

Numbers 6 – The Nazarite Vow

Introduction

What is a vow? What are some examples of vows?

What are the requirements of someone who made the special vow of the Nazarite?

What does this tell us about this type of vow and the commitment they are making?

Nazarite - *Lay men or women who consecrate themselves to the service of God, usually for a specific period of time.*

From the Hebrew word נָזִיר *nazir* – meaning *set apart*

Nazarites from Birth:

- Samson – Judges 13
- Samuel – I Samuel 1:11
- John – Luke 1:11-17

The Apostle Paul is another example of someone who made a vow – Acts 18:18

Questions for Discussion:

Have you ever made a special vow to God? How did you prove your seriousness about your vow? In what ways was it similar to the Nazarite Vow? In what ways was it different?

Concluding Thoughts:

- *The Nazarite Vow allows for lay people, both men and women to make a voluntary commitment for a period of time to serve the Lord in a special way.*
- *They were expressing their love and gratitude to God by making a binding commitment to God.*
- *They were separated to the Lord. (Holy unto the Lord.)*
- *The Nazarite vow was a special (extraordinary) vow.*
- *The Nazarite was voluntary vow.*
- *It allowed any Israelite to express his or her devotion to God.*
- *It was a public vow. There was visible evidence of their consecration to God – a public statement that they belong to God.*
- *It was a very costly vow. It required a great commitment.*
- *Usually it was a temporary vow. Samson, Samuel and John the Baptist were exceptions.*
- *The Apostle Paul may have made a similar type of vow (Acts 18:18).*
- *An example and lesson of discipleship for us flowing out of gratitude to God. We are to be holy, set apart to God. Matthew 16:24; Romans 12:1*

The Nazarite Vow – Numbers 6 – Bob Krepps