

Announcements

- On February 10, we will have the annual business meeting for the church in Bellevue.
- Fill out the household information form. The Business office will update the phone list if there are changes.
- The International Chinese-Speaking conference will be held in Anaheim, California, February 15-17, 2019. Please see Michael Lu for signing up.
- The Memorial Day conference will be held in Seattle this year and there will be a big need to provide hospitality. We will have more details in the coming weeks; we encourage all families to receive hospitality.
- We are covering week 9 for the Holy Word for Morning Revival on “Propagating the Resurrected, Ascended, and All-Inclusive Christ as the Development of the Kingdom of God”.
- We will begin the Holy Word for Morning Revival from the Thanksgiving conference. Copies are available in the bookroom.
- We are reading messages 39 and 40 from the Life-Study of Numbers. The reading schedule is posted on the church website.
- If you would like a tax report for 2018, please email bellevuefinanceservice@googlegroups.com

Burdens for Prayer

- London Training Center
- Germany
- Meeting hall modifications (parking)
- Prayer meeting
- Northwest localities

This Week: January 28 – February 3		
Morning Revival: <i>Propagating the Resurrected, Ascended, and All-inclusive Christ as the Development of the Kingdom of God,</i> week 9		
Hall Cleaning: Downstairs – East Bellevue Upstairs – Eastgate		
Saturday	8:30am	Breakfast
Lord's Day	9:30 am	Lord's Table
January		
25-27	Conference in Boise, ID	
February		
2-3	Conference in Tri Cities, WA	
8-10	Conference in Spokane, WA	
March		
1-3	High School Retreat	
29-31	Conference in Missoula, MT	

LIFE-STUDY OF NUMBERS

MESSAGE FORTY

FIGHTING (9)

A. Concerning the Offerings

1. The Offerings by Fire, God's Satisfying Fragrance—God's Food

Before we consider further the matter of God's food in Numbers 28, let us consider the sequence of chapters twenty-five through twenty-eight. In chapter twenty-five the children of Israel had a great failure, falling into fornication, a damage to their humanity, and into idolatry, an insult to God's person. As a result of this failure, twenty-four thousand Israelites died by the plague. If we had been there, we might have thought that, due to this pitiful situation, God was finished with His people, upon whom He had been working for so long and for whom He had done so much.

God, however, was not finished with the children of Israel. This is proved by the renumbering in chapter twenty-six. God still had His number, and the total of those numbered in chapter twenty-six was nearly the same as the total in chapter one (26:51; 1:46). At the time of the first numbering, there had not been any trouble or reduction in number through God's punishment. The renumbering took place after much trouble and reduction through judgment. Nevertheless, in spite of all the trials, turmoils, temptations, failures, and reductions, God still had almost the same number for Himself as He had had in the beginning. Regardless of what the enemy had done and regardless of the people's failures, God, by His sovereign grace and acts, still had a number greater than six hundred thousand.

Numbers 27:12-23 is concerned with the death of Moses and with Moses' successor. Moses was one hundred twenty years old, and the Lord told him that the time had come for him to be gathered to his people. His going raised the question of leadership. Who would be his successor? When God told him that he would now be gathered to his people, Moses said, "Let Jehovah, the God of the spirits of all flesh, appoint a man over the assembly, who will go out before them and come in before them, who will lead them out and bring them in; that the assembly of Jehovah may not be as sheep which have no shepherd" (vv. 16-17). This indicates that Moses did not consider his loss of the leadership. His heart was not set on his situation but on God's people. Moses seemed to be saying to the Lord, "It is right and fair for me to be gathered to my people. But, Lord, who will take care of Your people? If the people do not have someone to lead them out and bring them in, they will be as sheep without a shepherd." The Lord responded to Moses' word by telling him to take Joshua and cause him to stand before the priest and the whole assembly, to lay his hands on him in order to bestow upon Joshua some of his majesty, and then to charge him to be the leader (vv. 18-23). In this way God raised up a new leader.

At the end of chapter twenty-seven we see a wonderful picture—a picture of a new people, a new army, and a new leader. The new people had been renumbered, the new army had been re-formed and strengthened, and the new leader had been appointed to serve, not by himself but with Eleazar the priest, who would receive divine instructions by means of the Urim and Thummim. This means that there was among the people a new theocracy. Hence, at the end of this chapter we see a new people, a new army, and a new theocracy.

After all the events recorded in chapters twenty-five through twenty-seven, in chapter twenty-eight we have the crucial matter of

God's food. At the beginning of this chapter, God came in and seemed to say to the people, "Do you have everything you need? Are you satisfied and happy? How about Me and My satisfaction? You need to take care of My food. I have been taking care of you for years. I have prepared everything for you in a new, complete way, and now you are ready to possess the land which I promised to your forefathers. I ask you not to forget Me. Remember that I am hungry and that I need My food."

God is hungry and wants to eat. Although He is almighty, He cannot provide Himself something to eat. His food must come from His people. This is why He said, "My offering, My food for My offerings by fire, My satisfying fragrance, you shall observe to offer to Me" (28:2).

Witness Lee, *Life-Study of Leviticus*, Published by Living Stream Ministry.
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Bible Reading Schedule with Footnotes	
Lord's Day, January 27 th	1 Cor. 10:5-13
Monday, January 28 th	1 Cor. 10:14-33
Tuesday, January 29 th	1 Cor. 11:1-6
Wednesday, January 30 th	1 Cor. 11:7-16
Thursday, January 31 st	1 Cor. 11:17-26
Friday, February 1 st	1 Cor. 11:27-34
Saturday, February 2 nd	1 Cor. 12:1-11