

The Fourth Book of Moses Called NUMBERS

(Chapters 4 – 6)

“Organization, Protection & Blessing!”

Chapter 4 – “Priestly / Levitical Organization & Service”

(v1-3) Take a census of the children Kohath, among the sons of Levi, from 30 to 50 years old, *all who enter the service to do the work* in the tabernacle of meeting.

(v4-14) When the camp prepares to journey the following services are to be provided by Aaron and his sons (the priestly line) for the *tabernacle of meeting*: (1) Notice are to take the veil in the tabernacle down and cover the **ARK OF THE TESTIMONY** with it; then the children of Kohath will cover it with badger skins and put on it a covering of blue, put poles in it for transport; (2) then pack up and take care of the **TABLE OF SHOWBREAD** and its utensils; (3) then pack up and take care of the **LAMPSTAND** and appropriate items; (4) then pack up and take care of the **GOLDEN ALTAR** and its utensils and implements.

(v15) When Aaron and his sons are done packing up the tabernacle of meeting then the *children of Kohath* are to come and transport all the covered items. A stern warning is given to the *children of Kohath*, whereas, *they are not to touch any holy thing, lest they die*.

(v16) Here we see the appointed duty of *Eleazar*, the son of Aaron the priest.

(v17-20) Aaron and his sons were to delegate the service and tasks of the children of the Kohath, however the children of Kohath were not to look up the holy things uncovered, lest they die.

(v21-28) Take a census of the children *Gershon*, among the sons of Levi, from 30 to 50 years old, *all who enter the service to do the work* in the tabernacle of meeting. Their order of service and carrying the articles of the tabernacle are listed in these verses. Aaron and his sons shall assign the various duties to the *Gershonites* under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

(v29-33) Take a census of the children *Merari*, among the sons of Levi, from 30 to 50 years old, *all who enter the service to do the work* in the tabernacle of meeting. Their order of service and carrying the articles of the tabernacle are listed in these verses. Aaron and his sons shall assign the various duties to the *Merarites* under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

(v34-49) Moses, Aaron and the leaders took the census of these three Levitical families and the numbers were: **Kohathites – 2,750; Gershonites – 2,630; Merarites – 3,200, totally 8,580.**

Chapter 5 – “Purify the Camp”

Three social responsibilities were required for the sake of all:

- **Purify the camp in regards to HEALTH ISSUES (v1-4)**
(One having an infectious skin disease (cf. Lev. 13:1–14:57); a bodily emission indicative of disease, primarily from the sex organs (cf. Lev. 15:1–33); or one who is defiled by a corpse (cf. Lev. 21:11).
- **Purify the camp in regards to SINFUL PRACTICES (v5-10)** (cf. Lev. 5:14–6:7)
(Understand the process: Repentance – Restitution – Reconciliation.)
- **Purify the camp in regards to IMMORALITY specifically adultery (v11-31).**

Chapter 6 – “The Vow & Law of a Nazirite”

(v1-21) The **NAZIRITE** (*separated, consecrated*) - a person who took a vow to separate from certain worldly things and to consecrate himself to God (Numbers 6:1-8). Among the Hebrew people anyone could take this vow; there were no tribal restrictions as in the case of the priest. Rich or poor, man or woman, master or slave—all were free to become Nazirites. (Listen to a detailed definition.)

(v22-27) Aaron and his sons were called by the LORD to “*ble*ss” Israel with this beautiful, meaningful, and prayerful benediction. **Observation:** (1) The LORD **BLESS** you; (2) The LORD **KEEP** you; (3) The LORD make His face **SHINE UPON YOU**; (4) The LORD be **GRACIOUS** to you; (5) The LORD lift up His **COUNTENANCE** upon you; (6) The LORD give you **PEACE**. (7) They shall put my NAME on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.