

to come, ⁶ and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since *they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt*. ⁷ For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. ⁸ But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned. ...

²⁶ For *if we go on sinning deliberately* after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there *no longer remains a sacrifice for sins*, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

Why is it so dangerous to plan to sin?

Was Israel's Rebellion Unintentional or High-handed?

Is Our Rebellion Unintentional or High-handed?

Beware Defying & Reviling what is Clearly from God

Key Idea:

If we fail to turn from grumbling it leads to defiance of the living God; this is the path that leads to death.

Conversely, the importance of cultivating a thankful, repentant heart can not be overestimated; this is the path of life.

Isaiah 66:2b

“...this is the one to whom I will look: he who is *humble and contrite in spirit* and *trembles at my word*.”

The reason for this life is to give us an opportunity to turn back to God, therefore...

Every painful struggle is meant to teach us that we are rebels under a sentence of death and we need to turn back to God through Jesus the savior;

And every good gift is to teach us that God is good, merciful and kind and we would be foolish not to turn back to Him.

ⁱ Duguid, I. M., & Hughes, R. K. (2006). *Numbers: God's presence in the wilderness* (p. 193). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

ⁱⁱ Ashley, T. R. (1993). *The Book of Numbers* (p. 288). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

Notes:

In the Wilderness: The Book of Numbers

[#17 in Series] (Numbers 15–25) *Forty Years in the Wilderness: Part 2, Is There A Sin that Won't Be Forgiven?* – Numbers 15:24–36

Sermon Outline – August 9, 2015

Children's Sermon/Introduction

- ❖ My Chief Job
- ❖ Watch Out for a Proud & Defiant Heart!

Matthew 20:10–11

¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, *they thought they would receive more*, but each of them also received a **denarius**. ¹¹ And on receiving it *they grumbled* at the master of the house,

Psalms 74:18

¹⁸ Remember this, O Lord, how the enemy scoffs, and a foolish people reviles your name.

- ❖ A Proud leads to a Defiant Heart; And a Defiant Heart Leads to Death

Transition:

- ❖ Why did God give us this short life filled with struggles?

Key Quote:

“A repentant and contrite spirit is the exact opposite of a proud and defiant heart, and therefore when we approach God with such a spirit, we find him more than ready to forgive even the most heinous offense.”ⁱ

BIG PICTURE:

ISRAEL'S REBELLION: UNINTENTIONAL OR HIGH-HANDED?

“Note... the kindness and the severity of God” Rom. 11:22

NUMBERS 1-10:10 – GETTING READY TO GO...

NUMBERS 10:11-36 – SETTING OUT FOR THE LAND, LED BY THE LORD

THE JOURNEY OF REBELLION FROM SINAI TO KADESH (11–14) **ISRAEL REJECTS & DESPISES GOD!**

LAWS FOR THE LAND: OFFERINGS AND FORGIVENESS (15) GOD'S RESPONSE TO REBELLION

1. LAWS ABOUT SACRIFICES IN THE LAND (1-16)
2. **A THANKFUL, REPENTANT HEART VS. A PROUD, DEFIANT HEART (17-36)**
 - LAWS ABOUT TRIBUTE (17-21) **A THANKFUL HEART**
 - **UNINTENTIONAL SINS & "HIGH-HANDED" SINS (22-36)**
3. TASSELS ON GARMENTS (38-41) **IDENTITY: A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS**

Review

Notes:

God Responds with...

1. **Steadfast Love** (kindness)

2. **Instruction:** (kindness)

A Thankful...not A Grumbling Heart (17-21)

A Repentant...not A Defiant Heart (22-36)

²² “But if you *sin unintentionally*, and do not observe all these commandments that the Lord has spoken to Moses...

³⁰ But the person who does anything *with a high hand*... (severity)

Kindness for Those with a Thankful & Repentant Heart

Atonement, Forgiveness & Fellowship

(In the Context of Rebellion)

- Thankfulness & **Repentance**... (Clear Implications...)
- **24-25** Congregation...
 - What about **Leviticus 4?** (Bull – **Sin Offering**)
 - New: **Bull – Burnt** Offering... (Flour, Oil & Wine)
 - Different: **Male Goat** – Sin Offering; (Leviticus 4:14)

²⁴ then if it was done unintentionally without the knowledge of the congregation, all the congregation shall offer **one bull** from the herd for a **burnt offering**, a pleasing aroma to the Lord, *with its grain offering and its drink offering, according to the rule*, and **one male goat** for a **sin offering**. ²⁵ And the priest shall make **atonement**...

- **26-29** Individual... (Same – Lev. 4:28; **Female Goat**)

What is Meant by “Unintentional or Inadvertent”?

- The Difference between Murder & Manslaughter
- Unintentional Sins are like Manslaughter
 - Sins of Carelessness
 - Sins of Passion
 - Sins of Ignorance

Was Israel’s Rebellion Unintentional?

Severity for Those with a Grumbling, Defiant Heart

³⁰ But the person who does anything *with a high hand*, whether he is native or a sojourner, **reviles the Lord**, and *that person shall be cut off from among his people*. ³¹ **Because he has despised the word of the Lord** and has broken his commandment, that person shall be utterly cut off; his iniquity shall be on him.”

What is Meant by “High Handed” Sins?

Notes:

“The same phrase describes the attitude of the Israelites to Pharaoh and the Egyptians at the time of the Exodus (e.g., Exod. 14:8; Num. 33:3, usually translated as “boldly,” or even “defiantly”)” ⁱⁱ

- **Reviles** the LORD (to speak about someone in a very critical or insulting way)
- **Despises** the LORD’s Word

Case Law (32-36)

³² While the people of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day. ³³ And those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron and to all the congregation. ³⁴ They put him in custody, because it had not been made clear what should be done to him. ³⁵ And the Lord said to Moses, “The man shall be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp.” ³⁶ And all the congregation brought him outside the camp and stoned him to death with stones, as the Lord commanded Moses.

- Not clear what should be done to him?

Exodus 35:2b–3

...on the seventh day you shall have a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord. **Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death**. ³ You shall **kindle no fire** in all your dwelling places on the Sabbath day.”

- Death Penalty for Picking Up Sticks?! No...
- The Death Penalty is for Contempt for God’s Authority

The Same Thing is Taught in the New Covenant

- ✓ What does the word, “blasphemy” mean?
- ✓ What word means almost the same thing?

Matthew 12:24 (Beelzebul), **31–32** (Jesus Casting Out Demons)

³¹ Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, **but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven**. ³² And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but **whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven**, either in this age or in the age to come.

Hebrews 6:4–8; 10:26–27

⁴ For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, ⁵ and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age

Notes: