

## The are Laws unique to the Book of Numbers: (Num 5:11-31)

One of those is *The Law of Jealousy*, recorded in Numbers 5—

- ❑ “Scripture does not reveal one instance where this law was invoked by a jealous husband, so that it is evident that it is designed to illustrate spiritual adultery and Yahweh's viewpoint towards it. Considered in that light, this strange law becomes PROPHETIC of Israel's relationship with Yahweh her spiritual Husband, and His treatment of her as exhibited by the words and actions of Hosea, the prophet of enduring love. Through Moses, Israel was warned that it must have no other God; ‘for Yahweh, Whose name is Jealous (Qanna) is a jealous God’ (Exod. 34:14). Ezekiel published the parable that represents Israel as the foundling child who becomes Yahweh's bride (Ezek. 16:6-14). The Law relating to the Trial of Jealousy reveals the responsibilities resting upon the nation because of its privileged position as Yahweh's bride, and the consequences of spiritual adultery.” HPM
- *Even in the case of literal adultery, the Bible refers to it as a “sin against God” (Gen 20:6; 39:9).*

- This Law provides necessary caution not to confine the Bible to applications of practical or personal “lessons.” The Truth is fundamentally about God, and how men must manifest Him.
- In fact, the personal, literal actions of Yahweh’s servants are used to represent a specific doctrines that relate to God (Isa 20:1-3; Jer 13:1-11; 18-19; 27:1-22; Eze 4-5; 12:1-16; 1Sam 15:27-28; 1Kin 11:30-31). Sarah, Hagar, and their two sons, rep. an allegory (Gal 4:22-31)
- Of course the parables of Christ contain moral principles; but they foremost concern “doctrine” pertaining to the “kingdom of God” (Mar 4:1; Mat 13).
- Consider the subject directly before us in Num 5: even this difficult doctrine is personally enacted in the life of the prophet.

**Hos 1:1-2 “Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: FOR THE LAND HATH COMMITTED GREAT WHOREDOM, DEPARTING FROM THE LORD”**

- Scriptural reasoning includes the literal having a corresponding figurative application; type & antitype; or shadow & substance<sup>2</sup>.

Num 5:12 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any *man's wife* \*go aside, and commit a trespass against him, **\*deviate, decline (used six times)**

➤ *This law only pertains to the wife, and never the husband, because of its doctrinal and prophetic significance. Both the Heb. “lampstand” and Grk. “ecclesia” are in the feminine gender.*

**Wife**—the children of Israel are called the spouse of Yahweh:

Isa 54:5 “For thy Maker is thine *husband*; the LORD of hosts”

Jer 3:14 “Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am *married* unto you”

Hos 2:20 “I will even *betroth* thee unto me in faithfulness”

Israel’s going aside after other gods is called “adultery” (Jer 2:25; 3:1-2).

The ecclesia is styled the espoused “bride” (2Cor 11:1-3; Eph 5:22-31).

○ **This language is employed throughout scripture for Yahweh and His people.** Exo 34:15-16; Deu 31:16; 2Chr 21:13; Psa 73:27; 106:39; Jer 2:13; 3:1-9 Eze 6:9; 16:1-63; 23:1-49; Rev 17:1-5

**Trespass**—not only “sin” against a Law; but personal offense to God<sup>3</sup>.

**Num 5:13** And a man \*lie with her carnally, and *it be hid from the eyes of her husband*, and be kept close, and she be defiled, and *there be no witness against her*, neither she be \*taken *with the manner*; \***Heb. to conceive seed**

**Hid**—adultery in spirit is not outward, but inward (Eze 14:1-7):

**Eze 14:3-5** “Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart ... because they are all **ESTRANGED** from me through their idols”

• **Heb. tran. “strange woman”** Pro 2:16; 5:3,20; 7:5; 22:14; 23:33.

The Lord declared “adultery” is concealed in the “heart” (Mat 5:28).

When the elders of Israel took a woman “in the very act,” Jesus responded: “he that is without sin...” (John 8:1-11).

**No Witness**—the Law of Moses was Yahweh’s “witness” to His people (Deu 31:26 cf. Joh 5:32-37; 5:45). “The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day”—Joh 12:48

**Hid**—it is the Word of God that reveals: as “a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart...all things are naked and open unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do” (Heb 4:12-13).

**Jam 1:15** “When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin... death”

Num 5:14 And the *spirit of jealousy* come upon him, and he be *jealous* of his wife, and she be \***DEFILED**: or if *the spirit of jealousy* come upon him, and he be *jealous* of his wife, and she be not defiled: **\*to make oneself unclean**

**Spirit of Jealousy**—clear proof would be expedient death (Lev 20:10). However, this is adultery that is concealed, and is to be tested in a different way; expressed in this Law.

**Jealousy** also means “zeal.” It is trans. “zealous” when Phinehas, defended Yahweh (*Num 25:11*).

It is vital to see through to the spiritual lessons expressed. When the love of believers towards the Truth, or towards God, lessens, it is because some other influence has entered their lives, or because they have not been attentive to the Word. Many of those accused of adultery in the Scriptures were physically very moral people dwelling in complete unity with their wives, but guilty of a friendship with the world that constituted them spiritual adulteresses (James 4:4). And that, we believe, is the key to this law.

The Lord said he “desired” to eat the Passover with his disciples (Luk 22:15). This same word is trans “lust” in the N.T. (Mat 5:28; Jam 4:2).

*The “spirit of Jealousy” is incited by a wife that is “neither hot nor cold.” The command was to be “zealous and repent” (Rev 3:14-19)*

**Exo 20:5 The foremost command: “Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God”**

**Deu 32:16 “They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger” (Psa 78:58)**

**1Kin 14:22 “Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. For they also built them high places...”**

**Col 3:5 “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and COVETOUSNESS, WHICH IS IDOLATRY” (Eph 5:5)**

### ***Yahweh’s Response: The Call of the Gentiles:***

**Deu 32:21 “They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: AND I WILL MOVE THEM TO JEALOUSY WITH THOSE WHICH ARE NOT A PEOPLE; I WILL PROVOKE THEM TO ANGER WITH A FOOLISH NATION”**

**Rom 11:11-14 “I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy”**

**Num 5:15** Then shall the man bring his wife *unto the priest*, and he shall bring her offering for her, the TENTH PART OF AN EPHAH of *barley* meal; he shall pour *no oil upon it, nor put frankincense thereon*; for it is an offering of jealousy, an offering of memorial, *\*bringing iniquity to remembrance. \*for judgment (when confessed, removed—Psa 103:8-18)*

**The Priest**—judgment of Yahweh is mediated by His priest; the Lord Jesus Christ—(Heb 3:1; 5:5; 9:11). The priest, foremost, serves and represents Yahweh and His Laws! (Heb 1:3; Joh 1:14; 14:9)

**Barley**—lowest of grains; half price of wheat (2Kin 7:16-18; Eze 4:18).

**10<sup>th</sup> part of an ephah**—daily rate of manna provided for Israel (Exo 16:16,36). Sin offering of poverty (Lev 5:11). *Brought mind to humility.*

**No Oil**—lack of the Word the problem (Lev 24:2; Psa 119:105; Pro 6:23)

**No Frankincense**—a lack of prayer (Psa 141:2; Rev 8:3; Pro 28:9)

- “He shall put no oil upon it, neither shall he put *any frankincense thereon: for it is a sin offering*”—Lev 5:11

*This is where a adultery begins: no affection for the Word or prayer.*

**Num 5:16** And *the priest* shall bring her near, and set her before the LORD: *(the priest—Christ—administers the test)*

**Set Her Before YAHWEH**—a sin against Yahweh, it is His to judge. Burnt and Sin offerings were set “before Yahweh” (Lev 1:3; 4:4). Judgment condemns or exonerates, according to our works.

In the national, typical application of the law, Yahweh’s wife (Isa. 54:5) was the cause of much Godly jealousy, and this law was a reminder to all Israelites, both male and female, of the consequences of their coldness towards Him, or their faithlessness in going aside to strange worship. The Law is a prophetic parable of Israel’s state as the bride of Yahweh.

**Rev 2:20-22** “I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I GAVE HER SPACE TO REPENT OF HER FORNICATION; AND SHE REPENTED NOT”

○ **Ecclesiastical corruption is termed “the GREAT whore” (Rev 17:1-2).**

**2Pet 2:14-15** speaks of those who have “forsaken the right way” as “having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin...” 8



**Num 5:17** And the priest shall take *holy water in an earthen vessel*; and of *the dust that is in the floor of the tabernacle* the priest shall take, and put *it* into the water:

**Holy Water**—this is the water in the Laver, which is the Greek expression found in Eph 5:26 “water of the Word.” Significantly, the Laver was made by the looking glasses or mirrors of *spiritual women* who assembled at the door of the Tabernacle (Exo 38:8). The Word is intended to be a mirror of inspection on the conscience (Jam 1:23).

**Earthen Vessel**—throughout Scripture this represents the Truth contained within man (Act 9:15; 2Tim 2:20; 2Cor 4:7).

**Dust, Floor of the tabernacle**—water mingled in nature of man (Gen 2:7; 3:14; Isa 65:25). The tabernacle was for Yahweh to be glorified and “dwell in and among” His people (Exo 25:8). This is the true test!

In the prophetic parable, Christ, as Yahweh’s priest, inspected Israel before God by administer the inward Water. Jesus was the dust and water together: “the word made flesh that tabernacled among us” (Joh 1:14). But Israel was found “an adulterous generation” Mat 12:39.

Num 5:18 And the priest shall *set the woman* **BEFORE THE LORD**, and *uncover the woman's \*head*, and put the offering of memorial *in her hands*, which is **THE JEALOUSY OFFERING**: and the priest shall have in his hand *the bitter water that causeth the curse*: **\*prophecy: Israel's leadership**

RV “Let the hair of the woman’s head loose”—this was a principle of shame, because the woman had defiled the “headship” of her husband. That headship passes through Christ unto God Himself:

1Cor 11:3 “The **HEAD** of every man is Christ; and the **HEAD** of the woman is the man; and the **HEAD** of Christ is God”

The Curse—as a ‘prophetic parable’ the Law was a curse to Israel, of which was especially manifested by Christ Jesus (Act 13:39; Gal 3:13)

Bitter water that causeth the curse—Christ, the priest, administers the Word: John 12:48 “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: *the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day*” (**Joh 3:17-20; 2Cor 2:15-17**)

***The Word discerns between flesh and spirit—Heb 4:12***

Num 5:19 And the priest shall *charge her by an oath*, and say unto the woman, If no man have lain with thee, and if thou hast not gone aside to uncleanness *with another* instead of thy husband, *be thou \*free from this bitter water that causeth the curse:* *\*Law didn't condemn righteous-1Tim 1:9*

**Bitter Water**—the Word is only “bitter” to the guilty. The words of Yahweh are “sweet” and “cleansing” to the upright (Psa 119:9,103; Pro 16:22-24). See also Rev 10:9; Eze 3:14—*little book bitter, sweet*

**Curse**—the Word is two-fold: as the Law consisted of “blessing” and “cursing,” which was entirely predicated upon the conduct of Yahweh’s people (Deu 27-28). A “curse” was the result of man’s works

**Be thou free**—“bitterness” is only if we, the bride, are guilty. “There is no condemnation” for those who “walk after the spirit” (Rom 8:1).

2Cor 2:15-16 “To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life”

*Christ offered the “seed” of Abraham opportunity to be “free,”<sup>11</sup> when they insisted they were never condemned (Joh 8-9).*

Num 5:20 But if thou hast *gone aside to another instead of thy husband*, and if thou be defiled, and some man have lain with thee *beside thine husband*:

Num 5:21 Then *\*the priest shall charge the woman with an oath of cursing, and the priest shall say unto the woman, The LORD make thee a curse and an oath among thy people, when the LORD doth make thy thigh to rot, and thy belly to swell;* *\*Christ's words exposed Sin (Joh 15:22)*

**Thigh**—suggests the reproductive parts (Gen 24:2; 46:26; 47:29).

Trans. “loins,” and is used for the offspring of a man.

**Belly**—trans. “womb.” A false pregnancy through the an adulterous act (v.28). *Prophetically, the seed of Abraham after the flesh (Gal 4)*

• Spiritual “adultery” is really inward (Eze 16:38; 33:31):

Mat 5:28 “I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already *in his heart*” *context: Christ elevating letter of the Law to the spirit*

➤ **Husband**—used six times in this Law: because the offense is carnal

**Num 5:22** And this water that causeth the curse shall go into thy bowels, to make *thy* belly to swell, and *thy* thigh to rot: *And the woman shall say, Amen, amen.*

**Num 5:23** And the priest shall *write these curses in a book*, and he shall blot *them* out with the bitter water:

**Num 5:24** And he shall CAUSE THE WOMAN TO DRINK *the bitter water that causeth the curse*: and the water that causeth the curse shall *enter into her, and become bitter.*

**Go into thy bowels**—**this word apart from the rest of the Law was administered by Yahweh’s priest inspected the inward (Mat 5:17).**

**Amen**—the bride endorses the judgment, even if it condemns her.

**“Cursed be he... and all the people said, Amen”** (see: Deu 27:15-26)

**Bitter**—appears 6x in this chapter (flesh Gen 1:24-31; Rev 13:18).

- **“Writing” the “curses in a book” to be blotted out with the “bitter water”** shows the connection between water and the Word.

**The apostle said: “The commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death” Rom 7:9-10**<sup>13</sup>

**Num 5:25** Then the priest shall take *the jealousy offering out of the woman's hand*, and shall *wave the offering before the LORD*, and offer it upon the altar:

**Num 5:26** And the priest shall take *an handful of the offering, even the memorial thereof*, and burn *it* upon the ALTAR, and AFTERWARD shall cause the woman to drink the water.

**Wave**—to draw Divine attention for judgment, whether good or bad (Exo 29:24-27; Lev 7:30; 9:21; 10:14).

**Altar**—where Yahweh's fire was present (Lev 1-5). This reps. the Word of God, divine inspection (Jer 20:9; 23:29; Eze 20:47; Luk 24:32)

**Memorial**—v.15 “bringing iniquity to remembrance.” The purpose of the memorial of Christ is self-examination:

**1Cor 11:24-28** “This do in remembrance of me. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.”

**Based on the “type” of Israel, the apostle writes:**

**1Cor 10:16 THE CUP OF BLESSING WHICH WE BLESS, IS IT NOT THE COMMUNION OF THE BLOOD OF CHRIST? THE BREAD WHICH WE BREAK, IS IT NOT THE COMMUNION OF THE BODY OF CHRIST?**

**1Cor 10:17 For we *being* many are one bread, *and* one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.**

**1Cor 10:18 Behold Israel after the flesh: are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the altar?**

**1Cor 10:19 *What say I then? that the idol is any thing, or that which is offered in sacrifice to idols is any thing?***

**1Cor 10:20 But *I say*, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.**

**1Cor 10:21 Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.**

**1Cor 10:22 *Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?***

**1Cor 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.**

**Num 5:27** And when he hath made her to drink the water, then it shall come to pass, *that, if she be defiled*, and have done trespass against her husband, that the water that causeth the curse shall enter into her, *and become bitter*, and her belly shall swell, and her thigh shall rot: *and the woman shall be a curse among her people*.

**Defiled**—Israel was “defiled” by “adultery” when they forsook Yahweh (Psa 106:39; Eze 36:17; Hos 5:3; 6:10). They had “gone aside” to the idols of the unenlightened world.

**Jer 3:8-9** “And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel *committed adultery* I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. *And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks*”

- **Prophetically, Israel a curse for being unfaithful to Yahweh (Isa 54:4; Deu 28:37; Jer 24:9; 29:18; 42:18; 44:12; Zec 8:12).**



Num 5:28 And if the woman *be not defiled*, but be clean; then *she shall be free*, and *shall conceive seed*.

Num 5:29 This *is* THE LAW OF JEALOUSIES, when a wife goeth aside *to another* instead of her husband, and is defiled;

Num 5:30 Or when *the spirit of jealousy cometh upon him*, and he be jealous over his wife, and shall set the woman before the LORD, and \*THE PRIEST SHALL EXECUTE UPON HER ALL THIS LAW.                      **\*the Lord Jesus Christ**

Num 5:31 Then shall *the man be guiltless* from iniquity, and this woman shall bear her iniquity.

**Conceive seed**—a divine blessing upon Sarah’s daughters (Heb 11:11). **Foremost, the seed of Abraham born after the spirit (Gal 4)**

**The man be guiltless**—even if she’s innocent? Paul’s question is “do we provoke the Lord to jealousy”? (1Cor 10:22). Apathy and lack of affection for the Truth engenders this spirit (Rev 3:15-16).

**2Cor 11:2 “I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ”**

**Jam 4:4 “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God”**

***Gk, feminine: ASV, RV...etc.***

- Why is “friendship” with the world “adultery”? Because Yahweh declares Israel “PROVOKED HIS SPIRIT” when they “MINGLED” among the world and “LEARNED THEIR WORKS” and “SERVED THEIR IDOLS” (Psa 106:33-36). It is arrogance to assume otherwise; that we can befriend the world but not their gods.
- Mat 12:39 Jews in Christ’s day were “a wicked and adulterous generation” (26:4); found unfaithful to the priests inspection.
- The prophets speak of Israel “committing adultery” with idols (Jer 5:7; Eze 23:37); and “provoking” Yahweh to “jealousy” (Deu 32:16-21; Jud 2:12; 1Kin 14:22-23; 22:53; Psa 78:58).

**Rev 21:1-2 “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband”<sup>18</sup>**

**Deu 32:16 “They provoked him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger”**

**1Kin 14:22-23 “And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree”**

**Psa 78:58 “For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images”**

**Deu 4:23-24 “Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee. For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God”**

- The desire of brethren in Christ toward worldly idols is affection that has gone astray from Yahweh; which He cannot and does not tolerate.