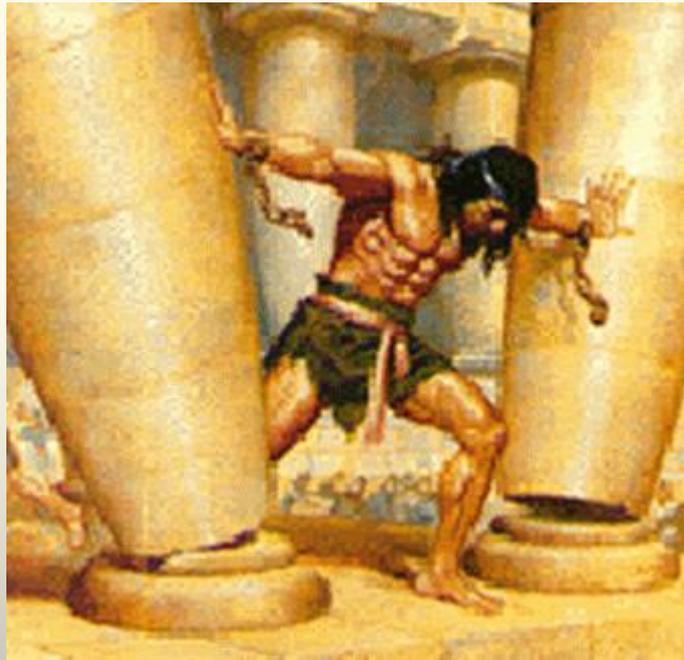


The law of the Nazarite



The law of the Nazarite

- What is a Nazarite?
- Examples of Nazarite's in scripture –
 - What can we learn from them?
- What is the relevance for Christians today?



What is a Nazarite?

- **Hebrew word** > Nazir
 - Means separated person , consecrated person
- Considered to be **ascetics** because of their **VOWS**.
 - An ‘ascetic’ is typically someone who
 - Is usually set apart to serve (a) God & therefore
 - Is self disciplined;
 - Is willing to deny themselves for the sake of a cause;
 - Leads a simple / focussed life;
 - Is not self indulgent.

“Tell the Israelites this: if there are people, men or women, who want to make a vow dedicating themselves completely to the lord for a time, they will be called Nazarites.

Number 6:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the LORD:

King James Version (KJV)

What are the vows of a Nazarite?

Numbers 6:3-6

- He(she) shall separate him(her)self from wine and strong drink;
 - He(she) shall not drink vinegar of wine or vinegar of strong drink or liquor of grapes. He(she) shall not eat ripe grapes or dried grapes. He(she) shall eat nothing made of wine, from the kernels to the husk.
- All the days of the vow of his(her) separation there shall no razor come upon his(her) head:
 - They shall let the locks of the hair of their head grow.
- He(she) shall be holy.

Numbers 6:3-6 cont'

- All the days that he(she) separateth him(her)self unto the LORD he(she) shall come at no dead body.
 - And he(she) shall not be defiled for the dead even for father, mother, sister or brother.
 - If someone dies suddenly near them they have defiled their consecration so they shall shave their head /**start again**, after bringing a sin and burnt offering.

Nazarite & High Priest

Both separated for the service of God

- Leviticus 21
 - Ordinances concerning priests have many similarities, designed to ensure the priest is undefiled and stands out from the congregation.

 - Earlier > Lev 10:8-9 Do not drink wine or strong drink when going to the temple.
- Ezek 44:17-24
 - simple clothing, not shave head, not drink wine, etc
 - :25 they shall come at no dead person to defile themselves, mother or father, sister or brother, son or daughter. etc
 - :26+ Cleansing themselves is the same if accidentally defiled.

Other writings

Rabbinical, Josephus, etc

- The costs of the sacrifices of poor people taking the vow were funded by the rich.
- Samson, Samuel, Absalom, John the Baptist and Jesus were considered Nazarites.
- James the Just (Jesus' brother) was thought to be a Nazarite for his whole life.
- King Agrippa's sister Berenice was a Nazarite.
- Queen Helena was a Nazarite for 21 years.
- Jewish records have records of vows being taken up to the middle ages.

If a vow is taken today, there is no way of revoking the vow.

No temple;

No temple priest;

No temple sacrifices.

- The Spirit-filled Christian is the temple
- The Spirit-filled Christian is the priest.
- Jesus Christ / **the lamb of God** fulfilled all needs for sacrifice – there are no further sacrifices.

Samson

- Mother was barren but an angel of the Lord declared she behave as a Nazarite as she would conceive a child who would be a Nazarite unto God from the womb. **(Judges 13:5)**
- **The Lord blessed him. (13:25)**
- **His strength was in the vow.** Once his hair was cut, his commitment/ separation to God, was ended.

Samuel *(means 'asked of God')*

- Samuel was a Nazarite because of the vow of his mother. Was lent to the Lord for his entire life. (1 Sam 1:11)

Hannah was example to Samuel until 3 years old. Samuel learnt how to pray etc. Came to the temple a lovely child.

- But Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child, (1 Sam 2:18)
- Samuel was in favour with the Lord & because of his holy example he was in favour with the people. (1 Sam 2:26)

Samuel –
a Nazarite with few distractions
and ready ears.

- In an age when visions and revelations from God were scant (1 Sam 3:1) **Samuel was ready to hear the word of God.**

1 Sam 3:4 That the Lord called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.

1 Sam 3:5 And he ran to Eli, and said, Here am I

- 1 Sam 3:9 **Speak Lord for thy servant heareth.**

Samuel – His speech was blessed by God.

1 Samuel 3

- ¹⁹ And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and **did let none of his words fall to the ground.**
- ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD.
- ²¹ And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for **the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.**

1 Samuel 5

The authority of God was evident while Samuel judged the people of Israel.

Dagon Bowed To God's Ark Twice

Verse 3 was first time

“But the next morning the same thing happened—**Dagon had fallen face down before the Ark of the Lord again.**

This time his head and hands had broken off and were lying in the doorway. Only the trunk of his body was left intact.” | 1 Samuel 5:4 NLT



Dagon Was Inferior To God

Israel was generally at peace and prospered under leadership of Samuel

- So the Philistines were subdued, and they did not come anymore into the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel. Then the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath; and Israel recovered its territory from the hands of the Philistines. Also there was peace between Israel and the Amorites (1 Samuel 7:13-14).

Samuel – Raises up and puts down kings on behalf of God.

1 Samuel 15

- ¹⁶ Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night.
- ²⁴ And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.
- ²⁸ And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

SAMUEL goes on to ANNOINT DAVID AS KING.

What is the relevance for Christians today?

Galatians 3

:24 Wherefore the law was our **schoolmaster** to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

:25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a **schoolmaster**.

CONCLUSION: We are justified by faith, therefore we no longer take the vows of a Nazarite.

However!!

Relevance for Christians today.

We continue to be types of the OT

Example > Revelations 1

- ⁵ And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
- ⁶ And **hath made us kings and priests** unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Don't disappoint yourself.

Make the effort – & Jesus will not let your prayers fall to the ground.

- Some things we commit for life.
- Some things are for a time.

A petition for yourself.

A petition for someone else.

Having difficulties overcoming something.



Philippians 4:4-7 Bring God onto your team – he is waiting to be asked!!

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

⁵ Let your gentleness (moderation) be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand.

⁶ Be anxious (careful) for nothing, but in everything by **prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;**

⁷ and the peace of God, ***which surpasses all understanding***, will guard (keep) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.