Seek to obey the Word, turn from sin, enter the city of refuge and God dwells with us**

Dear Lord, You are my shelter, I will take refuge in You to turn from every evil and live in You forever!

**Num 36 / Da 1**

**Main theme: A spirit to suffer, restrain oneself to obey the command and be favored greatly**

**-Deny oneself / Restrain oneself (Do not compromise /Do not be defiled)**

Golden verses: Num 36:7 Da 1:17

A discussion on denying oneself and restraining oneself – on one side it concerned the five daughters of Zelophehad who valued God's inheritance. They obeyed the will of God and abandoned their own freedom and choice. They would not marry to other tribes and guarded the inheritance of their own tribe. On the other side it concerned Daniel and three young men who had vowed not to be defiled by the royal food and wine so as to keep God's command. They all had a heart to fear God, to deny and restrain themselves. They were tested and thus blessed by God.

1. **Value God's inheritance and vowed not to be defiled**

Keep the inheritance (Num 36:1-9) – Not be defiled (Da 1:1-14)

1.【Plead to keep the inheritance】1-5 The family heads of the clan of the descendants of Manasseh came before Moses and the leaders to raise the request for the five daughters of Zelophehad to inherit the father's land. They set their mind on God and valued the inheritance given by God to their own tribe. They pleaded that their inheritance would not be reduced due to the daughters had married to other tribes. Moses placed this case before God and was answered. "What the tribe of the descendants of Joseph is saying is right." Their request matched the will of God. (1 Jn 5:13-14)

※【Sinned and lost the inheritance】1-2 The house of Judah abandoned God. They committed sin and did evil. They did not value God's grace or the good inheritance God gave them. Thus they greatly violated God. As the king of Judah, Jehoiakim did not care for God's inheritance. He only fattened himself. Thus on the third year of his reign, the Babylonian king came to besiege the holy city and looted all the precious articles of the king and the temple to the land of Shinar and were put in the treasure house of his god. The king and the leaders of Judah sinned and thus resulted all the people were captivated and lost their inheritance. The leaders of the tribe of Manasseh exalted God as holy. They came to plead and kept their inheritance. We ought to have the mind of God's will and keep the spiritual inheritance He assigned us.

2.【Vow to seek for the inheritance】The five daughters of Zelophehad had a different spirit. By faith they courageously requested for inheritance. They did not give up their hope because their father died without a son and no one to inherit the property. Instead they had the mind of God's intention and came to request without regard for anything. As a result, they were answered by God to give them the inheritance of their father. Their plea opened a precedent for the daughters to inherit the inheritance! (Num 27)

※【Vowed not to be defiled】3-8 The Babylonian king ordered the chief court official to select some young men from the royal family of Israel and the nobility and be trained for three years to serve in the palace. Daniel and his three friends were resolved not to defile themselves by the royal food and wine. They rejected the food which was unclean and had been sacrificed to the idols. Though they were physically captivated in Babylon, their hearts were not taken captive. They were in the palace but their hearts were in the Lord. On one side were the five daughters resolved to request for the inheritance. On the other side were the four men resolved to guard themselves and not be defiled. Such attitude of fearing and loving God to deny themselves and to set apart to be holy with great faith gave good witnesses at different times.

3.【Deny oneself to keep the inheritance】6-9 In order to guard the inheritance of the tribe of Manasseh not to decrease, God ordered the five daughters of Zelophehad to marry within the tribal clan of their father. No inheritance of Israel was to pass from tribe to tribe. Every Israelite had to keep the tribal land inherited from his forefathers. In order to guard their father's inheritance, the five daughters denied their own choice and obeyed God's will unconditionally.

※【Restrain oneself to keep the command】8-13 The four young men were brought to the palace to face the trial to obey God's commandments which was a trial of holiness and faith. They treated the daily meat and wine given to them by Babylon as unclean and detestable. Thus Daniel requested the chief court official to allow them not to be defiled. In order to restrain themselves to keep the commands of God strictly, they preferred to suffer in the flesh. God granted them favor before the guard to eat vegetables and drink water and gave a try for ten days. They were like the five daughters who gave up their freedom to marry to the same clan.

4.【The favor was brought to the descendants】8-9 The five daughters of Zelophehad denied themselves to obey God's will. Not only were they favored to inherit the father's land and keep their own tribal inheritance from decreasing, the favor was also brought to the descendants.

※【The favor was led to many】8-14 Daniel and the three young men feared God and hated the worldly customs. They were not willing to be defiled due to the idols. Thus God gave Daniel the wisdom and love so the chief court official who was in charge of them would not obstruct. On one side was the inheritance was maintained because the five daughters requested for the inheritance and favored the descendants. On the other side was due to Daniel's plea, so his peers were favored and the chief court official and the guard were also favored from disasters before the king.

**B. Deny and restrain oneself, fear God and obey His command and will be favored greatly**

1.【Deny oneself to obey the command】10-12 The five daughters did as the Lord commanded Moses. They married their cousins on their father's side and their inheritance remained in their father's clan and tribe. They were forever remembered for their faith and their action of denying to obey.

※【Restrain oneself to keep the Word】15-16 The four of them including Daniel kept the faith firmly in one heart. They ate vegetables and drank water and were tested in faith. At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. They did not set their heart on their diet. They kept the Word in a godly manner like the five daughters who obeyed and were blessed by God. They were just like the articles of the sanctuary being put in the temple of Babylon but were guarded without loss and not defiled.

2.【All generations are blessed】10-13 Moses obeyed to declare the decision of "the regulations of daughters to inherit the inheritance". (Num 27:8-11) The rule for daughters to inherit from the father was to affirm the inheritance would not pass from tribe to tribe and be reduced. This regulation not only allowed the five girls to gain the inheritance and blessing, all generations are blessed. Later on, any Israelite daughter encountering same condition may gain her portion.

※【A good witness】17-21 The four young men and the five daughters had undergone the tests of self-denial, self-restraint, holiness and godliness and were greatly favored before God! "The fear of the Lord - that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding." (Job 28:28) To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning ten times better than all the magicians in the whole kingdom. Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. They passed the test before the king and were able to serve him. They and the five daughters became the good example of the saints for all generations.

**Pro 3 / Rev 18:21 Main theme: Destroy all evil, pray to know the Lord, be bold to do good and always be humble**

**-Thrown down forcefully / Seek the Lord**

The mighty angel has forcefully thrown down the great Babylon who was guilty of monstrous crimes into the sea, never to be found again. We ought to trust in the power of the Lord to throw away evil forever and imitate Paul to die completely to everything every day. We will only live for the Lord, obey His will and thus be able to enter His kingdom.

(1)【Do not forget the Lord's words, give thanks and offer joyfully】1-12 Do not forget the Lord's words, exalt the Lord in all matters, be thankful and offer joyfully, and take lesson to return to what is right.

(2)【Make every effort to know the Lord and everything will work for the good of it】13-20 Seek to understand the Lord and be transformed like Him. The heaven and the earth will work for the good of it because the Lord is almighty.

(3)【Fix your eyes on the Lord's words and follow Him closely, then our enemies cannot harm us】21-26 Fix your eyes on the Lord's words and be unyielding without fear, then the enemies cannot harm us.

(4)【Do good zealously and be away from evil, always be humble and walk with the Lord】27-35 Be zealous to do good, turn from contentment and perversion, and be humble to walk with the Lord forever.

**Central point of the wheels: Resolve to abandon sin, deny oneself to keep the Word and the inheritance and be favored**

Dear Lord, may you grant be a spirit to be willing to deny myself, to obey the Word and keep the inheritance, not to be defiled and be a good witness!