

Tuesday 25th August 2020

Numbers 29:1,2 *“On the first day of the seventh month hold a sacred assembly and do no regular work. It is a day for you to sound the trumpets. As an aroma pleasing to the Lord prepare a burnt offering of one young bull, one ram and seven male lambs a year old, all without defect”*

Deuteronomy 12:11,12 *“Then to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name – there you are to bring everything I command you: your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, and all the choice possessions you have vowed to the Lord. And there rejoice before the Lord your God, you, your sons and daughters, your menservants and maidservants, and the Levites from your towns, who have no allotment or inheritance of their own”*

Luke 4:16 *“He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read”*

‘He worships the ground she stands on.’ This sentence has vaguely derogatory undertones implying he is misguided to worship her. Sometimes we make a bowing motion, mockingly to acknowledge someone’s clever words, actions or ability.

In the Old Testament the Hebrew word for worship is ‘shachah’ which meant bowing down and prostrating oneself. The Old Testament has many passages describing how worship should be conducted. In Numbers God, speaking through Moses lays down the arrangements for the Feast of the Trumpets. At that time animal sacrifices were considered an important, even reverential part of worship provided it was God, and only God that was being worshipped.

In Deuteronomy the tribes of Israel were required to choose a place for worship and to make it inclusive of all ages and positions in their society including the Levites who had no land of their own being engaged in religious teaching and running and maintaining the temple. *“...who have no allotment or inheritance of their own.”*

Luke describes Jesus attending the synagogue in Nazareth weekly *‘...as was his custom.’* As our own church reopens let us welcome the opportunity to gather together again as members of the family of God and worship Him.