

Gleanings from the Pentateuch

The Unfolding Story of the Kingdom of God

Kingdom in Part

➤ This form of God's kingdom, through outward forms and shadows, is to instruct us about and point us forward to Messiah and the ultimate expression of His kingdom

- e.g. – sacrifices, tabernacle, priesthood, Sabbath, diet, uncleanness, festivals, Jubilee
- **The Nazirite Vow** (Numbers 6:1-21)

Nazirite Vow

Overview

➤ *A difficult vow of separation to the Lord*

- An outward act of consecration demonstrating one's complete separation to the Lord
- Resulted in a person being set apart as "holy" to the Lord

Nazirite Vow

Overview

1. Uniqueness of this vow

- It was voluntary
- It was made by "laypersons"
- It could be made by men and women

Nazirite Vow

Overview

2. Prohibitions of the vow

- He must abstain from all produce of the vine
- He could not cut his hair
- He could not be made unclean by going near a dead person

Nazirite Vow

Overview

2. Prohibitions of the vow: significance

- A. Priest-like holiness – these correspond to the prohibitions of the priests and high priest
- B. Acts of devotion that limited a person's diet, appearance and associations

Nazirite Vow

Overview

3. Completion of the vow

- Presentation at the Tent of Meeting – a sense of coming into the presence of the Holy One
- It was very costly – expressive of the Nazirite's commitment to the Lord
- It was celebratory – ate (and drank) a meal in the presence of the Lord

Nazirite Vow

New Covenant Significance

1. General

- The Nazirite of the Old Covenant anticipates the disciple of Jesus under the New Covenant
 - every disciple is a "priest" – no more priestly/laity distinctions in holiness
 - new covenant membership is not by physical birth but by individual faith in Jesus
 - women are equal and full members of the New Covenant

Nazirite Vow

New Covenant Significance

2. Specific

- As disciples we are to live with a "Nazirite-like" separation to Jesus
 - self-denial of good things for sake of Christ
 - bearing shame and reproach for the sake of Christ
 - seeking first the kingdom over money, career, image, entertainment, family

Nazirite Vow

Matthew 10:37-39

"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

He who has found his life shall lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake shall find it."

– Jesus