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(Peter Lok) 駱沅祺  
[lokpeter@outlook.com](mailto:lokpeter@outlook.com)

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YouTube Prayer Link

### Do not take prayer lightly

Prayer is a powerful and profound spiritual activity that should not be taken lightly or underestimated. Prayer is a way of talking to God, the universe, or the inner self with profound implications and meanings.

First, prayer is a form of communication. It is our way of expressing gratitude, seeking guidance, seeking strength and solace. In our daily lives, we experience challenges and difficulties, and prayer allows us to channel these questions and needs to greater power. This process not only brings spiritual comfort, but also helps us feel stronger and confident in the face of difficulties.

Second, prayer contributes to inner peace and growth. Through regular meditation and prayer, we can cultivate inner peace and peace. This helps reduce anxiety and stress and improves mental health. Prayer can also help us better understand ourselves, understand our goals and values, and live more meaningfully.

In addition, prayer builds and strengthens relationships. In religious communities, shared prayer experiences can strengthen community cohesion and foster camaraderie and mutual help. Prayer can also build intimacy within the family, helping family members to face life's challenges together and share each other's care and joy.

Most importantly, prayer can lead us toward a nobler goal. It helps us think about moral and ethical issues and encourages us to make positive behavioral choices. It can also remind us to pay attention to the needs of others and motivate us to engage in charitable and service activities to improve society and the world.

In short, prayer is not just a religious ceremony, but also a spiritual practice that can profoundly affect our lives. Prayer has intrinsic value that can help us build closer relationships, promote personal growth, and bring about positive change in the world. Therefore, we should not take prayer lightly, but rather as a powerful tool to connect the inner spirituality with the outer world.

There are situations and stories in the Bible that show the power of prayer and God's determination to change His prayers in response to human prayers. Here are some of these examples:

**Abraham's Intercession:** In Genesis 18:16-33, Abraham intercedes for the righteous of Sodom and Gomorrah. He asked God if he would destroy both the righteous and the wicked, and then kept reducing the number until finally God promised not to destroy the city, if he could find ten righteous people.

**The Story of Mara:** Exodus 15:22-25 records that when the Israelites were thirsting for water in the wilderness, Moses prayed to God that God sweetened a bitter water to meet the needs of the people.

**Hezekiah's Prayer:** In Isaiah 38, King Hezekiah fell ill and was dying, and he pleaded with God for his life and for healing. God heard his prayers and extended his life.

These examples show that the Bible records cases in which God changed His resolve based on the prayers and intercessions of His people. However, this does not mean that God's original intention will always change, but rather shows God's concern for His people and the way He may respond to prayer. The Bible also teaches that when we pray, we can express our needs and hopes, but we should also follow God's plan and will.

Let us pray together

Dear Lord,

We pray to you at this time and thank you for giving us this special opportunity to communicate with you. We acknowledge that prayer is a powerful force that connects our hearts to your Holy Spirit, enabling us to seek guidance, solace, and gratitude and praise in our lives.

Lord, we do not underestimate the power of prayer, because in our prayer we find peace and courage to face the challenges and difficulties of life. In prayer, we can surrender our worries and pains to you, trusting that your wisdom and love will lead us to the right path.

Give us wisdom to find answers in prayer and ways to solve problems. Please soothe our hearts and give us comfort in times of exhaustion and loneliness. Guide us so that our prayers become a way of life and bring us closer to you.

Lord, we also pray, not only for ourselves, but for everyone in the world. Help our prayers be a source of love, peace, and hope. May your will be fulfilled on earth and fill our world with peace, justice and love.

Thank you for hearing our prayers, Lord. We believe in the power of prayer because you are the creator of love and wonder. May your blessings and guidance accompany us forever. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

## Numbers chapter 3

Nu. 3:1 This is the account of the family of Aaron and Moses at the time the LORD talked with Moses on Mount Sinai.

Nu. 3:2 The names of the sons of Aaron were Nadab the firstborn and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

Nu. 3:3 Those were the names of Aaron's sons, the anointed priests, who were ordained to serve as priests.

Nu. 3:4 Nadab and Abihu, however, fell dead before the LORD when they made an offering with unauthorised fire before him in the Desert of Sinai. They had no sons; so only Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests during the lifetime of their father Aaron.

Nu. 3:5 The LORD said to Moses,

Nu. 3:6 "Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to assist him.

Nu. 3:7 They are to perform duties for him and for the whole community at the Tent of Meeting by doing the work of the tabernacle.

Nu. 3:8 They are to take care of all the furnishings of the Tent of Meeting, fulfilling the obligations of the Israelites by doing the work of the tabernacle.

Nu. 3:9 Give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are the Israelites who are to be given wholly to him. [Most manuscripts of the Masoretic Text; some manuscripts of the Masoretic Text, Samaritan Pentateuch and Septuagint (see also Num. 8:16) to me]

Nu. 3:10 Appoint Aaron and his sons to serve as priests; anyone else who approaches the sanctuary must be put to death."

Nu. 3:11 The LORD also said to Moses,

Nu. 3:12 “I have taken the Levites from among the Israelites in place of the first male offspring of every Israelite woman. The Levites are mine,

Nu. 3:13 for all the firstborn are mine. When I struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, I set apart for myself every firstborn in Israel, whether man or animal. They are to be mine. I am the LORD.”

Nu. 3:14 The LORD said to Moses in the Desert of Sinai,

Nu. 3:15 “Count the Levites by their families and clans. Count every male a month old or more.”

Nu. 3:16 So Moses counted them, as he was commanded by the word of the LORD.

Nu. 3:17 These were the names of the sons of Levi: Gershon, Kohath and Merari.

Nu. 3:18 These were the names of the Gershonite clans: Libni and Shimei.

Nu. 3:19 The Kohathite clans: Amram, Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.

Nu. 3:20 The Merarite clans: Mahli and Mushi. These were the Levite clans, according to their families.

Nu. 3:21 To Gershon belonged the clans of the Libnites and Shimeites; these were the Gershonite clans.

Nu. 3:22 The number of all the males a month old or more who were counted was 7,500.

Nu. 3:23 The Gershonite clans were to camp on the west, behind the tabernacle.

Nu. 3:24 The leader of the families of the Gershonites was Eliasaph son of Lael.

Nu. 3:25 At the Tent of Meeting the Gershonites were responsible for the care of the tabernacle and tent, its coverings, the curtain at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting,

Nu. 3:26 the curtains of the courtyard, the curtain at the entrance to the courtyard surrounding the tabernacle and altar, and the ropes — and everything related to their use.

Nu. 3:27 To Kohath belonged the clans of the Amramites, Izharites, Hebronites and Uzzielites; these were the Kohathite clans.

Nu. 3:28 The number of all the males a month old or more was 8,600. [Hebrew; some Septuagint manuscripts 8,300] The Kohathites were responsible for the care of the sanctuary.

Nu. 3:29 The Kohathite clans were to camp on the south side of the tabernacle.

Nu. 3:30 The leader of the families of the Kohathite clans was Elizaphan son of Uzziel.

Nu. 3:31 They were responsible for the care of the ark, the table, the lampstand, the altars, the articles of the sanctuary used in ministering, the curtain, and everything related to their use.

Nu. 3:32 The chief leader of the Levites was Eleazar son of Aaron, the priest. He was appointed over those who were responsible for the care of the sanctuary.

Nu. 3:33 To Merari belonged the clans of the Mahlites and the Mushites; these were the Merarite clans.

Nu. 3:34 The number of all the males a month old or more who were counted was 6,200.

Nu. 3:35 The leader of the families of the Merarite clans was Zuriel son of Abihail; they were to camp on the north side of the tabernacle.

Nu. 3:36 The Merarites were appointed to take care of the frames of the tabernacle, its crossbars, posts, bases, all its equipment, and everything related to their use,

Nu. 3:37 as well as the posts of the surrounding courtyard with their bases, tent pegs and ropes.

Nu. 3:38 Moses and Aaron and his sons were to camp to the east of the tabernacle, towards the sunrise, in front of the Tent of Meeting. They were responsible for the care of the sanctuary on behalf of the Israelites. Anyone else who approached the sanctuary was to be put to death.

Nu. 3:39 The total number of Levites counted at the LORD's command by Moses and Aaron according to their clans, including every male a month old or more, was 22,000.

Nu. 3:40 The LORD said to Moses, "Count all the firstborn Israelite males who are a month old or more and make a list of their names.

Nu. 3:41 Take the Levites for me in place of all the firstborn of the Israelites, and the livestock of the Levites in place of all the firstborn of the livestock of the Israelites. I am the LORD."

Nu. 3:42 So Moses counted all the firstborn of the Israelites, as the LORD commanded him.

Nu. 3:43 The total number of firstborn males a month old or more, listed by name, was 22,273.

Nu. 3:44 The LORD also said to Moses,

Nu. 3:45 "Take the Levites in place of all the firstborn of Israel, and the livestock of the Levites in place of their livestock. The Levites are to be mine. I am the LORD.

Nu. 3:46 To redeem the 273 firstborn Israelites who exceed the

number of the Levites,

Nu. 3:47 collect five shekels [That is, about 2 ounces (about 55 grams)] for each one, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs.

Nu. 3:48 Give the money for the redemption of the additional Israelites to Aaron and his sons.”

Nu. 3:49 So Moses collected the redemption money from those who exceeded the number redeemed by the Levites.

Nu. 3:50 From the firstborn of the Israelites he collected silver weighing 1,365 shekels, [That is, about 35 pounds (about 15.5 kilograms)] according to the sanctuary shekel.

Nu. 3:51 Moses gave the redemption money to Aaron and his sons, as he was commanded by the word of the LORD.

Chapter 3 of the Book of Numbers in the Christian Bible describes the duties and responsibilities of the tribe of Levi, who were set apart by God to serve in the tabernacle. The chapter begins by listing the names of the sons of Aaron who were designated as priests, and then describes the roles of the Levites who were assigned to assist them. The Levites were responsible for setting up and taking down the tabernacle, transporting its various parts, and performing other tasks related to worship and sacrifice. The Levites were also assigned to take the place of the firstborn males of Israel, who were previously consecrated to God, but were spared in the Passover. The chapter concludes by describing how the Levites were divided into three families and assigned to different areas around the tabernacle.

The key verses from chapter 3 of the Book of Numbers in the Christian Bible:

- "These are the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar." - Numbers 3:2
- "And 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." - Numbers 3:4
- "Bring the tribe of Levi near, and set them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister to him." - Numbers 3:6

- "And I, 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." - Numbers 3:12
- "And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the people of Israel, to do the service for the people of Israel at the tent of meeting and to make atonement for the people of Israel, that there may be no plague among the people of Israel for coming too near the sanctuary." - Numbers 3:9-10

Chapter 3 of the Book of Numbers focuses on the Levites, who were set apart by God to serve in the tabernacle and assist the priests in their duties. Here's a reflection on some key themes and lessons from Numbers 3:

**Divine Calling and Service:** The chapter highlights the divine calling and purpose of the Levites. God chose them specifically to serve in the tabernacle and assigned them various responsibilities related to the sacred duties. Their service was crucial for the functioning of the tabernacle and the spiritual life of the Israelite community.

**Reflection:** This chapter reminds us that each person has a unique calling and purpose in life. Just as the Levites were set apart for service, we too are called to serve others in various ways. By embracing our individual callings and using our gifts and talents to serve others, we can contribute to the well-being and growth of our communities.

**Symbolism of Redemption:** In Numbers 3, the Levites are substituted in place of the firstborn males of Israel, signifying their redemption. The firstborns were to be consecrated to God, but after the incident of the golden calf, the Levites were chosen to take their place as a reminder of God's mercy and grace.

**Reflection:** The symbolism of redemption in this chapter reminds us of God's grace and His ability to provide a way for reconciliation and restoration. It highlights the importance of acknowledging our shortcomings and relying on God's mercy. We can find hope in the knowledge that God offers redemption and forgiveness to all who seek Him.

**Teamwork and Collaboration:** The Levites were divided into different families and assigned specific roles and tasks within the tabernacle. They worked together in a coordinated and collaborative manner to carry out their duties effectively.

**Reflection:** This chapter underscores the significance of teamwork and collaboration. Just as the Levites worked together harmoniously, we can achieve more when we collaborate with others, valuing their contributions and working towards a common goal. By fostering a spirit of cooperation and unity, we can accomplish tasks more efficiently and build stronger relationships.



Reverence for the Sacred: The chapter emphasizes the importance of treating the sacred objects and spaces with reverence. The Levites were responsible for handling and transporting the sacred furnishings of the tabernacle, and strict regulations were in place to ensure their proper care.

Reflection: This chapter reminds us of the need to approach the sacred with reverence and respect. It encourages us to honor and value the sacred aspects of our faith and traditions. By treating what is sacred with reverence, we cultivate a deeper sense of awe and appreciation for the divine in our lives.

Overall, Numbers 3 brings forth themes of divine calling, redemption, teamwork, and reverence. By reflecting on these themes, we can strive to embrace our calling and purpose, appreciate God's grace and redemption, work collaboratively with others, and approach the sacred aspects of our lives with reverence.

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