

Offer two as a regular burnt offering each day

Numbers 26:1-30:17

Key verse 28:3.4

“Say to them: ‘This is the offering made by fire that you are to present to the Lord: two lambs a year old without defect, as a regular burnt offering each day. Prepare one lamb in the morning and the other at twilight.’”

In the previous passage, Numbers 17-25, the Israelites came up to their 38th year in the desert. The deaths of Miriam & Aaron mark the change of the generation. In this passage, God lays the foundation for the new generation to conquer and dwell in the Promised Land. It contains the second census of the next generation, and God’s establishment of the inheritance laws, the appointment of the new leader Joshua, and the establishment of the offering system for their new lives in the Promised Land. So in summary, in this passage God lays the foundation for the next generation to live in the Promised Land. Through studying this passage, may we renew God’s grace and learn how we, the next generation, can live new lives.

1. The Second Census (26:1-27:33)

Let’s read verses 26:1-2: “After the plague the Lord said to Moses and Eleazar son of Aaron, the priest, ‘Take a census of the whole Israelite community by families—all those twenty years old or more who are able to serve in the army of Israel.’” After wandering in the desert for 38 years, the Israelites finally camped at the plains of Moab, right in front of the Promised Land. There God commanded Moses and Eleazar to take a 2nd census of the Israelites.

The command for the 2nd census echoes God’s command to Moses and Aaron 38 years earlier: “Take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families, listing every man name by name, one by one.” (Num 1:2) At that time, God had wanted to form his people as an army to conquer the Promised Land. 603,550 men were counted (1:46). Unfortunately, they failed to conquer the Promised Land because of their fear and unbelief. As a consequence, they had to wander in the desert for 38 years until they all died (64-65), except Caleb and Joshua.

Israelite clan	1 st census (Num 1)	2 nd census (Num 26)	Change [Absolute]	Change [%]
Reuben	46,500	43,730	-2,770	-6.0%
Simeon	59,300	22,200	-37,100	-62.6%
Gad	45,650	40,500	-5,150	-11.3%
Judah	74,600	76,500	+1,900	+2.5%
Issachar	54,400	64,300	+9,900	+18.2%
Zebulun	57,400	60,500	+3,100	+5.4%
Ephraim	40,500	32,500	-8,000	-19.8%
Manasseh	32,200	52,700	+20,500	+63.7%
Benjamin	35,400	45,600	+10,200	+28.8%
Dan	62,700	64,400	+1,700	+2.7%
Asher	41,500	53,400	+11,900	+28.7%
Naphtali	53,400	45,400	-8,000	-15.0%
All Israel	603,550	601,730	-1,820	-0.3%
Levites	22,000	23,000	+1,000	+4.5%

Here is a table comparing the first and second censuses. For the 2nd census, the total came to 601,730. (26:51) Despite the difficulty of life in the desert, and the plagues, the population was roughly the same. In the desert, God raised up a whole new generation, to continue his history, to fulfill his promise, and to conquer the Promised Land. Now God was reinstating his promise for the next generation, mobilizing them as his army to claim the Promised Land in the 2nd attempt. Man fails, but God is faithful and does not fail in his promises.

By God's grace God counts us as one of his spiritual army of the next generation. In concrete, by God's grace we are part of the family of UBF within the whole of God's people. UBF ancestors accepted God's promise from Exodus 19:5,6 to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation for all the world. Our spiritual ancestors carried this promise of God in their hearts as they served campus mission through one-to-one Bible Study. When they carried God's promise in their hearts more than three thousand of them including many of your parents went as missionaries into all the world. Despite coming from a third world country, they conquered their mission fields and raised disciples of Jesus through faith. This is, why we are here. This year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of UBF mission in Europe and worldwide. Now, this promise of God and identity as his people, his army, has reached us, the next generation of the missionaries and the native UBF shepherds. God's promise and vision is to raise us as global spiritual leaders—influential and excellent Bible teachers and shepherds—for Germany, Europe, and to the ends of the earth. Through faith, you are counted as one of this people! Through GLEF 2019, God is carrying out a spiritual census of our tribe. We are here because God has counted us, by his grace, as one of his people of promise. Each one is a precious one in the line of God's history, with precious spiritual parents and spiritual heritage, and in God, great spiritual potential as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. (Ex 19:5,6)

In chapter 27, we are introduced to the story of Zelophehad's daughters. Zelophehad was a great-grandson of Manasseh, one of the sons of Joseph. He had five daughters, but no son. According to the previously established inheritance laws, his daughters should receive no inheritance. Their father's name would disappear from his clan. Zelophehad's five daughters (Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah, and Tirzah) did not fatalistically or passively give up. Can all the women read verses 1b-2, from "They approached"? "They approached the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders and the whole assembly and said," Wow! What strong and spirit-filled women, to come before Moses, Eleazar, and the whole assembly before God. They boldly petitioned that their father's inheritance be passed on to them. Moses brought their case before the LORD. God was pleased with them and gave them their inheritance. And he gave a new inheritance rule that the inheritance of a sonless man should go to his daughters; that of a childless man should go to his brothers; and that of a man also without brothers should go to the nearest relative in his clan.

Why did the daughters of Zelophehad petition Moses and the Elders, even challenging the set inheritance laws? They had faith in God's promise. They looked at God and valued his given inheritance more than they looked at themselves and valued their own lives.

By God's sovereign grace, we have a spiritual inheritance from God, the spiritual legacies of UBF: 1. Go back to the Bible 2. World Mission through lay missionaries 3. Campus evangelism through one-to-one Bible Study 4. Manger ministry through house churches 5. Disciple-making ministry 6. Daily Bread and testimony writing 7. Giving spirit, "five loaves and two fish" 8. Pray to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. This is the precious spiritual inheritance God has given us according to his promise in Exodus 19:5,6.

But we have heard in almost all of the LTs of next gens, this struggle. Many next gens let go of and even disdain this spiritual inheritance. I almost did so, too? Why? It is because God's promise is also his call to his cross. In Somang's testimony, she shared her struggle against the Pharaoh of secular atheist intellectualism in Canada. But at the bottom, she repented of her pride and self-love. Yes, to claim God's promise, we need to fight against our self-saving, self-serving spirit. We need to fight against our seeking human acceptance, and small comforts. Why? Because God's promise is greater. God wants to give his inheritance to people like you and me, who previously had no vision, no identity, no claim in God's promise! A month ago, NoaMarie Chang was born.

She is Numbers Noah, not Genesis Noah. Her parents named her Noa with the prayer that she be a spiritual fighter in this generation. Yes, it is what this generation really needs! Our generation needs spiritual fighters who value God's promise more than ourselves! Like Zelophehad's daughters, let us boldly pray, "Give us property among our father's relatives!" (27:4)

In verses 12-14, the LORD has Moses go up a mountain in the Abarim Range to look over the Promised Land but does not allow him to enter it because he and Aaron had disobeyed God at Meribah Kadesh (20:1-13). Moses does not sulk or condemn. He prays. Can all the men read Moses' prayer from "May the Lord..."? "May the Lord, the God of the spirits of all mankind, appoint a man over this community to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the Lord's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd." (16-17) Moses' single concern was that God's people have a good shepherd. We can see here what it means that "Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth." (Num 12:3) In other words, he was a good Shepherd, until the end of his life, even for sheep who grumbled against him and wanted to get rid of him. Thank God for many servants of God and bible teachers like Moses, who faithfully serve God's people as a shepherd, and who pray for and practically work to raise shepherds for the next generation. May God raise among us now many Joshuas who can shepherd God's people and lead spiritual warfare for God's honour.

2. The offering system and the seven festivals for the new life (28:1-30:17)

In chapters 28-29, God speaks to Moses yet again about the offering system (c.f. Ex 29:38-41). Let's read 28:1-2: "The LORD said to Moses, 'Give this command to the Israelites and say to them: 'See that you present to me at the appointed time the food for my offerings made by fire, as an aroma pleasing to me.'" The offering that pleases God is not the offering according to our whims, availability, or capacity, but what and when pleases him, as he commands.

What, then, was to be offered, when? In these chapters, God institutes the daily offering, sabbath offering, and monthly offering. And the festivals of: the Passover, the feast of Unleavened Bread, the day of firstfruits, the feast of weeks, the feast of trumpets, the day of atonement, and the feast of tabernacles. The daily offering was introduced as the basic foundation, to be offered every day, on top of which special offerings were to be added. It was to be offered truly, *daily*, without exception. Let's read the key verses, verses 3-4: "Say to them: 'This is the offering made by fire that you are to present to the Lord: two lambs a year old without defect, as a regular burnt offering each day. Prepare one lamb in the morning and the other at twilight.'"

What was to be offered, as a minimum, each day?

	Burnt offering	Grain Offering	Drink Offering
Morning	Lamb 1	1/10 ephah fine flour + ¼ hin olive oil	¼ hin wine
Twilight	Lamb 2	1/10 ephah fine flour + ¼ hin olive oil	¼ hin wine
Total	2 Lambs	1/5 ephah fine flour + ¼ hin olive oil	½ hin wine
	100 kg lamb	3.2 kg fine flour + 2 L olive oil	2 L olive oil

8 cups of flour is approximately 1 kg; 4 Cup flour, ½ C oil for 12 large croissants

With each lamb was to be offered a grain offering of about 3.2 kg of the finest flour mixed with about 1 L of the best olive oil, along with 1 L of wine. This is about 3 packages of the finest flour mixed with 1 bottle of olive oil alongside 1 bottle of wine with each lamb. What might this offering have cost them? (like 300 really big lamb burgers with buns and mayonnaise) God commanded them to offer this costly offering twice daily, morning and evening, without fail as "a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the LORD."

By offering the daily offering, the priests were to come to God twice a day on behalf of the people, once in the morning and once in the evening. The priesthood was not a 9-5 day job, but a life. In this way, the entire day, day and night, was offered to God on behalf of the people, everyday. The daily offering laid the rhythmic foundation in their new life in the Promised Land, so that they started and ended each day by coming to God.

On top of the daily offering, there was to be a Sabbath offering, a monthly offering to be offered on the first of every month, the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread offerings that included offerings over the course of 7 days, the offerings of firstfruits, that for the Festival of Weeks, for the Festival of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and for the 8 days of the Festival of Tabernacles.

These offerings and festivals constituted their regular life pattern, day to day, week to week, month to month, and year to year. Underneath all this, like clockwork, was the regular twice-daily offering.

Burnt offering	Grain offering	Drink offering
2 bulls	3/10 ephah fine flour + oil X2 =6/10 ephah fine flour	½ hin wine X2 = hin wine
1 ram	2/10 ephah fine flour	1/3 hin wine
7 male lambs	1/10 ephah fine flour X7 =7/10 ephah fine flour	¼ hin wine X7 = 1 ¾ hin wine
1 male goat		

(monthly offering)

Why did God emphasize that such an offering system be instituted by the next generation in their new lives in the Promised Land? Through the offering system and festival calendar the Israelites had to learn relationship, identity and divine discipline on a daily basis. In other words, through the offering system and festivals God wanted to form the Israelite community as his holy people that could be a kingdom of priests for all the world. The offering system teaches us, that growing as God's people means to live in a love relationship with God everyday (in fact, at least twice daily) and offering God practically our time, resources, and strength. We can think about the meaning of the offering and festival system in at least two points. First it was to recognize God's mercy. Second, it was to trust in God's faithfulness to fulfill his promise.

First, to recognize God's mercy: God had heard their groaning in their slavery (Ex 2:23-24), was concerned about them, and was faithful to his covenant with their forefather Abraham. He had raised Moses as a shepherd to lead them out of Egypt, through the astounding plagues and miraculous crossing of the Red Sea. And he had given them his promise to raise them as his kingdom of priests and a holy nation. (Ex 19:5,6) By God's mercy, the Israelites were chosen and redeemed to be God's people, with God's blessing. God had heard their groaning in their slavery (Ex 2:23-24), was concerned about them, and raised Moses as a shepherd to lead them out of Egypt, through the astounding plagues and miraculous crossing of the Red Sea. And he had given them who were once a slave nation his promise to raise them as his kingdom of priests and a holy nation. (Ex 19:5,6) They had been like spiritual babies receiving the care of their father. Despite their many failures and grumbings God had been faithful to them and helped them grow in a love relationship with him and to grow from people with slave mentality to his royal and holy priests. In fact, God's heart, time, materials, and strength used for them was incomparable with what he asked of them.

By God's mercy in Jesus, we who were once slaves to our sin, have been redeemed and made as one of his people. We were enemies of God in our sin. In fact, in sin we were already living dead. But God saw the suffering of our souls and gave his son Jesus as the sacrifice to reconcile us to him. (Col 1:21-22) Jesus is the one who offered his own life as the Lamb of God (Jo 1:29) for us. Because of him we have received God's mercy of forgiveness and inclusion in the people of God with God's promise. "and just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Ro 6:4b)

Like the Israelites, standing at the brink of the Promised Land, we can either stay stuck in our old life or move powerfully into the Promised Land, establishing the new life of offering that pleases

God. Romans 6:13 admonishes us, "Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and the parts of your body to him as an instrument of righteousness." Thank God that we are no longer slaves to sin! Now we can, by God's mercy, offer our bodies to him. I used to be a slave of calorie-counting, self-imprisoned, and unable to build relationships with anyone. But now, the time, strength, materials, heart, and mind I used to satisfy my terrible craving can be offered to God, as a source of blessing for his people. What a blessing! It is a great blessing and privilege to come to God to offer Daily Bread, Worship Service, Testimony writing, Bible Study, and fellowship with God's people! What a great privilege and undeserved blessing it is, that I could serve GLEF preparations, for the empowerment of God's kingdom of priests and holy nation all around the world! Let's offer with thanks for God's great mercy and grace.

Second, to hold on to God's promise. We have been learning that God is raising his people as his kingdom of priests and a holy nation. The offering system is how God was raising them from slaves to his kingdom of priests and a holy nation! It is not through a dramatic transformation, but through faithful offerings in obedience to him. We saw that offerings can be quite costly. How can we offer to God instead of keeping for ourselves, and feeling like it was a waste? Mt 6:33 says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Through offering, God's people are disciplined as kingdom people, with no worries but with absolute faith in God. People who worry about money and physical survival cannot be royal priests or a holy people. They are not transformed in their fundamental motivation, but the same as all other people: living and working for bread (Jn 6:27)!

M. Dr.s Samuel Yoo & Luke Lim offered the comfortable life as medical doctors in Korea to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation for Africa. God is faithful to his promise, and has built the Bethesda Medical Centre as a physical and spiritual healing centre for Uganda. When M. David Kim from Indianapolis met Jesus, he went out on campus and fished and taught the Bible 1:1 all day, even offering his mealtimes and money to serve students. And through the offering of his house church with M. Joy Kim, God is carrying out disciple-making work in campuses across America, and even raising Bible teachers and missionaries!

Many next gens are most afraid of offering their marriages to God. Time, energy, even materials, they can offer to God. But marriage? Marriage, deep in their hearts, they want to keep for themselves. I was the same. But Romans 12:1,2 say, "Therefore, my dear brothers, in view of God's mercy, offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will." God helped me to offer my marriage to him by faith, and I am experiencing God's goodness and perfect sovereignty to lead me and S. Peter Ryu to establish a house church, with God's promise of Mt 6:33. God is using us as a shepherd house church for next gens and students in Bonn, Europe, and all around the world!

Through preparing this message, God helped me repent that I did not keep God's costly grace and his priceless promise as the centre of my heart. Instead, like the Israelites I stubbornly held onto my slavishness and in practice, couldn't live a fruitful new life. How foolish I was! God redeemed us with the precious blood of Jesus, not so that we might remain stuck in our slavery of sin, but so that we might live new lives in relationship with him! Do you want to be a slave or a royal priest of the living God? Let's claim God's grace and promise by faith, through living practical lives of offering to him each day.

Through this passage we learned to practically live a new life of offering to God out of thanks for his grace and faith in his promise. Thank God for his grace of counting each one of us in Jesus as his people, and for his faithfulness to his great promise in Exodus 19:5,6 (1 Pe 2:9). May God raise the next generation as his people, who live daily by faith, offering every part of themselves to God. Through living a life of practical offering, may we be formed in the new life, heart, and faith as God's kingdom of priests and holy nation and holy nation.