

Adult Bible Class

The Book of Numbers

Lesson #15, Chapter 26 to 29

A Brief Review

In our last lesson we read about the incident at Peor, a mountain in Moab where the Moabite and Midianite women tempted the Israelite men to worship Baal and commit immoral acts as a part of that worship. This idolatry so angered the Lord that he sent a plague among the Israelites where 24,000 Israelites perished, but Phinehas the priest turned the Lord's anger by his zeal.

This plague at Peor was the last event which seriously diminished the number of Israelites. They were camped on the plains of Moab, just across the Jordan River from Jericho. Now in today's chapter we will read that it's time to number the Israelites again.

Numbers Chapter 26

The Second Registration of Israel's Troops

Numbers 26:1 (NLT) After the plague had ended, the Lord said to Moses and to Eleazar son of Aaron the priest, **2** "From the whole community of Israel, record the names of all the warriors by their families. List all the men twenty years old or older who are able to go to war."

3 So there on the plains of Moab beside the Jordan River, across from Jericho, Moses and Eleazar the priest issued these instructions to the leaders of Israel: **4** "List all the men of Israel twenty years old and older, just as the Lord commanded Moses."

The reason for this second census of the Israelites is found at the end of this chapter - so that the land that they would soon possess could be divided among them according to the numbers in each tribe. If you remember, the first census was recorded in chapter 1:

Numbers 1:1 (NLT) A year after Israel's departure from Egypt, the Lord spoke to Moses . . . **2** "From the whole community of Israel, record the names of all the warriors by their clans and families. List all the men **3** twenty years old or older who are able to go to war. . .

At that time Israel was getting ready to leave Mt. Sinai and head toward the Promised Land. However, when they got to Kadesh Barnea they sent out twelve spies to survey the land. Ten of the spies brought back a bad report and caused the Israelites to doubt the Lord, murmur, and complain. God sent a plague and struck down those ten spies. Then he ordered the Israelites to turn around. They were going to wander in the wilderness to complete forty years until those age twenty and older died. The younger generation and their children would then inherit Canaan's land.

Now, at the end of the forty years it was time to number the Israelites again, but the numbers were going to be very different. All of those who were numbered the first time perished in the wilderness (except for Joshua and Caleb).

Numbers 26:4b This is the record of all the descendants of Israel who came out of Egypt.

The Tribe of Reuben

5 These were the clans descended from the sons of Reuben, Jacob’s oldest son:

The Hanochite clan, named after their ancestor Hanoch.

The Palluite clan, named after their ancestor Pallu.

6 The Hezronite clan, named after their ancestor Hezron.

The Carmite clan, named after their ancestor Carmi.

7 These were the clans of Reuben. Their registered troops numbered 43,730.

8 Pallu was the ancestor of Eliab, **9** and Eliab was the father of Nemuel, Dathan, and Abiram. This Dathan and Abiram are the same community leaders who conspired with Korah against Moses and Aaron, rebelling against the Lord. **10** But the earth opened up its mouth and swallowed them with Korah, and fire devoured 250 of their followers. This served as a warning to the entire nation of Israel. **11** However, the sons of Korah did not die that day.

The Tribe of Simeon

12 These were the clans descended from the sons of Simeon . . .

The record of the counting of the Israelites continues through the chapter for each tribe. We will not read each account; however, we will list the totals from the first census and the second census.

<i>Tribe</i>	<i>First Census</i>	<i>Second Census</i>	<i>Decrease</i>	<i>Increase</i>
Reuben	46,500	43,730	6%	
Simeon	59,300	22,200	63%	
Gad	45,650	40,500	11%	
Judah	74,600	76,500		2.5%
Issachar	54,400	64,300		18%
Zebulun	57,400	60,500		5.5%
Ephraim	40,500	32,500	20%	
Manasseh	32,200	52,700		63%
Benjamin	35,400	45,600		29%
Dan	62,700	64,400		2.5%
Asher	41,500	53,400		28%
Naphtali	53,400	45,400	15%	
TOTALS	603,550	601,730		

After going through the Red Sea and being led by the cloud, Israel was numbered the first time, and then they went out to be proven. Because of their

unbelief most did not enter in. Only what was left of the younger generation and their children were numbered in the second census. These would be the ones that would enter the Promised Land.

God is destined to have a church. There will be a body of Christ that will inherit the glorious possession some day. This is the group that will be raptured and return with Jesus to this earth. However, the composition of that body will be made of those who are called, chosen and faithful:

Revelation 17:14 (NKJV) These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

The composition of those who were numbered in the first and second census was totally different. Yes, God had an army, but those who made up that army at first rebelled against Him. Those people fell one by one in the wilderness. They did not count it a privilege to be counted in the Lord's number, and they did not live by faith in Him. Though God called them and chose them, they were not faithful to that calling. The younger generation faced the test at Mount Peor and some of them perished, but the rest were ready to enter the land:

Numbers 26:51 In summary, the registered troops of all Israel numbered 601,730.

52 Then the Lord said to Moses, **53** "Divide the land among the tribes, and distribute the grants of land in proportion to the tribes' populations, as indicated by the number of names on the list. 54 Give the larger tribes more land and the smaller tribes less land, each group receiving a grant in proportion to the size of its population. 55 But you must assign the land by lot, and give land to each ancestral tribe according to the number of names on the list. **56** Each grant of land must be assigned by lot among the larger and smaller tribal groups."

The Tribe of Levi

57 This is the record of the Levites who were counted according to their clans:

The Gershonite clan, named after their ancestor Gershon.

The Kohathite clan . . .

The Merarite clan . . .

58 The Libnites, the Hebronites, the Mahlites, the Mushites, and the Korahites were all subclans of the Levites.

Now Kohath was the ancestor of Amram, **59** and Amram's wife was named Jochebed. She also was a descendant of Levi, born among the Levites in the land of Egypt. Amram and Jochebed became the parents of Aaron, Moses, and their sister, Miriam. **60** To Aaron were born Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. **61** But Nadab and Abihu died when they burned before the Lord the wrong kind of fire, different than he had commanded.

62 The men from the Levite clans who were one month old or older numbered 23,000. But the Levites were not included in the registration of the rest of the people of Israel because they were not given an allotment of land when it was divided among the Israelites.

63 So these are the results of the registration of the people of Israel as conducted by Moses and Eleazar the priest on the plains of Moab beside the Jordan River, across from Jericho. **64** Not one person on this list had been among those listed in the previous registration taken by Moses and Aaron in the wilderness of Sinai. **65** For the Lord had said of them, "They will all die in the wilderness." Not one of them survived except Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

Only Joshua and Caleb remained from the first census. What did Joshua and Caleb possess that made them victorious? They were men of faith and obedience! Faith entered in, but unbelief and disobedience perished:

Hebrews 3:7 (NKJV) That is why the Holy Spirit says,

"Today when you hear his voice,

8 don't harden your hearts
as Israel did when they rebelled,
when they tested me in the wilderness.

9 There your ancestors tested and tried my patience,
even though they saw my miracles for forty years.

10 So I was angry with them, and I said,
'Their hearts always turn away from me.
They refuse to do what I tell them.'

11 So in my anger I took an oath:
'They will never enter my place of rest.'"

12 Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. **13** You must warn each other every day, while it is still "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. **14** For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ . . .

16 And who was it who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Wasn't it the people Moses led out of Egypt? **17** And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn't it the people who sinned, whose corpses lay in the wilderness? **18** And to whom was God speaking when he took an oath that they would never enter his rest? Wasn't it the people who disobeyed him? **19** So we see that because of their unbelief they were not able to enter his rest.

Numbers Chapter 27

The Daughters of Zelophehad

Numbers 27:1 (NLT) One day a petition was presented by the daughters of Zelophehad—Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. Their father, Zelophehad, was a descendant of Hephher son of Gilead, son of Makir, son of Manasseh, son of Joseph. **2** These women stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the tribal leaders, and the entire community at the entrance of the Tabernacle. **3** "Our father died in the wilderness," they said. "He was not among Korah's followers, who rebelled against the Lord; he died because of his own sin. But he had no sons. **4** Why should the name of our father disappear from his clan just because he had no sons? Give us property along with the rest of our relatives."

5 So Moses brought their case before the Lord. **6** And the Lord replied to Moses, **7** "The claim of the daughters of Zelophehad is legitimate. You must give them a grant of land along with their father's relatives. Assign them the property that would have been given to their father.

8 "And give the following instructions to the people of Israel: If a man dies and has no son, then give his inheritance to his daughters. **9** And if he has no daughter either, transfer his inheritance to his brothers. **10** If he has no brothers, give his inheritance to his father's brothers. **11** But if his father has no brothers, give his inheritance to the nearest relative in his clan. This is a legal requirement for the people of Israel, just as the Lord commanded Moses."

Zelophehad might have been one of the younger generation that had grown up and yet died in the wilderness (perhaps he had been bitten by the fiery serpents). He had no sons - only daughters to represent him.

In Israel, the land was everything. The whole of society was based upon the land. All that was valued and permanent in family life was tied to the inheritance of the land. Zelophehad died before he had a chance to inherit. His daughters went to Moses in boldness, asking for the father's inheritance to be granted and to continue through them.

Zelophehad's daughters are a beautiful picture to us of boldness in prayer. Though we often don't deserve what we ask for, yet if we go to God in humility, presenting our desire to Him, He is faithful to hear us. God wants to help us, and He is faithful to hear our petitions and meet our needs and desires.

Though there was a general rule that only sons would inherit from their fathers, yet God was faithful and reasonable to listen to this request. God said, "*The claim of the daughters of Zelophehad is legitimate.*" God told Moses what to do in such cases in the future.

Numbers 27:12 One day the Lord said to Moses, "Climb one of the mountains east of the river, and look out over the land I have given the people of Israel. **13** After you have seen it, you will die like your brother, Aaron, **14** for you both rebelled against my instructions in the wilderness of Zin. When the people of Israel rebelled, you failed to demonstrate my holiness to them at the waters." (These are the waters of Meribah at Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.)

If you remember, Moses struck the rock twice after God had told him to speak to the rock. He also called the people "rebels" and acted like it was he and Aaron who gave them water. He said, "*Must we bring you water from this rock?*"

Moses did a bad thing. That rock in the wilderness was a picture of Jesus Christ. Moses had already hit the rock before in a previous incident. Jesus Christ was crucified once for all time and for all men. It was wrong for Moses to hit the rock out of anger - out of disgust. It was time for him to speak to the rock for the people. This younger generation needed to see that picture, and we in the New Testament age needed to read about it.

15 Then Moses said to the Lord, **16** "O Lord, you are the God who gives breath to all creatures. Please appoint a new man as leader for the community. **17** Give them someone who will guide them wherever they go and will lead them into battle, so the community of the Lord will not be like sheep without a shepherd."

18 The Lord replied, "Take Joshua son of Nun, who has the Spirit in him, and lay your hands on him. **19** Present him to Eleazar the priest before the whole community, and publicly commission him to lead the people. **20** Transfer some of your authority to him so the whole community of Israel will obey him. **21** When direction from the Lord is needed, Joshua will stand before Eleazar the priest, who will use the Urim—one of the sacred lots cast before the Lord—to determine his will. This is how Joshua and the rest of the community of Israel will determine everything they should do."

22 So Moses did as the Lord commanded. He presented Joshua to Eleazar the priest and the whole community. **23** Moses laid his hands on him and commissioned him to lead the people, just as the Lord had commanded through Moses.

Moses was not going to enter into the Promised Land, but Joshua was going to lead the people onward. This is a picture to us that Jesus Christ accomplished what the Old Testament Law could not do. The Law was imperfect, and it had to be set aside for something that was perfect.

2 Corinthians 3:7 The old way, with laws etched in stone, led to death, though it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. . . **8** Shouldn't we expect far greater glory under the new way, now that the Holy Spirit is giving life? **9** If the old way, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new way, which makes us right with God! **10** In fact, that first glory was not glorious at all compared with the overwhelming glory of the new way. **11** So if the old way, which has been replaced, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new, which remains forever!

Numbers Chapters 28 and 29 - A Complete List of the National Offerings

Chapters 28 and 29 go together and give a complete list of the national offerings of Israel. They were to be offered by the priests in the Tabernacle at the appointed times indicated after the people entered into the land.

The people were camped on the plains of Moab on the east side of the Jordan River. They were about to enter Canaan to conquer it and claim it for their own. Yes, there were battles ahead, but God at this point was giving them instructions for daily offerings and other offerings throughout the year. God was letting them know that ordinary life in the land would soon be coming. These offerings were going to require some of their cattle, their flocks, and their produce from the land. Since God was requiring these things from them, it was a message to them that the land would be a fruitful land. There would be enough for them personally, and there would be enough for them to make sacrifices to God as required.

God had previously told the people (through Moses) about these offerings, but this was a new generation. This was the younger generation and their children. This list of offerings in these two chapters is a concise list of what God told Moses previously.

As we read the list of offerings made throughout the year, we will see clearly that offerings were to be made every day (twice a day), every week on the seventh day (on the Sabbath), every month on the first day, and every year in each one of the festivals. Christians can see through this that our whole life from beginning to end should be consecrated to God (and it is made right by the shedding of Jesus' blood). The Jewish year was made holy by this round of sacrifices. Our lives are made holy by continually claiming the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and offering ourselves to God.

The Daily Offerings

Numbers 28:1 (NLT) The Lord said to Moses, **2** "Give these instructions to the people of Israel: The offerings you present as special gifts are a pleasing aroma to me; they are my food. See to it that they are brought at the appointed times and offered according to my instructions.

In the above Scripture we get a certain picture from these offerings. God says, "*They are my food.*" In the past we read where the offerings were a "pleasing aroma" and here we get further meaning. God is a Spirit, and He does not have a literal mouth or stomach. However, God is saying that He gets pleasure and satisfaction from these offerings. When the smoke from these whole burnt offerings ascends to the heavens, it pictures God receiving the offering from the people.

Remember as we study these offerings, they are the shadow of the reality. Jesus Christ is the reality, and these offerings are a shadow, outline, or picture of Him (see Colossians 2:16-17). Remember that Jesus is pictured in many ways in these Old Testament books. He is the sacrifice, the high priest, the offerer, and the mighty God to whom all of this is offered.

Numbers 28:3 "Say to the people: This is the special gift you must present to the Lord as your daily burnt offering. You must offer two one-year-old male lambs with no defects. **4** Sacrifice one lamb in the morning and the other in the evening. **5** With each lamb you must offer a grain offering of two quarts of choice flour mixed with one quart of pure oil of pressed olives. **6** This is the regular burnt offering instituted at Mount Sinai as a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord. **7** Along with it you must present the proper liquid offering of one quart of alcoholic drink with each lamb, poured out in the Holy Place as an offering to the Lord. **8** Offer the second lamb in the evening with the same grain offering and liquid offering. It, too, is a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

The daily offering was the foundational offering for the Tabernacle of Israel. A daily offering was to be made each morning and evening for the whole congregation. Remember that other offerings - offerings made by individuals could then be placed on the daily burnt offering. Jesus Christ is the foundational offering for the church. Any gifts or vows that we bring to him are placed upon what He did for us. He gave Himself willingly and totally, and our own personal sacrifices only have meaning when connected to what He did.

The whole system of sacrifices began with the daily offerings. Each day must be lived for Him. Each day God must be first. Through the daily burnt offering we get a clear picture of giving ourselves to God for His service.

The daily offering consisted of a lamb with its grain offering and its wine offering. Jesus led the way, giving His will to God while He was on this earth (the lamb). Jesus is also seen in the grain offering (Jesus was God in human flesh - seen as the flour and the oil combined). The wine offering (which was a lot of wine) was a picture of the Holy Spirit of God which we need daily. The Spirit of God in our lives is that joy that keeps us going.

The fact that the daily offering was given both morning and evening teaches us to approach God in prayer in the morning and the evening to give our will to Him, offer ourselves for His service, and receive of His Spirit the joy that should be ours daily.

The Sabbath Offerings

9 "On the Sabbath day, sacrifice two one-year-old male lambs with no defects. They must be accompanied by a grain offering of four quarts of choice flour moistened with olive oil, and a liquid offering. **10** This is the burnt offering to be presented each Sabbath day, in addition to the regular burnt offering and its accompanying liquid offering.

On the seventh day of the week, a larger offering was to be given for the congregation. This is the first time in Scripture that the Sabbath day offering is specified. Previously we read that the Sabbath day was to be revered and no work was to be done. However, the priests were to make this weekly offering in the Tabernacle along with the usual daily offerings. The seventh day was, first of all, a

day of rest with no work. Secondly, it was a day given to God - not to labor. As Christians, we set aside the first day of the week (not the seventh) for gathering together with fellow believers as was the custom of the early church (Acts 20:7). On that day, we give more to God than our usual daily prayer and Bible reading. We gather together for preaching, teaching, and corporate worship. Just as the offerings given in the Tabernacle were doubled on the Sabbath day, we “double up” our consecration to God when we gather together to worship on Sunday.

The Monthly Offerings

Numbers 28:11 “On the first day of each month, present an extra burnt offering to the Lord of two young bulls, one ram, and seven one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. 12 These must be accompanied by grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil—six quarts with each bull, four quarts with the ram, **13** and two quarts with each lamb. This burnt offering will be a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord. **14** You must also present a liquid offering with each sacrifice: two quarts of wine for each bull, a third of a gallon for the ram, and one quart for each lamb. Present this monthly burnt offering on the first day of each month throughout the year.

15 “On the first day of each month, you must also offer one male goat for a sin offering to the Lord. This is in addition to the regular burnt offering and its accompanying liquid offering.

Hebrew months are based on the phases of the moon. In the KJV, these monthly offerings are called “new moon” offerings. For the first time in Scripture, monthly offerings are commanded. Other nations celebrated “new moon festivals,” but God wanted His people to celebrate the first day of each month focusing on Him. Other nations worshiped the sun and moon, but God wanted His people to consider the rising and setting of the sun and the phases of the moon as signals or opportunities to commit their lives to Him to worship and serve Him. God regulated the days, weeks, and months for His service. Notice that the monthly offerings were much bigger than the daily or weekly offering. As we progress, the offerings get bigger.

Other places in Scripture indicate that the first day of each month became a Sabbath day of rest, social gathering, and religious instruction, just like the weekly Sabbath. One other thing to notice about the monthly offering - a sin offering was added to the other offerings.

Later in Israel’s history God’s people became disobedient and sinful and God told them:

Isaiah 1:14 (NKJV) Your New Moons and your appointed feasts
My soul hates;
They are a trouble to Me,
I am weary of bearing *them*.

Offerings for the Passover

Numbers 28:16 (NLT) “On the fourteenth day of the first month, you must celebrate the Lord’s Passover. 17 On the following day—the fifteenth day of the month—a joyous, seven-day festival will begin, but no bread made with yeast may be eaten. [Feast of Unleavened Bread] **18** The first day of the festival will be an official day for holy assembly, and no ordinary work may be done on that day. **19** As a special gift you must present a burnt offering to the Lord—two young bulls, one ram, and seven one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. **20** These will be accompanied by grain offerings of

choice flour moistened with olive oil—six quarts with each bull, four quarts with the ram, **21** and two quarts with each of the seven lambs. **22** You must also offer a male goat as a sin offering to purify yourselves and make yourselves right with the Lord. **23** Present these offerings in addition to your regular morning burnt offering. **24** On each of the seven days of the festival, this is how you must prepare the food offering that is presented as a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord. These will be offered in addition to the regular burnt offerings and liquid offerings. **25** The seventh day of the festival will be another official day for holy assembly, and no ordinary work may be done on that day.

If you remember, the first three feasts of the seven Jewish festivals were celebrated all together at the beginning of the Jewish year (in late March or April). These are the Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread and the Feast of Firstfruits. The Passover commemorated the deliverance from the death angel on the night before the Israelites left Egypt. The Feast of Unleavened Bread commemorated the deliverance from Egypt (the Israelites ate unleavened bread because they had to leave Egypt in haste). The Feast of Firstfruits was a day during the weeklong Feast of Unleavened Bread where the first sheaves of the harvest were lifted up to God. Each one of these is a picture of the work of Jesus Christ. He was crucified on Calvary (Passover), He was buried (Feast of Unleavened bread), and He rose from the dead (Feast of Firstfruits).

Likewise, our “new year” in Christ begins when we die out to sin (repent), when we are delivered from sin (water baptism).

Offerings for the Festival of Harvest

Numbers 28:26 “At the Festival of Harvest, when you present the first of your new grain to the Lord, you must call an official day for holy assembly, and you may do no ordinary work on that day. **27** Present a special burnt offering on that day as a pleasing aroma to the Lord. It will consist of two young bulls, one ram, and seven one-year-old male lambs. **28** These will be accompanied by grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil—six quarts with each bull, four quarts with the ram, **29** and two quarts with each of the seven lambs. **30** Also, offer one male goat to purify yourselves and make yourselves right with the Lord. **31** Prepare these special burnt offerings, along with their liquid offerings, in addition to the regular burnt offering and its accompanying grain offering. Be sure that all the animals you sacrifice have no defects.

The Festival of Harvest is also known as the Feast of Pentecost. This festival took place fifty days after the Feast of First Fruits. There was a close connection between the three Passover feasts and Pentecost. They all took place in the Spring, even though there was a seven week separation between them.

Jesus brought deliverance from sin (pictured by the Passover feasts), but now He brings the power to live an overcoming life through the baptism of the Holy Spirit which was literally poured out first on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. The ancient Israelites planted the spring grains and by Pentecost they harvested them - food to strengthen them for the coming year. Christians receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost and they have what they need to live overcoming lives.

The next feasts take place in the fall of the year. There is a separation of several months between the Spring feasts and the Autumn feasts.

Offerings for the Festival of Trumpets

Numbers 29:1 (NLT) “Celebrate the Festival of Trumpets each year on the first day of the appointed month in early autumn. You must call an official day for holy assembly, and you may do no ordinary

work. **2** On that day you must present a burnt offering as a pleasing aroma to the Lord. It will consist of one young bull, one ram, and seven one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. **3** These must be accompanied by grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil—six quarts with the bull, four quarts with the ram, **4** and two quarts with each of the seven lambs. **5** In addition, you must sacrifice a male goat as a sin offering to purify yourselves and make yourselves right with the Lord. **6** These special sacrifices are in addition to your regular monthly and daily burnt offerings, and they must be given with their prescribed grain offerings and liquid offerings. These offerings are given as a special gift to the Lord, a pleasing aroma to him.

This feast corresponds to the rapture of the church.

Offerings for the Day of Atonement

7 “Ten days later, on the tenth day of the same month, you must call another holy assembly. On that day, the Day of Atonement, the people must go without food and must do no ordinary work. **8** You must present a burnt offering as a pleasing aroma to the Lord. It will consist of one young bull, one ram, and seven one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. **9** These offerings must be accompanied by the prescribed grain offerings of choice flour moistened with olive oil—six quarts of choice flour with the bull, four quarts of choice flour with the ram, **10** and two quarts of choice flour with each of the seven lambs. **11** You must also sacrifice one male goat for a sin offering. This is in addition to the sin offering of atonement and the regular daily burnt offering with its grain offering, and their accompanying liquid offerings.

For the Jew, the Day of Atonement was a day of much affliction of the soul because of sin. This feast pictures the return of Jesus when He descends to this earth, the raptured saints of God with Him, and He fights for the Jewish people in Jerusalem who are battling the armies of this world who are bent on destroying them. Zechariah 12 and 14 give a good account of this. The Jews will look on the one that their ancestors ordered to be crucified. They will as a nation accept Him and be saved (Romans 11:26).

The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) is the most holy day in the Jewish religion today. For the Christian, the return of Jesus Christ with His saints will be the high point of our experience.

Offerings for the Festival of Shelters

12 “Five days later, on the fifteenth day of the same month, you must call another holy assembly of all the people, and you may do no ordinary work on that day. It is the beginning of the Festival of Shelters, a seven-day festival to the Lord. **13** On the first day of the festival, you must present a burnt offering as a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord. It will consist of thirteen young bulls, two rams, and fourteen one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. **14** Each of these offerings must be accompanied by a grain offering of choice flour moistened with olive oil—six quarts for each of the thirteen bulls, four quarts for each of the two rams, **15** and two quarts for each of the fourteen lambs. **16** You must also sacrifice a male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its accompanying grain offering and liquid offering.

17 “On the second day of this seven-day festival, sacrifice twelve young bulls, two rams, and fourteen one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. **18** Each of these offerings of bulls, rams, and lambs must be accompanied by its prescribed grain offering and liquid offering. **19** You must also sacrifice a male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its accompanying grain offering and liquid offering.

20 “On the third day of the festival, sacrifice eleven young bulls, two rams, and fourteen one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. **21** Each of these offerings of bulls, rams, and lambs must be accompanied by its prescribed grain offering and liquid offering. **22** You must also sacrifice a male goat

as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its accompanying grain offering and liquid offering.

Numbers 29:23 "On the fourth day of the festival, sacrifice ten young bulls . . .

This continues on until the eighth day of the festival.

35 "On the eighth day of the festival, proclaim another holy day. You must do no ordinary work on that day. **36** You must present a burnt offering as a special gift, a pleasing aroma to the Lord. It will consist of one young bull, one ram, and seven one-year-old male lambs, all with no defects. **37** Each of these offerings must be accompanied by its prescribed grain offering and liquid offering. **38** You must also sacrifice one male goat as a sin offering, in addition to the regular burnt offering with its accompanying grain offering and liquid offering.

39 "You must present these offerings to the Lord at your annual festivals. These are in addition to the sacrifices and offerings you present in connection with vows, or as voluntary offerings, burnt offerings, grain offerings, liquid offerings, or peace offerings."

40 So Moses gave all of these instructions to the people of Israel as the Lord had commanded him.

This last feast pictures the 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ on this earth. It will be a time of peace. Although there is great joy in serving God now and living the life of the Spirit, yet future joys will be the greatest of all. The greatest blessings are reserved for the end of all things and that heavenly home.