

Numbers 3
Psalm 37
Song of Solomon 1
Hebrews 1
The Discipline of Grace 6

PRAY:

Father show us who you are. Show us your person, your power, your purposes. Overwhelm us with a knowledge of you that penetrates our minds and imbeds itself in the deepest recesses of our hearts. Let this knowledge so change our hearts that it results in our lives being lived in light of who you are, what you have done and what you say is true about us in Jesus Christ.

Notes Thoughts Questions:



AS YOU READ THROUGH TODAY'S PASSAGES REFLECT ON THESE QUESTIONS:

What are some things revealed in these passages about the person and character of God? Who is he? What is he like?

What are some things that God has done to reveal who he is?

Who are you in light of God's work? What is it that God is saying about you?

How should knowing who God is, what he has done and what he says about you change how you live?



The Sons of Aaron

3 These are the generations of Aaron and Moses at the time when the LORD spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai. ² These are the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. ³ These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whom he ordained to serve as priests. ⁴ But Nadab and Abihu died before the LORD when they offered unauthorized fire before the LORD in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children. So Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests in the lifetime of Aaron their father.

Duties of the Levites

⁵ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ⁶ "Bring the tribe of Levi near, and set them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister to him. ⁷ They shall keep guard over him and over the whole congregation before the tent of meeting, as they minister at the tabernacle. ⁸ They shall guard all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, and keep guard over the people of Israel as they minister at the tabernacle. ⁹ And you shall give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are wholly given to him from among the people of Israel. ¹⁰ And you shall appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall guard their priesthood. But if any outsider comes near, he shall be put to death."

¹¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹² "Behold, I have taken the Levites from among the people of Israel instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the people of Israel. The Levites shall be mine, ¹³ for all the firstborn are mine. On the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I consecrated for my own all the firstborn in Israel, both of man and of beast. They shall be mine: I am the LORD."

¹⁴ And the LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, saying, ¹⁵ "List the sons of Levi, by fathers' houses and by clans; every male from a month old and upward you shall list." ¹⁶ So Moses listed them according to the word of the LORD, as he was commanded. ¹⁷ And these were the sons of Levi by their names: Gershon and Kohath and Merari. ¹⁸ And these are the names of the sons of Gershon by their clans: Libni and Shimei. ¹⁹ And the sons of Kohath by their clans: Amram, Izhar, Hebron, and Uzziel. ²⁰ And the sons of Merari by their clans: Mahli and Mushi. These are the clans of the Levites, by their fathers' houses.

²¹ To Gershon belonged the clan of the Libnites and the clan of the Shimeites; these were the clans of the Gershonites. ²² Their listing according to the number of all the males from a month old and upward was 7,500. ²³ The clans of the Gershonites were to camp behind the tabernacle on the west, ²⁴ with Eliasaph, the son of Lael as chief of the fathers' house of the Gershonites. ²⁵ And the guard duty of the sons of Gershon in the tent of meeting involved the tabernacle, the tent with its covering, the screen for the entrance of the tent of meeting, ²⁶ the hangings of the court, the screen for the door of the court that is around the tabernacle and the altar, and its cords—all the service connected with these.

²⁷ To Kohath belonged the clan of the Amramites and the clan of the Izharites and the clan of the Hebronites and the clan of the Uzzielites; these are the clans of the Kohathites.

²⁸ According to the number of all the males, from a month old and upward, there were 8,600, keeping guard over the sanctuary.

²⁹ The clans of the sons of Kohath were to camp on the south side of the tabernacle, ³⁰ with Elizaphan the son of Uzziel as chief of the fathers' house of the clans of the Kohathites.

³¹ And their guard duty involved the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the vessels of the sanctuary with which the priests minister, and the screen; all the service connected with these.

³² And Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest was to be chief over the chiefs of the Levites, and to have oversight of those who kept guard over the sanctuary.

³³ To Merari belonged the clan of the Mahlites and the clan of the Mushites: these are the clans of Merari. ³⁴ Their listing according to the number of all the males from a month old and upward was 6,200. ³⁵ And the chief of the fathers' house of the clans of Merari was Zuriel the son of Abihail. They were to camp on the north side of the tabernacle. ³⁶ And the appointed guard duty of the sons of Merari involved the frames of the tabernacle, the bars, the pillars, the bases, and all their accessories; all the service connected with these; ³⁷ also the pillars around the court, with their bases and pegs and cords.

³⁸ Those who were to camp before the tabernacle on the east, before the tent of meeting toward the sunrise, were Moses and Aaron and his sons, guarding the sanctuary itself, to protect the people of Israel. And any outsider who came near was to be put to death. ³⁹ All those listed among the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron listed at the commandment of the LORD, by clans, all the males from a month old and upward, were 22,000.

Redemption of the Firstborn

⁴⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, "List all the firstborn males of the people of Israel, from a month old and upward, taking the number of their names. ⁴¹ And you shall take the Levites for me—I am the LORD—instead of all the firstborn among the people of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the cattle of the people of Israel." ⁴² So Moses listed all the firstborn among the people of Israel, as the LORD commanded him. ⁴³ And all the firstborn males, according to the number of names, from a month old and upward as listed were 22,273.

⁴⁴ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ⁴⁵ "Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the people of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of their cattle. The Levites shall be mine: I am the LORD. ⁴⁶ And as the redemption price for the 273 of the firstborn of the people of Israel, over and above the number of the male Levites, ⁴⁷ you shall take five shekels per head; you shall take them according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel of twenty gerahs), ⁴⁸ and give the money to Aaron and his sons as the redemption price for those who are over." ⁴⁹ So Moses took the redemption money from those who were over and above those redeemed by the Levites. ⁵⁰ From the firstborn of the people of Israel he took the money, 1,365 shekels, by the shekel of the sanctuary. ⁵¹ And Moses gave the redemption money to Aaron and his sons, according to the word of the LORD, as the LORD commanded Moses.



He Will Not Forsake His Saints

37 OF DAVID.

- Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!
- ² For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.
- Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.
- Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.
- He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.
- Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!
- Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!
 Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.
- For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.
- In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.
- But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.
- The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him,
- but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming.
- The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose way is upright;

- their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.
- Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked.
- For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous.
- The LORD knows the days of the blameless, and their heritage will remain forever;
- they are not put to shame in evil times; in the days of famine they have abundance.
- But the wicked will perish; the enemies of the LORD are like the glory of the pastures; they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.
- The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives;
- for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off.
- The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way;
- though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.
- I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.
- He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing.
- Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever.
- For the LORD loves justice;
 he will not forsake his saints.
 They are preserved forever,
 but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.
- The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever.
- The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,

and his tongue speaks justice.

The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip.

- The wicked watches for the righteous and seeks to put him to death.
- The LORD will not abandon him to his power or let him be condemned when he is brought to trial.
- Wait for the LORD and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off.
- I have seen a wicked, ruthless man, spreading himself like a green laurel tree.
- But he passed away, and behold, he was no more; though I sought him, he could not be found.
- Mark the blameless and behold the upright, for there is a future for the man of peace.
- But transgressors shall be altogether destroyed; the future of the wicked shall be cut off.
- The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.
- The LORD helps them and delivers them;
 he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
 because they take refuge in him.



SONG OF SOLOMON 1

1 The Song of Songs, which is Solomon's.

The Bride Confesses Her Love

She

² Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine;

Notes
Thoughts
Questions:

your anointing oils are fragrant;
 your name is oil poured out;
 therefore virgins love you.

⁴ Draw me after you; let us run.

The king has brought me into his chambers.

Others

We will exult and rejoice in you; we will extol your love more than wine; rightly do they love you.

She

⁵ I am very dark, but lovely,

 O daughters of Jerusalem,
 like the tents of Kedar,
 like the curtains of Solomon.

 ⁶ Do not gaze at me because I am dark,

 because the sun has looked upon me.

 My mother's sons were angry with me;

 they made me keeper of the vineyards,
 but my own vineyard I have not kept!

 ⁷ Tell me, you whom my soul loves,

 where you pasture your flock,
 where you make it lie down at noon;

 for why should I be like one who veils herself beside the flocks of your companions?

Solomon and His Bride Delight in Each Other

He

If you do not know,

 O most beautiful among women,
 follow in the tracks of the flock,
 and pasture your young goats
 beside the shepherds' tents.

 I compare you, my love,

 to a mare among Pharaoh's chariots.

 Your cheeks are lovely with ornaments,
 your neck with strings of jewels.

Others

¹¹We will make for you ornaments of gold, studded with silver.

Notes Thoughts

Questions:

She

- ¹² While the king was on his couch, my nard gave forth its fragrance.
- ¹³ My beloved is to me a sachet of myrrh that lies between my breasts.
- ¹⁴ My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms in the vineyards of Engedi.

He

¹⁵ Behold, you are beautiful, my love; behold, you are beautiful; your eyes are doves.

She

 $^{\rm 16}\,{\rm Behold},$ you are beautiful, my beloved, truly delightful.

Our couch is green;

¹⁷ the beams of our house are cedar; our rafters are pine.



HEBREWS 1

The Supremacy of God's Son

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son,

today I have begotten you"?

and your years will have no end."

¹³ And to which of the angels has he ever said,

"Sit at my right hand

Notes
Thoughts
Questions:

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?



Read Chapter 6 pages 87-98a of The Discipline of Grace. Underline key sentences and meaningful passages. Once the chapter is finished, you will answer some questions to help you process your reading.

JOURNAL A PRAYER TO THE LORD FROM YOUR READING TODAY.