

# Thoughts on Numbers Vi, Vii - Introductory

by Hudson Taylor

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*The speaker shares his personal experience with the chapters of Numbers 6 and 7, highlighting the importance of regular Bible reading and the lessons of separation, blessing, and acceptable service.*

**Scripture:** Numbers 6:1

**Topics:** "Separation to God", "Blessings from God"

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## Description

Hudson Taylor reflects on the significance of Numbers chapters 6 and 7, sharing how his early habit of reading the Bible led him to discover profound truths during a spiritually challenging time on a missionary journey. He emphasizes the transition from the Old Covenant, where blessings were temporary, to the New Covenant, where believers experience fullness and permanence in Christ. Taylor highlights the importance of separation to God, which leads to divine blessings and acceptable service, encouraging prayerful engagement with Scripture to uncover deeper meanings. He expresses gratitude for the revelations received and hopes they will benefit others as they have benefited him.

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## Transcript

For many years these chapters had no special interest to me; but I have never ceased to be thankful that I was early led to read the Word of God in regular course: it was through this habit that these chapters first became specially precious to me. I was traveling on a missionary tour in the province of Cheh-Kiang, and had to pass the night in a very wicked town. All the inns were dreadful places; and the people seemed to have their consciences seared, and their hearts sealed against the Truth. My own heart was oppressed, and could find no relief; and I awoke the next morning much cast down, and feeling spiritually hungry and thirsty indeed.

On opening my Bible at the seventh chapter of Numbers, I felt as though I could not then read that long chapter of repetitions; that I must turn to some chapter that would feed my soul. And yet I was not happy in leaving my regular portion; so after a little conflict I resolved to read it, praying to God to bless me, even through Numbers 7. I fear there was not much faith in the prayer; but oh! How abundantly it was answered, and what a feast God gave me! He revealed to me His own great heart of love, and gave me the key to understand this and the previous chapter as never before. May God make our meditations upon them as helpful to others as they were then and have ever since continued to be to myself.

Much is revealed in these chapters in germ which is more fully brought out in the New Testament. Under the Old Covenant many blessings were enjoyed in measure and for a season, which in this dispensation

are ours in their fullness and permanence. For instance, the atoning sacrifices of the seventh month had to be repeated every year; but Christ, in offering Himself once for all, perfected for ever them that are sanctified. The Psalmist needed to pray, "Take not Thy Holy Spirit from me;" but Christ has given us the Comforter to abide with us for ever. In like manner the Israelite might vow the vow of a Nazarite and separate himself unto God for a season; but it is the privilege of the Christian believer to know himself as always separated to God. Many other lessons, which are hidden from careless and superficial readers, are suggested by these chapters, which the Holy Spirit will reveal to prayerful students of His most precious and most perfect Book.

The portions we have selected consist of first a short chapter, and then a very long one, which at first sight appears to have no special connection with it. But on more careful reflection we shall see that the order of the subjects referred to shows that there is really a natural and close connection between them. We shall find that Separation to God is followed by Blessing from God; and that those who receive large blessing from Him, in turn render to him acceptable service: service in which God takes delight, and which He places in everlasting remembrance.

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