



# Through the Bible in a Year

a chronological study of the Bible for women

Leviticus 19-27  
Numbers 1-6

**Week 8**

## Daily Reading Plan:

- \_\_\_ Lev.19-21
- \_\_\_ Lev.22-23
- \_\_\_ Lev.24-25
- \_\_\_ Lev.26-27
- \_\_\_ Num.1-3
- \_\_\_ Num.4-6
- \_\_\_ REST\*

\*Use this day to meditate on the week's Scripture reading. If needed, use it to catch up or read ahead.

### Next week:

Numbers 7-22  
Psalm 90

## MEMORY VERSE:

**"The Lord bless you  
and keep you;  
the Lord make his face  
shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the Lord turn his face  
toward you  
and give you peace."**

**Numbers 6:24-26**

What if you prayed these lines for your loved ones each day?

## BLESSINGS AND CURSES Lev. 26

**I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt so that you would no longer be slaves to the Egyptians; I broke the bars of your yoke and enabled you to walk with heads held high.**

Leviticus 26:13

Do you feel more blessed or cursed? Do you walk with your head held high or hung low?

The Israelites had been the aliens living in a foreign land, at the mercy of a foreign ruler for over 400 years. In the most recent years they had lived as oppressed slaves. They worked as slaves, were punished as slaves, and had begun to think as slaves.

Eisenhower visited a group of holocaust victims who had just been released from a concentration camp. His description of them is striking. They were a huddled, fearful group seemingly unable to function as free people. They had been so mistreated that they could not hold their heads high. They had forgotten how to make choices. They expected curses to fall on them, no matter what they did.

Have you ever felt like, no matter what you do, you will come out on the short end? \_\_\_\_\_

I wonder if that is a bit how it was for the Israelites who had left Egypt. They were free, but had a hard time realizing it. They didn't yet understand the power and victory they had as God's people. They still felt defeated and helpless, wary and resistant. In Leviticus 26, we see God outlining for them the choice they have. They can side with God and choose to obey Him, and enjoy His blessings, or they can reject Him and live under His curses. Curses designed to break down their stubborn pride and persuade them to come to Him. He was showing them that they aren't just passive victims of life, they are a people with a choice. They are a people who have the option of aligning themselves with, and trusting, a powerful God who can make things go well for them so that they can walk with heads held high.

How can a slave attitude be connected with "stubborn pride"? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some groups of people that may feel this way in our own society? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you? \_\_\_\_\_

## JEWISH MAGIC INCANTATION BOWLS

More than 2,000 of these bowls have survived. They were made by the Jewish communities in Babylonia and the inscriptions are in Jewish Aramaic. The purpose of them was to bring supernatural blessings, or occasionally curses, to a specific person. Though made much later than the days of Leviticus, I wonder if their blessings and curses aren't a pagan twist on God's promise of blessings for those that follow Him and curses for those who do not (Lev. 26). Perhaps the bitter water given by the priest as a curse to the unfaithful wife in Num. 5 also played a part in the origin of this tradition.

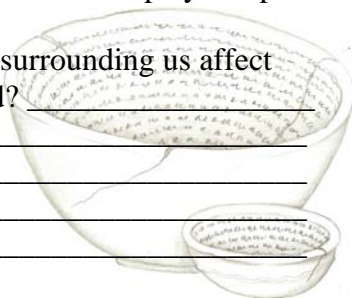
How do the practices of those surrounding us affect our understanding of God's Word? \_\_\_\_\_

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## CHILD SACRIFICE Lev. 20:1-5

We are repulsed by the idea of child sacrifice. It's hard to imagine that the Israelites apparently participated in this pagan practice (2 Kings 23:10, Jer. 32:35) despite God's insistence that it was detestable. Other children were not killed, but were made prostitutes (Lev. 19:29)

Today we do not sacrifice our children to an idol named Molech, but the idol of self still claims many.

In the U.S. alone, 3,700 children **per day** are aborted. Two to three billion dollars a year are generated by child pornography. Other children suffer abuse or neglect.

What warning is given in Lev. 20:4 to the community that closes its eyes to what is happening? \_\_\_\_\_

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## SABBATH, SABBATH REST, YEAR OF JUBILEE Lev. 25

Each seventh day of every week, the **Sabbath Day**, is to be a day of rest and worship. At the end of creation, God's "rest" or delight and enjoyment of all that He had made, was made holy and God's people were expected to continue the practice. Not only was it one of the evidences of God's covenant that set them apart from other nations, but it was a reminder and recognition of their relationship with the Creator. To reject the Sabbath was to reject God.

Each seventh year was to be a **Sabbath Year** for the land, with many practical benefits, as well as a sign that the land is not owned by Israel, but is a gift from God. During this year, the land was to remain fallow, but any crop that came up could be gathered by anyone, including the slave or the alien among them. A person, who had sold their services, was freed and given the resources he needed for a fresh start.

Each 50<sup>th</sup> year (7x7+1) was a **Jubilee Year** in which all slaves were to be set free and property returned to its original owner. This meant land was returned to its ancestral owner and slaves would be released and allowed to return to their families. What was sold, then, was the use of the land, not its ownership.

**"The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants." 25:23**

- What are some ways this system (if it had been observed) would have helped to maintain a social equality among the Israelite nation? \_\_\_\_\_
- Would any part of it be a useful practice for us today? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you support the Israelite claim on the Promised Land today? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the significance of the Jubilee being proclaimed on the Day of Atonement (25:9)? \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. THE PASSOVER and 2. UNLEAVENED BREAD

Lev. 23:4-8

Celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> of the Jewish month Nisan (first month on their calendar, our March/April) during barley harvest.

Passover begins with a ceremonial dinner commemorating when God “passed over” the homes of the Israelites and killed the Egyptian firstborn sons. It continues for seven days, eating only unleavened bread to remember the hurried flight out of Egypt.

This is one of the three feasts that all ceremonially clean Hebrew men (usually with their families) are required to attend.

What is the significance of Jesus’ Last Supper being a Passover meal?

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## 3. FIRSTFRUITS

Lev. 23:9-14

Celebrated on the 21<sup>st</sup> of Nisan in conjunction with the Feast of Unleavened bread and at the beginning of barley harvest. It was a reminder to the people of how God provides for them. The first crops harvested were to be offered to God. The Israelites couldn’t eat any of the harvest until the offering had been made.

In a non agricultural society, how can we offer God our first fruits? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 4. FEAST OF WEEKS (PENTECOST)

Lev. 23:15-22

Celebrating on the 6<sup>th</sup> of Sivan (May/June) during wheat harvest and vine tending. This is another of the three required feasts that all Hebrew men must attend. Its purpose was to show joy and thanksgiving over the bountiful harvest.



What offerings were made at this feast?

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\_\_\_\_\_

# Sacred Assemblies

“These are my appointed feasts, the appointed feasts of the Lord, which you are to proclaim as sacred assemblies.”

Lev. 23:2

## 5. FEAST OF TRUMPETS (ROSH HASHANAH)

Lev. 23:23-25

This marked the end of the agricultural year and the beginning of the civil New Year for the Jews. It is celebrated on the seventh month the 1<sup>st</sup> of Tishri (Sept./Oct.). It was a day set aside to express joy and thanksgiving to God. As Rabbi David Aaron puts it, Rosh Hashanah is a time to “polish our tarnished souls to reveal our true radiance and experience the joy of being who we really are”.

What three things occurred on this day?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. DAY OF ATONEMENT (YOM KIPPUR)

Lev. 23:26-32

Celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Tishri (our Sept.-Oct.) A day of fasting where the high priest makes atonement for the entire nation’s sin.

What do our holidays and the traditions by which we choose to celebrate them say about us?

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What are some of the special events that your family commemorates? \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. FEAST OF TABERNACLES or FEAST OF INGATHERING (SUKKOTH)

Lev. 23:33-43

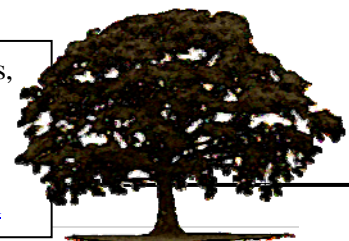
Celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> of Tishri (Sept/Oct.). This is the third and final feast that requires the attendance of all ceremonially clean Hebrew men, but also involved the whole family.

During this festival, the people lived outside in rough shelters, or booths, to commemorate the years of travel from Sinai to the Promised Land and remind them of their trust in God’s protection and guidance.

## PUZZLE CLUES (taken from the NIV)

1. a Nazirite takes this Num. 6:2
2. leave the fallen ones for the poor Lev. 19:10
3. will be broken by God Lev. 26:19
4. have this for God's sanctuary Lev. 19:30
5. without pursuit Lev. 26:36
6. should not sacrifice children to Lev. 20:2
7. tribe that wasn't counted with the others Num. 1:47
8. seventh day Lev. 23:3
9. don't use dishonest ones Lev. 19:35
10. tribe to the south of the tabernacle Num. 2:10
11. bread without yeast Lev. 23:6
12. year fruit can first be eaten Lev. 19:25
13. Pagiel represented this tribe Num. 1:13
14. fiftieth year Lev. 25:11
15. enabled to do with heads held high Lev. 26:13
16. first feast Lev. 23:5
17. five Israelites will chase this many Lev. 26:8
18. do not reap this part of the field Lev. 19:9
19. covered with a scarlet cloth Num. 4:8
20. her son cursed Lev. 24:11
21. value of male in shekels Lev. 27:3
22. number of tribes Num. 1:5-15
23. color of cloth to be put on the ark Num. 4:6
24. Aaron's oldest remaining son Num. 3:2-4
25. clan that carries the curtains Num. 4:24,25
26. do not live according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the nations Lev. 20:23
27. penalty for blasphemy Lev. 24:16
28. don't Lev. 19:11
29. cities turned to \_\_\_\_\_ Lev. 26:31
30. those who had one could not go near Lev. 21:21
31. tribe with the most men Num. 1:27
32. keep these Lev. 20:8
33. to be observed Lev. 19:3
34. a sheaf of the first grain harvested Lev. 23:10
35. tribe of Judah on this side of the tabernacle Num. 2:3
36. belongs to the Lord Lev. 27:30
37. a numbering of the people Num. 1:2
38. lived in for seven days Lev. 23:42
39. grows long on a Nazirite Num. 6:5
40. kept burning continually Lev. 24:2
41. at least this age to be counted Num. 1:3
42. to your mother and father Lev. 19:3
43. water that brings a curse Num. 5:19
44. penalty was to be burned in it Lev. 20:14
45. will waste away in an unfaithful wife Num. 5:21
46. unacceptable sacrifice Lev. 22:21
47. 62,700 men in this tribe Num. 1:39
48. result of not following God's commands Lev. 26:16
49. to avoid guilt Lev. 19:17
50. feast on the first day of the seventh month Lev. 23:24
51. a Nazarite abstains from this Num. 6:3
52. fearful Lev. 26:36
53. not to be taken from a countryman Lev. 25:36
54. If you obey, God will look on you with \_\_\_\_\_ Lev. 26:9
55. what the land should have every seventh year Lev. 25:4
56. Num. 5 deals with an unfaithful one

For comments or questions,  
contact me at  
[victoryrd@hotmail.com](mailto:victoryrd@hotmail.com)  
or for more studies visit  
[www.downvictoryrd.com](http://www.downvictoryrd.com)





# PUZZLE PAGE

Leviticus 19-27 and Numbers 1-6

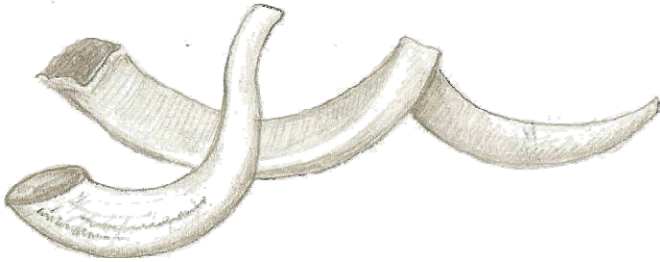
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## TRUMPET BLASTS

Lev. 23:24

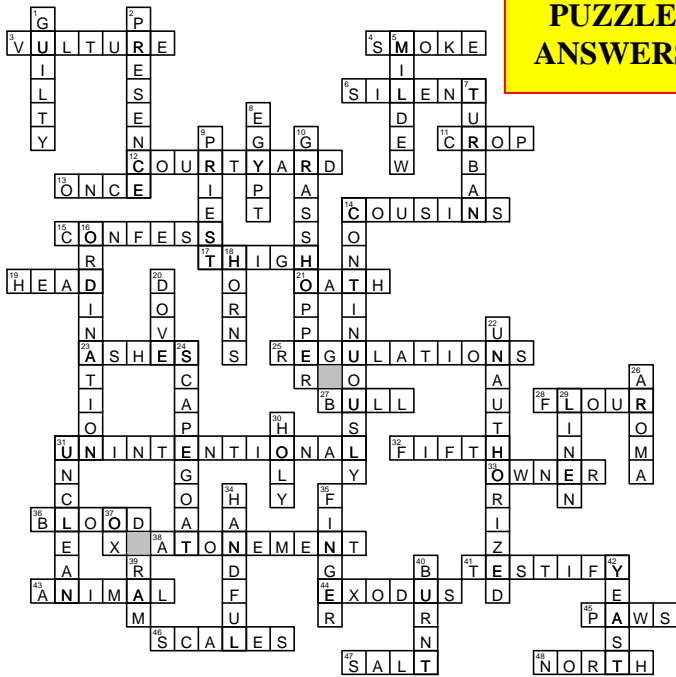
A Jewish trial used to begin with a trumpet blast, much how court is now brought to order with a gavel.

Jewish oral tradition teaches that when the shofar (trumpet) is blown, the God of wrath and judgment becomes instead the God of compassion and mercy. The trumpet blast that signals a willingness to be judged transforms the day. It's putting oneself at God's mercy knowing that He is a merciful God.



The original shofar or trumpets were made from ram's horns. Trumpets were also made from hammered silver.

### WEEK 7 PUZZLE ANSWERS



## RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS Lev. 23, Read Col. 2:16-17

- What should our attitude be about observing the Sabbath or the sacred assemblies today? \_\_\_\_\_
- How are the festivals and the observance of the Sabbath shadows of the things that have come? \_\_\_\_\_

## THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW Lev. 19

God instructs Moses to say to the entire assembly of the Israelites “Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.” (19:2) He follows with a specific list of rules that mainly seem to elaborate on the Ten Commandments. They are moral obligations that we can readily agree with like showing respect to the elderly or providing for the poor. We only have to figure out how to follow the spirit of the law where the letter of the law does not match our cultural setting.

For example, instead of leaving the edges of the fields for the poor, we could \_\_\_\_\_

Other laws listed were of a different nature, like not cutting your hair at the sides of your head. The purposes of these laws were simply to keep the Israelites from participating in the practices of the pagan nations around them. Pagan worship included things like cutting their hair a certain way, disfiguring themselves with cuttings, tattoos to protect a person from magic or show that they belonged to a specific god. The Israelites were not to do anything that would be confused with pagan worship.

Which regulations in Lev.19 are of that type? \_\_\_\_\_

What does that mean for us? \_\_\_\_\_

## BEGINNING IN NUMBERS

In the initial chapters, the Israelites are still at Mt. Sinai, but are preparing to leave for the Promised Land.

- Why do you think God instructs Moses to take a census? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many men of military age were there? \_\_\_\_\_
- What was the largest tribe? \_\_\_\_\_
- What tribe was not included? \_\_\_\_\_
- In Num.4, how were the ark and other holy things to be moved? \_\_\_\_\_
- How did the laws in Num. 5 regarding the treatment of an unfaithful wife actually protect the wife? \_\_\_\_\_