

We will begin our 6th lecture on “An Introduction to the Old Testament.” /We have studied Genesis and Exodus, and through these books, we see how God chose the Israelites and redeemed them, how he fulfills his plan of salvation.

/God chose Abraham and chose his descendants, the Israelites, as a holy nation of priests through which all nations will be blessed. We are observing God’s plan of salvation here.

/However, there are things that get in the way of God’s plan of salvation. /These things are Israel’s sins, the sin of making the golden calf. /God desires to be with the Israelites and to guide them, but their sin makes it difficult for this to happen.

/In this case, because God is a just God, God judges sin. But because he is gracious, God listens to Moses’ intercessory prayer and forgives their sins.

/After the Israelites commit the sin of making the golden calf, God teaches them the word of Leviticus. Through Leviticus, God teaches the Israelites how they can be forgiven of sins and how they can restore their relationship with God.

/For this reason, Leviticus talks about the law of offerings and numerous rules. They are not simply laws or instructions on how to give offerings, but they are God’s word about restoring a relationship with God.

/Leviticus can be divided into two parts: chapter 1 to chapter 16, and chapter 17 to chapter 27. Chapters 1 to 16 are about worship, how to live holy lives before God.

/It is about retaining holy lives in the relationship with God. Leviticus chapters 17 to 27 are about how to live holy lives with regard to one’s neighbor.

/The most important thing for the people of Israel, Abraham’s descendants who are saved and chosen, to become a nation of priests is for them to be holy. /Leviticus teaches them how to live holy lives of worship before God, how to live lives that are holy.

/Leviticus chapters 1 to 16 teach about how to have holy worship in the Holy Place and what the role of the priest is, which is the most important thing. /God distinguished the priests, and he teaches them what they must do to maintain a holy relationship between the Israelites and God.

/Every Israelite must live like a nation of priests. God makes Israel holy by setting apart the priests, who represent the people.

/God sets the priests apart so they may worship, and this worship is introduced in Leviticus. /The types of worship are burnt offerings, peace offerings, sin offerings, guilt offerings, and grain offerings.

/Burnt offerings are given so that man would be reconciled with God, and they are given by burning animals for the atonement for sins. /Peace offerings are given so that man

would be reconciled with God, and that peace and fellowship would come out of this peace.

/Peace offerings include thanksgiving offerings, which are offerings giving thanks for peace with God, freewill offerings, and vow offerings. /Sin offerings emphasize the purification of the Holy Place, which has been made dirty because of sin.

/Guilt offerings are paying the price for sin, a payment for sin. /This offering isn't simply an offering for the atonement for sin, but it is taking responsibility for sin and paying the price for it.

/Grain offerings refer to offerings made with grain, and it is given with a heart resolving to be completely devoted to God. /With these offerings, the Israelites, amidst their sin, need to restore their relationship with God. /Furthermore, they must always resolve to be completely devoted to God.

/Leviticus chapters 11 to 15 teach the Israelites what they are to eat in their families, what they must distinguish when they eat, and how they need to maintain their cleanliness in their daily lives.

/Holy people cannot eat whatever they want nor can they live however they want.
/Leviticus 16 tells us about the Day of Atonement, which represents the holiest day.

/On this day, the high priest enters the Holy of Holies for the atonement for all of Israel's sins. /Recorded in the Bible are laws about living holy lives, being forgiven of sins, and about sacrifices meant for restoring a holy relationship with God.

/Leviticus chapters 1 to 16 are about how one should live holy in the church or in the family. Leviticus chapters 17 to 27 are about how the Israelites should live holy lives in society.

/As they live among other people, the Israelites must be holy, and they must refrain from doing immoral or unethical things. /There is an important message here.

/19:2 says, / ““Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.”

/19:18 says, / “You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

/What does it mean to be holy? /Giving differentiated worship to God and eating differentiated food is being holy. /Another important type of holiness is to not take vengeance against your enemies and not to bear a grudge against your own people. It is loving your neighbor as yourself. This is the holiness that God wants from us.

/From this perspective, keeping the Jubilee Year and the Sabbath Year is also a part of holiness. /For example, an Israelite is permitted to have a slave for 6 years, but on the 7th year, the slave must be liberated.

/Also, if the land is cultivated for 6 years, it must not be cultivated on the 7th. /In the year after the 7th Sabbath year, which is the 50th year, the year of Jubilee, everyone must be set free.

/When they are set free, you must not receive their debts. /It is a day of true liberation and freedom. /Living in this way, although it means suffering one's own loss, means being holy.

/Believers! We learned about the subject of being chosen as we observed God fulfilling his plan of salvation. In Exodus, we learned about redemption. Now, in Leviticus, we learn about how the chosen and redeemed people are to live holy lives.

/For those who have been chosen and redeemed, living holy lives is as important as life itself. /Today, we who believe in Jesus have been chosen because of God's grace and have been redeemed through the blood of Jesus.

/How should we believers who have been chosen by the grace of God and redeemed through Jesus live in this world? We need to live holy lives. /We must not only live holy lives within the church, but we need to be holy in our everyday lives.

/Living a holy life means to love God and to love our neighbors, as said in the Ten Commandments. /Loving our neighbors means to be prepared to give up something of our own, to sacrifice for others.

/Leviticus is about holiness, and the word Leviticus itself means "book of the Levites."

/We will now study Numbers. /Numbers actually does refer to numbers. /Numbers 1 is a record of the number of people who left Egypt. /The number of Israelite men were 603,550.

/This number is recorded again in Numbers 26. /Because Numbers starts with a record of numbers and ends with it, it is called "Numbers."

/By revealing the number of people who were part of the exodus from Egypt, God displays the fulfilling of the promises he made with Abraham. It is the fulfillment of the promise that Abraham's descendants will become a great nation.

/Now God will lead the large number of people into the land of Canaan. /In order to transport the tabernacle and take care of it, God leaves the work of the tabernacle to the Levites. /The other tribes remain in the vicinity and prepare to enter Canaan.

/The book teaches that in order to move forward into the land of Canaan, the Israelites must be united as one, centered on God. /The holy people who are God-centered, who have become one in their love, are entering the land that God promised them.

/If we look at Numbers chapter 1 to 10, we see God preparing them for this. /God made them live on Mount Sinai for one year, and now he is ready to take them to the land.

/God prepared the people for one year how to live as God's people and how to live once they enter the land of Canaan. /In Numbers 10:11, God's cloud appears and guides the Israelites from Mount Sinai to Kadesh.

/As the people move forward to Kadesh, they pass through the wilderness, where they start to complain to God. /They were complaining in the same way they complained about the lack of water and food on their way to Mount Sinai after crossing the Red Sea.

/In Numbers 11, when the people complain against God, God judges them with fire. /When they complain about eating manna everyday, about how there is no meat to eat, God gives them quail as meat to eat.

/God gives them plenty of quail to eat, but he disciplines them once again. /God gave the people what they asked for when they were nearing Mount Sinai after crossing the Red Sea. However, now that the people leave Mount Sinai and pass through the wilderness, God sometimes listens to their requests, but sometimes he judges them.

/God may listen to their requests, but he also strictly trains them and punishes them as well. /If we compare Exodus to Numbers, we see why God is stricter with the people in the book of Numbers.

/After the people had crossed the Red Sea, God had not made a covenant with the Israelites, nor had he given them the Commandments. That is why he was soft with them.

/However, things are now different. The people now know what they should know, and they have learned about who God is. But because they continue to grumble and complain, God disciplines them.

/God disciplines the people for their complaints, but he guides them into the land of Kadesh Barnea. /In Numbers 13, we learn that Kadesh Barnea is not far from the Promised Land of Canaan.

/God wanted to guide the Israelites inland from Kadesh Barnea to Hebron. /He wanted to send spies to learn about the land.

/So the spies enter the land and spy for 40 days. /In chapter 14, we hear about the spies' report. /All twelve spies reported that the land that God had promised them was a good land.

/However, ten of the twelve report that powerful people like the descendants of Anak inhabit the land, that it would be impossible to conquer. /The ten then compare the people of Canaan to themselves, saying they themselves are like grasshoppers. They also claim that because the city walls are too high, they will not be able to conquer the land.

/But two people, Joshua and Caleb, give a different report. /Joshua and Caleb say that though the people of Canaan are strong and though their cities are fortified, because God had promised them the land, they will conquer the people if they enter with faith.

/In Numbers 14, the Israelites do not listen to Joshua and Caleb's report, but they only listen to the complaining of the ten other spies. /Saying they could not enter the land, the ten disobeyed God.

/Then the Israelites say they will return to Egypt. /They do not trust in God's commands, and they display lack of faith. /At Kadesh Barnea, the Israelites are judged by God because they betray him. They do not enter the land of Canaan, but they wander in the wilderness for 40 years.

/Except for Joshua and Caleb, everyone over the age of 20 who were part of the exodus from Egypt could not enter the land of Canaan, but they die in the wilderness. /Numbers chapters 15 to 20 describe how the Israelites lived in the wilderness for 38 years.

/Because of the people's betrayal and their lack of faith, God gives them the law of restoration. /While God gives them the law, the people complain to God that they have no water. In Numbers 20, Moses gets angry with the people.

/The Israelites always complain and grumble against God. Because of the people's behavior, Moses and Aaron go against the word of God as they get angry with the people.

/God told Moses to tell the rock to yield water for the people. However, Moses and Aaron strike the rock two times and speak as if they are the ones giving the people water.

/Because of this incident, God says Moses and Aaron cannot enter the land of Canaan. /The Israelites who wandered in the wilderness for 38 years now move towards Jordan. Numbers 21:4.

/Of the 40 years spent in the wilderness, 38 years were spent in Kadesh Barnea. /Afterwards, the people stayed to the East of Jordan in the land of Moab. /At the east of Jordan, the Israelites conquered King Og of Bashan and King Sihon of Heshbon. 21:26,33.

/God at first wanted the Israelites to enter inland at Kadesh Barnea. He has changed his plan so that they will cross the Jordan River.

/The Israelites were stationed in the Moab region east of the Jordan River. /At this time, King Balak summons the prophet Balaam to curse the Israelites.

/Balaam the prophet, who knew God, was overcome with the greed for money. Accepting King Balak of Moab's offer, Balaam came to curse the Israelites. However, God stops him from doing so. /Numbers 22-24.

/Whenever Balaam tried to curse the Israelites as King Balak had hoped for, God turned the curses into blessings. /Of the details about God blessing the Israelites through Balaam, there is one important detail. It is written in the verses following 24:16.

/It is a promise of God blessing all nations through Abraham's descendants.

/24:17 says, / "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth."

/The verse says that a scepter will rise from Abraham's descendant, Jacob. It is a prophesy about a king that will rise from Abraham's descendants. /Moreover, it is a word of blessing of a king of Israel who will rule over Moab and Edom and the entire world.

/God blessed the Israelites in this way through Balaam. But if we look at Numbers 25 and what comes after, we see that the Israelites betray God.

/In chapter 25, the Israelites whore with the daughters of Moab and worship Baal and the Moabite gods. /In this way, when believers betray God, sexual immorality and the sin of worshipping idols follow.

/When the Israelites worshiped the golden calf, the Levites were obedient before God. This time, when the people worship Baal and are sexually corrupt, Phinehas, son of Eleazar, is dedicated to God.

/Through Aaron's descendant Phinehas, the plague is cancelled and the Israelites once again survive. In Numbers 26, we are introduced to a second population census of the Israelites.

/The census is conducted to see how many warriors could fight in the land of Canaan and how they are to distribute the land. /God is giving them the land even though they sinned against him.

/While God is keeping his promise, there is an unusual case. /Zelophehad's daughter's families, which did not have any men, could not inherit anything. 36:2.

/The daughters were women who could not receive an inheritance, but they approach Moses requesting for land to be inherited from their parents. /God, through Moses, says he will give the women the Promised Land.

/God gives the land as an inheritance to all people without discriminating against gender.

/God now reveals the word of Deuteronomy to Moses. /God is giving the people the second law through Moses, who soon will die.

/Everyone over the age of 20 who participated in the exodus died in the wilderness. /Now that 40 years had passed, their descendants cross the Jordan River and enter the Promised Land.

/Deuteronomy is the law given to the new Israelites through Moses, who was awaiting his death in the land of Moab. /What did Moses deliver to the new people, the descendants of the Israelites who were part of the exodus?

/He gave them the message that they are not to repeat the mistakes of their ancestors. /They must remember and obey the law that God gave to them at Mount Sinai.

/Moses explains the law that God gave to him on Mount Sinai to the new Israelite people.

/The title “Deuteronomy” means Moses has explained the law that God gave him on Mount Sinai and has preached it to the people. He is teaching them the law again.

/We will skip the 7th lecture on “An Introduction to the Old Testament.”

/Thank you.