

Doctrine of the Nazarite Vow

1. In all things relating to the beliefs and behavior of the Israelites, the LORD spake to give guidance.
 - *Numbers 6:1 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,*
2. The LORD made provision for either a man or a woman with a special desire to honor Him to do so by the taking of a voluntary vow.
 - *Numbers 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:*
3. The person who made the vow of a Nazarite unto the LORD was to be distinguished in four ways.
 - Separation from eating or drinking anything from the vine. *Numbers 6:3 He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried. 4 All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk.*
 - Separation from the use of a razor. *Numbers 6:5 All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the Lord, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow.*
 - Separation from being ceremonially defiled by association with death. *Numbers 6:6 All the days that he separateth himself unto the Lord he shall come at no dead body. 7 He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God is upon his head.*
 - Separation from the world by a spirit of holiness. *Numbers 6:8 All the days of his separation he is holy unto the Lord.*
4. In case there was an unexpected and non-deliberate breaking of the Nazarite vow, the LORD in grace provided a way of cleansing. The person was to shave their head and offer a sacrifice to the LORD. The atoning sacrifice was to be both immediate and long term.
 - *Numbers 6:9 And if any man die very suddenly by him, and he hath defiled the head of his consecration; then he shall shave his head in the day of his cleansing, on the seventh day shall he shave it. 10 And on the eighth day he shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons, to the priest, to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation:*

11 And the priest shall offer the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering, and make an atonement for him, for that he sinned by the dead, and shall hallow his head that same day. 12 And he shall consecrate unto the Lord the days of his separation, and shall bring a lamb of the first year for a trespass offering: but the days that were before shall be lost, because his separation was defiled.

Special Note.

The offerings of sacrifice included two turtle doves (or two young pigeons), one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering. The penitent was also to bring a lamb of the first year for a trespass offering.

5. The Nazarite vow was not intended to be perpetual in every case. A person who chose to end the Nazarite vow was to engage in acts of worship at the termination of the days of their separation. Specific acts were to be followed.
 - An appearance was to be before the entrance to the tabernacle. *Numbers 6:13 And this is the law of the Nazarite, when the days of his separation are fulfilled: he shall be brought unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation:*
 - An offering was to be brought to the Lord. *Numbers 6:14-15 And he shall offer his offering unto the Lord,*
 - ❖ *one he lamb of the first year without blemish for a burnt offering,*
 - ❖ *and one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish for a sin offering,*
 - ❖ *and one ram without blemish for peace offerings,*
 - ❖ *and a basket of unleavened bread, cakes of fine flour mingled with oil,*
 - ❖ *and wafers of unleavened bread anointed with oil,*
 - ❖ *and their meat offering,*
 - ❖ *and their drink offerings.*
6. Various offerings were to be made by the priest. *Numbers 16-17 And the priest shall bring them before the Lord, and shall offer*
 - ❖ *his sin offering,*
 - ❖ *and his burnt offering:*
 - ❖ *And he shall offer the ram for a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the Lord, with the basket of unleavened bread:*
 - ❖ *The priest shall offer also his meat offering,*
 - ❖ *and his drink offering.*
7. The Nazarite was to shave the head and burn the hair. *Numbers 6:18 And the Nazarite shall shave the head of his separation at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall take the hair of the head of his separation, and put it in the fire which is under the sacrifice of the peace offerings.*

8. A final wave offering was to be made. *Numbers 6:19 And the priest shall take the sodden shoulder of the ram, and one unleavened cake out of the basket, and one unleavened wafer, and shall put them upon the hands of the Nazarite, after the hair of his separation is shaven: 20 And the priest shall wave them for a wave offering before the Lord: this is holy for the priest, with the wave breast and heave shoulder...*
9. Once the appropriate sacrifices had been honored, the person was released from the Nazarite vow and had freedom to drink wine. *Numbers 6:20b...and after that the Nazarite may drink wine.*
10. While every person had to make their own vow unto the LORD, others could be encouraging and a role model as the mother of Samson was to her son.
 - *Judges 13:3 And the angel of the Lord appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. 4 Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: 5 For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.*