**Numbers 5-8**

The Purity of the Camp

**5**The Lord said to Moses, **2**“Command the Israelites to send away from the camp anyone who has a defiling skin disease or a discharge of any kind, or who is ceremonially unclean because of a dead body. **3**Send away male and female alike; send them outside the camp so they will not defile their camp, where I dwell among them.” **4**The Israelites did so; they sent them outside the camp. They did just as the Lord had instructed Moses.

Restitution for Wrongs

**5**The Lord said to Moses, **6**“Say to the Israelites: ‘Any man or woman who wrongs another in any way and so is unfaithful to the Lord is guilty **7**and must confess the sin they have committed. They must make full restitution for the wrong they have done, add a fifth of the value to it and give it all to the person they have wronged. **8**But if that person has no close relative to whom restitution can be made for the wrong, the restitution belongs to the Lord and must be given to the priest, along with the ram with which atonement is made for the wrongdoer. **9**All the sacred contributions the Israelites bring to a priest will belong to him.**10**Sacred things belong to their owners, but what they give to the priest will belong to the priest.’”

The Test for an Unfaithful Wife

**11**Then the Lord said to Moses, **12**“Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘If a man’s wife goes astray and is unfaithful to him **13**so that another man has sexual relations with her, and this is hidden from her husband and her impurity is undetected (since there is no witness against her and she has not been caught in the act), **14**and if feelings of jealousy come over her husband and he suspects his wife and she is impure - or if he is jealous and suspects her even though she is not impure - **15**then he is to take his wife to the priest. He must also take an offering of a tenth of an ephah[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+5-8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-3808c)] of barley flour on her behalf. He must not pour olive oil on it or put incense on it, because it is a grain offering for jealousy, a reminder-offering to draw attention to wrongdoing.

**16**“‘The priest shall bring her and have her stand before the Lord.**17**Then he shall take some holy water in a clay jar and put some dust from the tabernacle floor into the water. **18**After the priest has had the woman stand before the Lord, he shall loosen her hair and place in her hands the reminder-offering, the grain offering for jealousy, while he himself holds the bitter water that brings a curse. **19**Then the priest shall put the woman under oath and say to her, “If no other man has had sexual relations with you and you have not gone astray and become impure while married to your husband, may this bitter water that brings a curse not harm you. **20**But if you have gone astray while married to your husband and you have made yourself impure by having sexual relations with a man other than your husband” - **21**here the priest is to put the woman under this curse - “may the Lord cause you to become a curse[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+5-8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-3814d)] among your people when he makes your womb miscarry and your abdomen swell. **22**May this water that brings a curse enter your body so that your abdomen swells or your womb miscarries.”

“‘Then the woman is to say, “Amen. So be it.”

**23**“‘The priest is to write these curses on a scroll and then wash them off into the bitter water. **24**He shall make the woman drink the bitter water that brings a curse, and this water that brings a curse and causes bitter suffering will enter her. **25**The priest is to take from her hands the grain offering for jealousy, wave it before the Lord and bring it to the altar.**26**The priest is then to take a handful of the grain offering as a memorial[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+5-8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-3819e)] offering and burn it on the altar; after that, he is to have the woman drink the water. **27**If she has made herself impure and been unfaithful to her husband, this will be the result: When she is made to drink the water that brings a curse and causes bitter suffering, it will enter her, her abdomen will swell and her womb will miscarry, and she will become a curse. **28**If, however, the woman has not made herself impure, but is clean, she will be cleared of guilt and will be able to have children.

**29**“‘This, then, is the law of jealousy when a woman goes astray and makes herself impure while married to her husband, **30**or when feelings of jealousy come over a man because he suspects his wife. The priest is to have her stand before the Lord and is to apply this entire law to her.**31**The husband will be innocent of any wrongdoing, but the woman will bear the consequences of her sin.’”

The Nazirite

**6**The Lord said to Moses, **2**“Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘If a man or woman wants to make a special vow, a vow of dedication to the Lord as a Nazirite, **3**they must abstain from wine and other fermented drink and must not drink vinegar made from wine or other fermented drink. They must not drink grape juice or eat grapes or raisins. **4**As long as they remain under their Nazirite vow, they must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, not even the seeds or skins.

**5**“‘During the entire period of their Nazirite vow, no razor may be used on their head. They must be holy until the period of their dedication to the Lord is over; they must let their hair grow long.

**6**“‘Throughout the period of their dedication to the Lord, the Nazirite must not go near a dead body. **7**Even if their own father or mother or brother or sister dies, they must not make themselves ceremonially unclean on account of them, because the symbol of their dedication to God is on their head. **8**Throughout the period of their dedication, they are consecrated to the Lord.

**9**“‘If someone dies suddenly in the Nazirite’s presence, thus defiling the hair that symbolizes their dedication, they must shave their head on the seventh day—the day of their cleansing. **10**Then on the eighth day they must bring two doves or two young pigeons to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting. **11**The priest is to offer one as a sin offering[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+5-8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-3835f)] and the other as a burnt offering to make atonement for the Nazirite because they sinned by being in the presence of the dead body. That same day they are to consecrate their head again. **12**They must rededicate themselves to the Lord for the same period of dedication and must bring a year-old male lamb as a guilt offering. The previous days do not count, because they became defiled during their period of dedication.

**13**“‘Now this is the law of the Nazirite when the period of their dedication is over. They are to be brought to the entrance to the tent of meeting.**14**There they are to present their offerings to the Lord: a year-old male lamb without defect for a burnt offering, a year-old ewe lamb without defect for a sin offering, a ram without defect for a fellowship offering,**15**together with their grain offerings and drink offerings, and a basket of bread made with the finest flour and without yeast - thick loaves with olive oil mixed in, and thin loaves brushed with olive oil.

**16**“‘The priest is to present all these before the Lord and make the sin offering and the burnt offering. **17**He is to present the basket of unleavened bread and is to sacrifice the ram as a fellowship offering to the Lord, together with its grain offering and drink offering. **18**“‘Then at the entrance to the tent of meeting, the Nazirite must shave off the hair that symbolizes their dedication. They are to take the hair and put it in the fire that is under the sacrifice of the fellowship offering.

**19**“‘After the Nazirite has shaved off the hair that symbolizes their dedication, the priest is to place in their hands a boiled shoulder of the ram, and one thick loaf and one thin loaf from the basket, both made without yeast. **20**The priest shall then wave these before the Lord as a wave offering; they are holy and belong to the priest, together with the breast that was waved and the thigh that was presented. After that, the Nazirite may drink wine.

**21**“‘This is the law of the Nazirite who vows offerings to the Lord in accordance with their dedication, in addition to whatever else they can afford. They must fulfill the vows they have made, according to the law of the Nazirite.’”

The Priestly Blessing

**22**The Lord said to Moses, **23**“Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

24“The Lord bless you and keep you; 25the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; 26the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.”’ 27“So they will put My name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

Offerings at the Dedication of the Tabernacle

**7**When Moses finished setting up the tabernacle, he anointed and consecrated it and all its furnishings. He also anointed and consecrated the altar and all its utensils. **2**Then the leaders of Israel, the heads of families who were the tribal leaders in charge of those who were counted, made offerings. **3**They brought as their gifts before the Lord six covered carts and twelve oxen - an ox from each leader and a cart from every two. These they presented before the tabernacle.

**4**The Lord said to Moses, **5**“Accept these from them, that they may be used in the work at the tent of meeting. Give them to the Levites as each man’s work requires.”

**6**So Moses took the carts and oxen and gave them to the Levites. **7**He gave two carts and four oxen to the Gershonites, as their work required,**8**and he gave four carts and eight oxen to the Merarites, as their work required. They were all under the direction of Ithamar son of Aaron, the priest. **9**But Moses did not give any to the Kohathites, because they were to carry on their shoulders the holy things, for which they were responsible.

**10**When the altar was anointed, the leaders brought their offerings for its dedication and presented them before the altar. **11**For the Lord had said to Moses, “Each day one leader is to bring his offering for the dedication of the altar.”

**12**The one who brought his offering on the first day was Nahshon son of Amminadab of the tribe of Judah.

**13**His offering was one silver plate weighing a hundred and thirty shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with the finest flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; **14**one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; **15**one young bull, one ram and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; **16**one male goat for a sin offering; **17**and two oxen, five rams, five male goats and five male lambs a year old to be sacrificed as a fellowship offering. This was the offering of Nahshon son of Amminadab.

**18**On the second day Nethanel son of Zuar, the leader of Issachar, brought his offering. **19**The offering he brought was one silver plate weighing a hundred and thirty shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with the finest flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; **20**one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; **21**one young bull, one ram and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; **22**one male goat for a sin offering; **23**and two oxen, five rams, five male goats and five male lambs a year old to be sacrificed as a fellowship offering. This was the offering of Nethanel son of Zuar.

**24**On the third day, Eliab son of Helon, the leader of the people of Zebulun, brought his offering. **25**His offering was one silver plate weighing a hundred and thirty shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with the finest flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; **26**one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; **27**one young bull, one ram and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; **28**one male goat for a sin offering; **29**and two oxen, five rams, five male goats and five male lambs a year old to be sacrificed as a fellowship offering. This was the offering of Eliab son of Helon.

**30**On the fourth day Elizur son of Shedeur, the leader of the people of Reuben, brought his offering. **31**His offering was one silver plate weighing a hundred and thirty shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with the finest flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; **32**one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; **33**one young bull, one ram and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; **34**one male goat for a sin offering; **35**and two oxen, five rams, five male goats and five male lambs a year old to be sacrificed as a fellowship offering. This was the offering of Elizur son of Shedeur.

**36**On the fifth day Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai, the leader of the people of Simeon, brought his offering. **37**His offering was one silver plate weighing a hundred and thirty shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with the finest flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; **38**one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; **39**one young bull, one ram and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; **40**one male goat for a sin offering; **41**and two oxen, five rams, five male goats and five male lambs a year old to be sacrificed as a fellowship offering. This was the offering of Shelumiel son of Zurishaddai.

**42**On the sixth day Eliasaph son of Deuel, the leader of the people of Gad, brought his offering. **43**His offering was one silver plate weighing a hundred and thirty shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with the finest flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; **44**one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; **45**one young bull, one ram and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; **46**one male goat for a sin offering; **47**and two oxen, five rams, five male goats and five male lambs a year old to be sacrificed as a fellowship offering. This was the offering of Eliasaph son of Deuel.

**48**On the seventh day Elishama son of Ammihud, the leader of the people of Ephraim, brought his offering. **49**His offering was one silver plate weighing a hundred and thirty shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with the finest flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; **50**one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; **51**one young bull, one ram and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; **52**one male goat for a sin offering; **53**and two oxen, five rams, five male goats and five male lambs a year old to be sacrificed as a fellowship offering. This was the offering of Elishama son of Ammihud.

**54**On the eighth day Gamaliel son of Pedahzur, the leader of the people of Manasseh, brought his offering. **55**His offering was one silver plate weighing a hundred and thirty shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with the finest flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; **56**one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; **57**one young bull, one ram and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; **58**one male goat for a sin offering; **59**and two oxen, five rams, five male goats and five male lambs a year old to be sacrificed as a fellowship offering. This was the offering of Gamaliel son of Pedahzur.

**60**On the ninth day Abidan son of Gideoni, the leader of the people of Benjamin, brought his offering. **61**His offering was one silver plate weighing a hundred and thirty shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with the finest flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; **62**one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; **63**one young bull, one ram and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; **64**one male goat for a sin offering; **65**and two oxen, five rams, five male goats and five male lambs a year old to be sacrificed as a fellowship offering. This was the offering of Abidan son of Gideoni.

**66**On the tenth day Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai, the leader of the people of Dan, brought his offering. **67**His offering was one silver plate weighing a hundred and thirty shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with the finest flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; **68**one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; **69**one young bull, one ram and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; **70**one male goat for a sin offering; **71**and two oxen, five rams, five male goats and five male lambs a year old to be sacrificed as a fellowship offering. This was the offering of Ahiezer son of Ammishaddai.

**72**On the eleventh day Pagiel son of Okran, the leader of the people of Asher, brought his offering. **73**His offering was one silver plate weighing a hundred and thirty shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with the finest flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; **74**one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; **75**one young bull, one ram and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; **76**one male goat for a sin offering; **77**and two oxen, five rams, five male goats and five male lambs a year old to be sacrificed as a fellowship offering. This was the offering of Pagiel son of Okran.

**78**On the twelfth day Ahira son of Enan, the leader of the people of Naphtali, brought his offering. **79**His offering was one silver plate weighing a hundred and thirty shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing seventy shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each filled with the finest flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering; **80**one gold dish weighing ten shekels, filled with incense; **81**one young bull, one ram and one male lamb a year old for a burnt offering; **82**one male goat for a sin offering; **83**and two oxen, five rams, five male goats and five male lambs a year old to be sacrificed as a fellowship offering. This was the offering of Ahira son of Enan.

**84**These were the offerings of the Israelite leaders for the dedication of the altar when it was anointed: twelve silver plates, twelve silver sprinkling bowls and twelve gold dishes. **85**Each silver plate weighed a hundred and thirty shekels, and each sprinkling bowl seventy shekels. Altogether, the silver dishes weighed two thousand four hundred shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel. **86**The twelve gold dishes filled with incense weighed ten shekels each, according to the sanctuary shekel. Altogether, the gold dishes weighed a hundred and twenty shekels.[[l](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Numbers+5-8&version=NIV#fen-NIV-3937l)] **87**The total number of animals for the burnt offering came to twelve young bulls, twelve rams and twelve male lambs a year old, together with their grain offering. Twelve male goats were used for the sin offering. **88**The total number of animals for the sacrifice of the fellowship offering came to twenty-four oxen, sixty rams, sixty male goats and sixty male lambs a year old. These were the offerings for the dedication of the altar after it was anointed.

**89**When Moses entered the tent of meeting to speak with the Lord, he heard the voice speaking to him from between the two cherubim above the atonement cover on the ark of the covenant law. In this way the Lord spoke to him.

Setting Up the Lamps

**8**The Lord said to Moses, **2**“Speak to Aaron and say to him, ‘When you set up the lamps, see that all seven light up the area in front of the lampstand.’”

**3**Aaron did so; he set up the lamps so that they faced forward on the lampstand, just as the Lord commanded Moses. **4**This is how the lampstand was made: It was made of hammered gold - from its base to its blossoms. The lampstand was made exactly like the pattern the Lord had shown Moses.

The Setting Apart of the Levites

**5**The Lord said to Moses: **6**“Take the Levites from among all the Israelites and make them ceremonially clean. **7**To purify them, do this: Sprinkle the water of cleansing on them; then have them shave their whole bodies and wash their clothes. And so they will purify themselves.**8**Have them take a young bull with its grain offering of the finest flour mixed with olive oil; then you are to take a second young bull for a sin offering. **9**Bring the Levites to the front of the tent of meeting and assemble the whole Israelite community. **10**You are to bring the Levites before the Lord, and the Israelites are to lay their hands on them.**11**Aaron is to present the Levites before the Lord as a wave offering from the Israelites, so that they may be ready to do the work of the Lord.

**12**“Then the Levites are to lay their hands on the heads of the bulls, using one for a sin offering to the Lord and the other for a burnt offering, to make atonement for the Levites. **13**Have the Levites stand in front of Aaron and his sons and then present them as a wave offering to the Lord. **14**In this way you are to set the Levites apart from the other Israelites, and the Levites will be mine.

**15**“After you have purified the Levites and presented them as a wave offering, they are to come to do their work at the tent of meeting.**16**They are the Israelites who are to be given wholly to me. I have taken them as my own in place of the firstborn, the first male offspring from every Israelite woman. **17**Every firstborn male in Israel, whether human or animal, is mine. When I struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, I set them apart for myself. **18**And I have taken the Levites in place of all the firstborn sons in Israel. **19**From among all the Israelites, I have given the Levites as gifts to Aaron and his sons to do the work at the tent of meeting on behalf of the Israelites and to make atonement for them so that no plague will strike the Israelites when they go near the sanctuary.”

**20**Moses, Aaron and the whole Israelite community did with the Levites just as the Lord commanded Moses. **21**The Levites purified themselves and washed their clothes. Then Aaron presented them as a wave offering before the Lord and made atonement for them to purify them.**22**After that, the Levites came to do their work at the tent of meeting under the supervision of Aaron and his sons. They did with the Levites just as the Lord commanded Moses.

**23**The Lord said to Moses, **24**“This applies to the Levites: Men twenty-five years old or more shall come to take part in the work at the tent of meeting, **25**but at the age of fifty, they must retire from their regular service and work no longer. **26**They may assist their brothers in performing their duties at the tent of meeting, but they themselves must not do the work. This, then, is how you are to assign the responsibilities of the Levites.”