

Bible Commentary – 1 Corinthians – Chapter 5

We present to you our commentary on 1 Corinthians. In our study we will make use of the usual tools of exegesis but we will also support our conclusions by making reference to numerical clues in the Scripture. Our purpose is to show how spiritual numbers can be a valuable study aid. You will find a chapter by chapter exegesis of this book on Page 99 BIBLE of www.biblenumbersforlife.com

COMMENTARY

Summary of main points in the text:

- Immorality named in the church: ‘**a man has his father’s wife**’ (v.1)
- ‘**In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for destruction**’ (v.4-5)
- ‘**His spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus**’ (v.6)
- ‘**Purge out the old leaven** [of malice and wickedness] **that you may be a new lump**’ (v.7-8)
- ‘**Let us keep the feast ... with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth**’ (v.8)
- ‘**Do not keep company with anyone named a brother who is sexually immoral, covetous, an idolator, a reviler, a drunkard, an extortioner: with such a person do not even eat**’ (v.11)
- ‘**Those who are outside God judges ... judge those who are inside**’ (v.12-13)

Parallel passage (Numbers 21)

1 Corinthians 5 is the 138th chapter of the New Testament.

Numbers 21 is the 138th chapter of the Bible. Numbers 21 is the account of the **utter destruction** of three peoples who resisted Israel on their way to the Promised Land: Arad the Canaanite; Sihon King of the Amorites; and Og King of Bashan. Israel completely destroyed them and occupied their cities.

Numbers 21 is also the account of the rejection of God’s people for his provision in the desert: “**There is no food and water and our soul loathes this worthless bread** [mana]” (v.5). God permitted fiery serpents to bite the people and many died. The people confessed “**we have sinned for we have spoken against the LORD and against you.**” (v.7) So the LORD instructed Moses to make **a bronze serpent** and put it on a pole. “**And so it was that everyone who is bitten when he looks at it shall live.**” (v.8)

Interpretation of the parallel passage:

Israel politely asked to pass through the land of the Amorites. This is fascinating since the Amorites are one of the Canaanite tribes that God promised to destroy (Exodus 3:8). When the LORD sent Jacob down to Egypt he said he would not bring the children of Israel out of Egypt until “**the sin of the Amorites was full**” (Gen. 15:16). The Amorites were the Canaanite tribe who allied with Abram in the war against the kings of the East. Once upon a time the Amorites had respect for the God of Abram.

We can view the Amorites as symbolic of **Gentile believers who entered into fellowship with God's people but who drift away from the truth**. We know they no longer respected Jehovah because they treated the polite request of Israel to pass through with disdain and a show of force. The spirit of grace no longer had any place in their soul. Sadly, this meant they were **doomed to destruction**.

How did Israel achieve these victories? These victories were achieved because the LORD fought for them. Why did the LORD fight for Israel? As Israel had won the victory over sin he gave them victories.

The three battles with sin:

1. Sin in the heart – insolence to God: plague of fiery snakes (healing of bronze serpent lifted up)
2. **Sin in the fellowship – unequal yoking with sinners**: Amorites are utterly destroyed
3. Sin in the neighborhood – unruly unbelievers round about: Conquered in the name of Jehovah!

Application to the passage of 1 Corinthians 5

Paul addresses the issue of **sin in the fellowship**. Specifically, believers who participate in gross immorality (a man has his father's wife). His direction is that they be utterly destroyed: "**deliver such a one to Satan for destruction**" (1 Cor. 5:4-5) Paul is saying not only kick them out of the fellowship but ask the LORD to remove his protection from them so that they might die! That is strong medicine.

Paul names other sins that are equally reproachable in the eyes of God: "**a brother who is sexually immoral, covetous, an idolator, a reviler, a drunkard, an extortioner**" (1 Cor. 5:11). Oh, that Christians would purify themselves from all sin, not just sexual sin. Then God would win great victories for us!

For reference, here is a list of sexual sins described in the Old Testament [New Testament]:

1. **Adultery**: sleeping with another person's spouse [Jesus: '**looking at a woman to lust after her**']
2. **Fornication**: sleeping with a virgin pledged to be married [New Testament says '**it is good for a man not to touch a woman**']
3. **Incest**: sleeping with close relatives: mother; father's wife; father's daughter; sister; daughter of sister; son's daughter; daughter's daughter; aunt; uncle's wife; son's wife; a slave girl promised to another man
4. **Prostitution**: do not make your daughter a prostitute
5. **Bestiality**: relations with an animal forbidden
6. **Orgy**: sex with a mother and her daughter forbidden
7. **Unnatural relations**: a man must not sleep with a man as he sleeps with a woman
8. **Polygamy**: do not take a wife's sister as a rival wife [New Testament says '**because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife and each wife have her own husband**']
9. **Divorce**: [New Testament says '**a husband is not to divorce his wife**' but if an unbelieving spouse leaves then it is permitted (1 Cor. 7)]

Paul admonishes believers not to be 'puffed up' with sin. He uses the leaven as the example of an agent that 'puffs up' under heat. In 1 Cor. 4 Moses and Aaron became 'puffed up' when they disobeyed the LORD's instructions regarding speaking to the rock and hit it twice instead. All manner of sin is in the same vein. For example, if we commit sexual sin, if we disobey the LORD's instructions concerning holy intimate relations, we are 'puffed up' in our own authority in that area of our lives.

Paul urges believers to be like the unleavened bread, to live a sincere and humble life of obedience to the LORD. The Israelites rejected the mana: "**this worthless bread**" and their flesh lusted for other food. Not so with the godly man or woman. We accept the life of unleavened bread and thereby honor our Lord Jesus Christ who lived a life without sin.

Spiritual Numbers

1 Corinthians 5 is the 138th chapter in the New Testament. The number 138 means '**Insolence**'.

1 Corinthians 5 is the 1,067th book in the Bible. The number 1,067 = 11 x 97 which means '**Darkness**' (11) <and> '**Fire Burns The Enemies**' (97). A summary of the chapter in a nutshell! The sin of insolence (138) results in sinners being cast out of the fellowship (darkness) and destruction of the body (fire burns enemies).

There are 13 verses in 1 Corinthians 5. The spiritual number 13 means '**Rebellion**'. Insolence would be rebellion to authority manifest in all forms of disdain and disrespect to the LORD and to God's people.

The first verse in 1 Corinthians 5 is the 92nd verse in the book. The number 92 means '**Wicked Destroyed**'. The last verse in 1 Corinthians 5 is the 104th verse in the book. The number 104 means '**No Church Witness**'. The matter of sin in the church is of critical importance. As Jesus said: "**Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.**" (Mat.5:13). It is guaranteed that if a church does not deal with sin, its lampstand will be taken away. It will disperse. It is worse to meet in Jesus' name and besmirch his reputation than not to meet at all.

The gematria of all the verses in 1 Corinthians 5 is 135,471. The number 135,471 = 21 x 6,451 [838th prime]. The number 838 = 2 x 419 [81st prime]. The spiritual number 21 means '**Lawlessness**' and 2 means '**Division**' and 81 means '**Messenger**'. Put in a sequence the numbers are saying: **Lawlessness Divides the work of the Apostle**. And this is precisely what Paul was concerned about. He has invested his life to plant this church. Now sinners within the fellowship threaten to destroy it. Not so fast – Paul says we will clean up the fellowship and cast you out if you will not repent.