

Bible Challenge 2014
Going Deeper – Questions for Readings
Week 8

How were the Israelites to “be holy as God is holy” (Leviticus 19:1, 20:7-8)? Why? Are we called to that same standard of holiness today? Why or why not?

What is gleaning (Leviticus 19:9-10, 23:22)? Why does God command this practice of the Israelites? How can/do we honor this commandment today?

Why do you think God commands the Israelites not to mix seeds, animal species, or fabrics in Leviticus 19:19?

What does Leviticus 19:33-34 tell us about how God expects the Israelites to treat immigrants and foreigners?

In Leviticus 20:9 we discover that, under the Mosaic Law, the penalty for cursing one’s parents is the same as the punishment for committing adultery or murder. Why?

In what ways do you see the holiness and purity laws in Leviticus still impacting our lives and culture today? Please provide two specific examples.

What are the feasts/festivals the Israelites are called to honor each year? Why? (Leviticus 23)

When is the Sabbath for the Promised Land supposed to be observed by the Israelites? Why? (Leviticus 25:1-7)

What is the Year of Jubilee? What happens during this year? Why? (Leviticus 25:8-55) What does this say about how God wants human beings to be in relationship with one another?

What rewards/penalties are there for obeying/disobeying God's commandments? (Leviticus 26) What role does confession play in this process? What does this tell us about God?

What does God ask Moses and Aaron to do in the first chapter of the Book of Numbers? Why?

Why are all the firstborn males and animals of the Israelites dedicated to God? Why are the Levites allowed to be substituted for the firstborn of Israel? (Numbers 3:40-51)

What are the duties of the Kohathites, Gershonites, and Merarites within the Israelite camp? (Numbers 4)

Numbers 5:11-31 has been labeled a "tough text" or "text of terror" by many theologians and biblical scholars because of its ramifications for women, especially women who are innocent of the charges brought against them by their jealous husbands. Why do you think a story like this is included in the Bible?

What is a Nazirite vow? What things are the people making this vow commanded NOT to do? Why? (Numbers 6:1-21)

What is a blessing? Read and pray aloud the words of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:24-27. Do this multiple times. How do you feel after saying and hearing these words? If you are comfortable doing it, ask someone else to pray these words over you. How did that make you feel? Then pray these words over someone else. How did that make you feel? How, if any, was it different when you offered the blessing versus when you received the blessing?