

## Numbers 7 - Thursday, June 24th, 2010

- Numbers chapter seven is the second longest chapter in the entire Bible. The longest chapter in the Bible is actually Psalm 119.
- The longest chapter in the Bible is about the Word of God, and the second longest chapter in the Bible is about giving to God.
- Presupposing this is not a coincidence, it would seem to indicate that there's a link between our wealth from God, and the Word of God.

1 Now it came to pass, when Moses had finished setting up the tabernacle, that he anointed it and consecrated it and all its furnishings, and the altar and all its utensils; so he anointed them and consecrated them. 2 Then the leaders of Israel, the heads of their fathers' houses, who were the leaders of the tribes and over those who were numbered, made an offering. 3 And they brought their offering before the LORD, six covered carts and twelve oxen, a cart for every two of the leaders, and for each one an ox; and they presented them before the tabernacle.

- It's important we understand a couple of things here in these first three verses, or we may misunderstand the entirety of this chapter.
- These offerings were given to God of their own volition, which is interesting because to give carts and oxen would've been very costly.

4 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 5 "Accept these from them, that they may be used in doing the work of the tabernacle of meeting; and you shall give them to the Levites, to every man according to his service."

- At first glance, there's something here that can be easily missed in verse five; God tells Moses to go ahead and accept these gifts.
- Now, this would seem to be a firm grasp of the obvious making one wonder why we would even have a detail like this recorded.
- I would suggest to you that this may be an indication that what we give to God - may or may not be acceptable in the site of God.

6 So Moses took the carts and the oxen, and gave them to the Levites. 7 two carts and four oxen he gave to the sons of Gershon, according to their service; 8 and four carts and eight oxen he gave to the sons of Merari, according to their service, under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. 9 But to the sons of Kohath he gave none, because theirs was the service of the holy things, which they carried on their shoulders.

- Notice that these accepted gifts were to be used in the work of the Tabernacle and given "to every man according to his service."
- In other words, the Tribe of Levi was divided according to his three sons, and one gets twice as many as the other, and one gets none!

FAMILY	CARTS	OXEN	DUTIES	REFERENCE
Gershon	2	4	Transporting the fabrics of the tabernacle.	Chapter 4:25-26
Merari	4	8	Transporting the boards and pillars of the tabernacle.	Chapter 4:31-32
Koath	0	0	Transporting the holy things of the tabernacle on their shoulders.	Chapter 4:4

- This fills in as many blanks as the dots it connects related to God's fairness in how He transacts with His people in the area of giving.
- Here's what I'm thinking; the Merarites carried a much heavier load than the Gershonites and were thus given more accordingly.
- What's interesting is that Kohathites didn't need any carts or oxen because they carried the furniture and the Ark on their shoulders.

10 Now the leaders offered the dedication offering for the altar when it was anointed; so the leaders offered their offering before the altar. 11 For the LORD said to Moses, "They shall offer their offering, one leader each day, for the dedication of the altar."

- Here we're told that each one of the leaders, of each one of the 12 tribes brought their offerings each one on a different day.
- It's interesting to note that this would have meant there were 12 offerings, by each of the 12 tribes, spread out over 12 different days.
- One has suggested that this may have been because God not only savored it, but that He enjoyed it as well.
- In other words, God is always blessed by our giving which is why He loves a cheerful giver.

12 And the one who offered his offering on the first day was Nahshon the son of Amminadab, from the tribe of Judah. 13 His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering; 14 one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense; 15 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering; 16 one kid of the goats as a sin offering; 17 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

- Now, as we start off with the first offering that was made by Nahshon, we're going to begin seeing a redundancy with each ones gift.
- If you've read through this very long chapter you know that we have listed how all twelve of them bring the exact same offering.

18 On the second day Nethanel the son of Zuar, leader of Issachar, presented an offering.19 For his offering he offered one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;20 one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;21 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;22 one kid of the goats as a sin offering;23 and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Nethanel the son of Zuar.

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> day was Nethanel the son of Zuar who was the leader of the tribe of Issachar.

24 On the third day Eliab the son of Helon, leader of the children of Zebulun, presented an offering.25 His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;26 one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;27 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;28 one kid of the goats as a sin offering;29 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Eliab the son of Helon.

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> day was Eliab the son of Helon who was the leader of the tribe of Zebulun.

30 On the fourth day Elizur the son of Shedeur, leader of the children of Reuben, presented an offering.31 His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;32 one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;33 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;34 one kid of the goats as a sin offering;35 and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Elizur the son of Shedeur.

- The 4<sup>th</sup> day was Elizur the son of Shedur who was the leader of the tribe of Reuben.

36 On the fifth day Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai, leader of the children of Simeon, presented an offering.37 His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;38 one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;39 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;40 one kid of the goats as a sin offering;41 and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

- The 5<sup>th</sup> day was Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai who was the leader of the tribe of Simeon.

42 On the sixth day Eliasaph the son of Deuel, leader of the children of Gad, presented an offering.43 His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;44 one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;45 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;46 one kid of the goats as a sin offering;47 and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Eliasaph the son of Deuel.

- The 6<sup>th</sup> day was Eliasaph the son of Deuel who was the leader of the tribe of Gad.

48 On the seventh day Elishama the son of Ammihud, leader of the children of Ephraim, presented an offering.49 His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;50 one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;51 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;52 one kid of the goats as a sin offering;53 and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Elishama the son of Ammihud.

- The 7<sup>th</sup> day was Elishama the son of Ammihud who was the leader of the tribe of Ephraim.

54 On the Eighth day Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur, leader of the children of Manasseh, presented an offering.55 His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;56 one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;57 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;58 one kid of the goats as a sin offering;59 and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

- The 8<sup>th</sup> day was Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur who was the leader of the tribe of Manasseh.

60 On the Ninth day Abidan the son of Gideoni, leader of the children of Benjamin, presented an offering.61 His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;62 one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;63 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;64 one kid of the goats as a sin offering;65 and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Abidan the son of Gideoni.

- The 9<sup>th</sup> day was Abidan the son of Gideoni who was the leader of the tribe of Benjamin.

66 On the tenth day Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai, leader of the children of Dan, presented an offering.67 His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;68 one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;69 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;70 one kid of the goats as a sin offering;71 and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

- The 10<sup>th</sup> day was Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai who was the leader of the tribe of Dan.

72 On the eleventh day Pagiel the son of Ocran, leader of the children of Asher, presented an offering.73 His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;74 one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;75 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;76 one kid of the goats as a sin offering;77 and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Pagiel the son of Ocran.

- The 11<sup>th</sup> day was Pagiel the son of Ocran who was the leader of the tribe of Asher.

78 On the twelfth day Ahira the son of Enan, leader of the children of Naphtali, presented an offering.79 His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty shekels, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;80 one gold pan of ten shekels, full of incense;81 one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering;82 one kid of the goats as a sin offering;83 and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Ahira the son of Enan.

- The 12<sup>th</sup> day was Ahira the son of Enan who was the leader of the tribe of Naphtali.

- Perhaps the question is; "why does God have this repetitive detail recorded here in the book of Numbers?"

- I believe it's because God wants us to know that each day and each tribe and each gift though exactly the same, really matters to Him.

- If God didn't do this, can you imagine how the ones who were to come and give on the eleventh or twelfth day would have felt.

- I just can't imagine God saying; "Thank you anyway, it's the thought that counts, but I was already given that gift."

- In addition to this I believe there are a number of other reasons we have this redundant and repetitive detail recorded for us in scripture.

1. It is for humility – none of them could have taken pride in how they gave more than another.

2. It is for preparation – God was preparing them for the Promised Land He was preparing for them.

3. It is for transformation – God wants to transform their Egyptian mindset of idol worship to a Promised Land mindset of true worship.

84 This was the dedication offering for the altar from the leaders of Israel, when it was anointed: twelve silver platters, twelve silver bowls, and twelve gold pans.85 Each silver platter weighed one hundred and thirty shekels and each bowl seventy shekels. All the silver of the vessels weighed two thousand four hundred shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary.86 The twelve gold pans full of incense weighed ten shekels apiece, according to the shekel of the sanctuary; all the gold of the pans weighed one hundred and twenty shekels.87 All the oxen for the burnt offering were twelve young bulls, the rams twelve, the male lambs in their first year twelve, with their grain offering, and the kids of the goats as a sin offering twelve.88 And all the oxen for the sacrifice of peace offerings were twenty-four bulls, the rams sixty, the male goats sixty, and the lambs in their first year sixty. This was the dedication offering for the altar after it was anointed. 89 Now when Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of one speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim; thus He spoke to him.

- Here we have listed the totals of all the offerings that were given by the 12 tribes of Israel.

- Verse 89 should really be verse one of chapter 8 as Moses goes into the Tabernacle and hears God speak to him from the mercy seat.