

What Are You Asking from the Lord, Today?

Scripture

Numbers 14: 7 – and said to all the congregation of the Israelites, “The land that we went through as spies is an exceedingly good land.”

Numbers 15:7 – and as a drink offering, you shall offer one-third of a hin of wine, a pleasing odor to the Lord.

Numbers 16:7 – and tomorrow put fire in them, and lay incense on them before the Lord; and the man who the Lord chooses shall be the holy one. You Levites have gone too far!

I. Background for Each Story

1. Numbers 14:7
 - a. The Israelites complained against Moses (Num. 14:2-4)
 - b. Moses & Aaron offered forgiveness to the people (Num. 14:5)
 - c. Joshua and Caleb offered sacrificial forgiveness & proclaimed the truth about the goodness of the land (Num. 14:6-9)
 - d. The congregation remained disobedient (Num. 14:10)
2. Numbers 15:7
 - a. God’s instructions of external offerings when entering the land
 - b. Flock (Num. 15:3-6); Ram (Num. 15:6-7); Bull (Num. 15:8-10)
 - c. Participants: Israelites and Foreigners (Num. 15:11-16)
 - d. God’s instructions of internal offerings from the land (Num. 15:17-26)
 - e. God’s instructions of those who sin unintentionally (Num. 15:27-31)
3. Numbers 16:7
 - a. Korah leads a rebellion against Moses and Aaron, specifically 250 men (Num. 16:1-2)
 - b. Korah’s Problem: Israel is holy, so why are you self-righteous (Num. 16:3)
 - c. Problem Addressed: God will show who is His own, is holy, and can approach Him (Num. 16:4-11)
 - d. Result: The Lord judged Korah and his descendants and the 250 men who rebelled (Num. 16:15-35)
 - e. God instructs Aaron’s sons to take the censers and make plates (Num. 16:36-40)
 - f. Another revolt comes against Moses and Aaron (Num. 16:41-50)

II. Focus: Land, Wine, and Censer

1. Natural and spiritual purposes
 - a. Land Representations (Num. 14:7)
 - 1) Represents Provision – Gen. 12:1 – Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to **the land that I will show you.**”

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- 2) Represents better life, situation, happiness, and success – Num. 14:8 – If the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us into this land and give it to us, a **land that flows with milk and honey**.
 - 3) Represents the church
 - a) Matt. 16:18 – And I tell you, you are Peter, and on **this rock, I will build my church**.
 - b) Ephesians 2: 19-20 – So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with **Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone**.
 - b. Wine (Num. 15:7)
 - 1) Sustenance and life
 - a) Psalm 104:14-15 – ¹⁴ You cause the grass to grow for the cattle and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth ¹⁵ and **wine to gladden the human heart**, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.
 - b) Genesis 9:20 – Noah, a man of the soil, was the **first to plant a vineyard**.
 - 2) Joy/celebration/festivity
 - a) John 2:6-11 (Jesus turns water to wine)
 - 3) The Blood of Jesus Christ
 - a) John 6:53-54 – So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and **drink His blood**, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and **drink my blood** have eternal life.
 - c. Censer (Num. 16:7)
 - 1) Represents prayer
 - a) Psalm 141:1-2 – ¹ I call upon you, O Lord, come quickly to me; give ear to my voice when I call you. ² Let **my prayer be counted as incense** before you, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.
 - b) Revelation 5:8 – When He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden **bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints**.
 - c) Revelation 8:3-4 – ³ Another angel with a **golden censer** came and stood at the altar; he was given a **great quantity of incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints** on the golden altar that is before the throne. ⁴ And the **smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints**, rose before God from the hand of the angel.
2. Conclusion
 - a. Unbeliever – In order to know Jesus, they need to hear/experience the Word in a Church or Community of believers; they need to receive the blood of Christ; and they need to build their relationship with Jesus through prayer

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- b. Believer – Need three pieces to live in abundance and joy: the church, Jesus, and Prayer
- c. Believer's Purpose – land, wine, and censer

III. The Believer's Land, Wine, and Censer

1. What is your promised land?
2. Do you have your wine?
3. Is your censer filled?
4. Why now? This is a time of separation and God is going to replenish and repay His people with the best He has to offer during this time.