
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

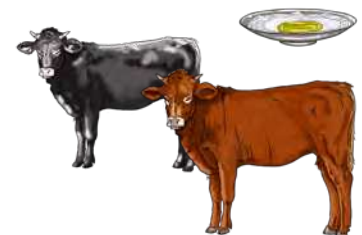
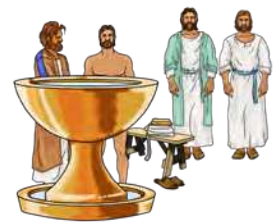
Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Num. 8	Instructions for the 7 lamps; The service of the Lewites
Tuesday:	Num. 9	Instructions for the second Passover; The appearance of the cloud and fire
Wednesday:	Num. 10	Instructions for the 2 silver trumpets; The Yisra'elites' departure from the Wilderness of Sinai to the Wilderness of Paran
Thursday:	Num. 11	The peoples' complaints and the provision of manna; Appointment of the 70 elders; The quail and the plague
Friday:	Num. 12	Miryam and Aharon speak against Mosheh; Miryam chastised with leprosy

In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will witness the Lewites being cleansed and then presented as a wave-offering before Yahweh to be taken instead of the first-born and given as a gift to Aharon and his sons to serve them in the Tent of Meeting. Now, let's read Num. 8:5-26.

PARSHA POINTS

- Yahweh told Mosheh to take the Lewites from among the children of Yisra'el, in order to cleanse them to serve in the Tent of Meeting - 8:5-6
- To cleanse themselves the Lewites were to (8:7):
 - have Mosheh sprinkle purifying water (sin offering) on them
 - shave all their body
 - wash their garments
- The following animals were to be brought with the Lewites to the Tent of Meeting, before all the congregation of the children of Yisra'el (8:8-9):
 - a young bull (burnt offering), along with its grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil
 - another young bull (sin offering)
- The children of Yisra'el were to lay their hands on the Lewites - 8:10
- Aharon was to wave the Lewites before Yahweh as a wave offering from the children of Yisra'el, so that they would do the service of Yahweh - 8:11



- The Lewites were to lay their hands on the heads of the 2 (**shtayim**) young bulls and prepare them for their offerings, to make atonement (**kapporah**) for the Lewites - 8:12
- Aharon was to present the Lewites as a wave offering before Yahweh, in order to be separated from among the children of Yisra'el to belong to Yahweh, specifically to do service in the Tent of Meeting - 8:14
- The Lewites were to be His instead (**tachath**) of the first-born (**bechor**) of all Yisra'el. He reminded them that Yisra'el's first-born had been set apart to Himself on the day that they were spared from the slaying of the first-born of Mistrayim - 8:15-18
- Then He told them that the Lewites were a gift to Aharon and his sons for the purpose of serving in the Tent of Meeting, and to make atonement for the children of Yisra'el when they come near the set-apart place so that no plague come upon them - 8:19
- The Lewites cleansed themselves and washed their garments - 8:21
- Then Aharon waved them as a wave offering (**tenufah**) before Yahweh, and made atonement for them in order to cleanse them - 8:21
- After this, the Lewites went in to do their service before the Tent of Meeting before Aharon and his sons, as Yahweh had commanded them - 8:22
- Yahweh told Mosheh His regulations for the service of the Lewites in the Tent of Meeting (8:23-26):
 - They would begin serving from age 25 (**esrim v'chamesh**) and older
 - At the age of 50 (**chamishim**) they would retire and serve no more
 - After age 50, they could still attend with their brothers in order to guard the duty, but they were to not do service



DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- As we learned in previous parshas, the Lewites were no longer to be counted as part of the 12 tribes. Instead, they were chosen to be set apart to serve in the Tent of Meeting. How do you think this affected their relationship with the other tribes/brothers?
- Note that the Lewites were NOT anointed with oil as the priesthood was. Why do you think that is? What job description did they have? Did they ever touch or look at the set-apart objects?
- What do you think it means when it says that the Lewites had to shave their bodies 8.7? Do you believe that they were required to actually shave everything? Could this expression be one we are perhaps not familiar with, simply meaning to clean oneself thoroughly for presentation to Yahweh?
- At the first Passover in Mitsrayim, Yahweh spared all Yisra'el's first-born and took them for Himself. Why did He now replace them with the Lewites? Discuss possible reasons for this. Refer to Numbers 3 regarding the census of the first-born and the Lewites. What was needed to account for the 273 extra first-born?
- In Numbers 4:3, a certain age is given for the Lewites who were to begin entering into service. Why do you think there is a discrepancy between the age given there, and the age given in 8:24?
- In verse 10 it says that the children of Yisra'el were to lay their hands on the Lewites. Do you believe that all the congregation had to do this, or perhaps just the leaders of each tribe?
- Research what a wave offering is and its connection to the peace offering.
- We see in this parsha that the animals were a 'kippur' or atonement for the Lewites (v.12), and that the Lewites were a 'kippur' or atonement for the children of Yisra'el (v.19). What does that mean? Why do you think the offeror had to place their hands on their offering?
- We see that 3 things were happening between the Lewites and the first-born - substitute, payment/ransom, and atonement. Discuss what these words mean.

