### Numbers

## Chapter 6

1Then the Lord spoke to Moses and said:  
  
 2‘Speak to the children of IsraEl and tell them this:  
  
 ‘Whenever a man or woman wishes to make a great vow, to set him or herself aside as holy to Jehovah, 3they may not eat or drink anything made from grapes, such as wine, brandy, fresh grapes, raisins, or vinegar that’s made from wine or other alcoholic products 4during the period of their vow. Nor may he or she eat anything that comes from the vine, not even the seeds or skins 5during the whole period that he or she is set aside!  
  
 ‘Nor may a razor be used to cut the person’s hair until the period of the vow to Jehovah has been completed. Such ones must be holy and cherish the long hair of their heads 6for as long as this vow to Jehovah lasts, and they must not go near any dead bodies… 7Not even [the corpse] of their own father, mother, brother, or sister. They must not dirty themselves with dead bodies, because the vow of God is on them and on their heads.  
  
 8‘So, they must remain holy to Jehovah during the entire period of their vow.  
  
 9‘And if anyone should suddenly die near this person, his or her head will immediately be considered unclean and it must be cleansed. The person must shave his or her head on the 7th day, 10then bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons to the Priest at the entrance to the Tent of Proofs on the 8th day... 11The Priest must offer one as a sin offering and the other as a whole-burnt offering to pay for the sin [of being close to] a dead body.  
  
 ‘Then the person’s head will [once again] become holy on that day, 12and he or she will [again] be made perfect to Jehovah during the rest of [the period of] the vow. And thereafter, the person must bring a yearling lamb as an offering for the error; and because the vow on his/her head was polluted, the full period of [the vow] must be [restarted].  
  
  
 13‘It’s also the law for the person who made such a vow, that on the day the vow is completed, he or she must bring gifts to the entrance of the Tent of Proofs...  
  
 14‘The gifts that they must bring to Jehovah include:  
  
 • One perfect yearling male lamb as a whole-burnt offering,  
 • One perfect yearling female lamb as a sin offering,  
 • One perfect male sheep as a peace offering,  
 • 15A basket of fermentation-free bread made with fine flour kneaded with oil,  
 • Fermentation-free cakes that have been anointed with oil, plus  
 • A food offering and a drink offering.  
  
 16‘The Priest must then lead the person before Jehovah and [sacrifice] the sin offering and the whole-burnt offering. 17Then he must sacrifice the male sheep as a peace offering to Jehovah, along with the basket of fermentation-free bread, followed by the food offering and the drink offering.  
  
 18‘Then the one who made the vow must shave their head that was made holy, there at the entrance to the Tent of Proofs, and put the hair on the fire while it’s burning the peace-offering sacrifice.  
  
 19‘Then, after the person has shaved off their holy hair, the Priest must take the larger of the ram’s two shoulders, along with one fermentation-free loaf and one fermentation-free cake from the basket and lay them in the person’s hands... 20The Priest must then present them as an offering before Jehovah, and this holy portion will belong to the Priest, along with the breast and the shoulder of the wave offering.  
  
 ‘And after that, the person who made the oath must drink some wine.  
  
 21‘This is the law for any person who makes a vow to Jehovah. [He must give all] his gifts that were promised to Jehovah, along with anything else that he may be able to afford, [in addition to] the things that are [required by] the strong vow of setting himself aside as holy.’  
  
  
[Editor note: The story resumes here.]  
  
  
22Then the Lord spoke to Moses and said:  
  
 23‘Speak to Aaron and to his sons and tell them to bless the sons of IsraEl who bear My Name with these words:  
  
 24‘May Jehovah bless you and watch over you.  
 25May Jehovah’s face shine upon you, and may He have mercy on you.  
 26May [Jehovah always keep His eyes] on you and bring you peace.’