

Numbers Chapter 4

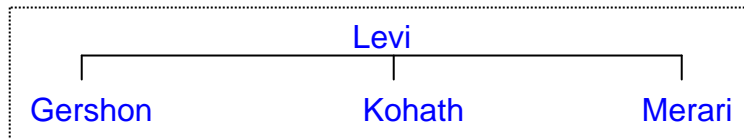
V: 1-4 Number the men from Kohath (sons of Levi) from 30 years up to 50 years.

- The Levites were able to serve from the age of 30 years.
- David was anointed king when he was 30 years old.
- Jesus began His earthly ministry when He was 30 years old.

With regard to appointing men to ministry and leadership, Paul:

1 Timothy 5:22 “Lay hands suddenly on no man...”

1 Timothy 3:6 “Not a novice,...”



Kohathites are mentioned first because of their ministry, taking care of the Most Holy things.

- This is different from **Numbers 3:14-20** which numbered all the Levites from 1 month old and upward. The distinction is now these are the ones that can serve or work in this ministry.
- And their service shall be, or this shall be their service...

V: 4 This shall be their service: then a parenthetical break describing what the Priests shall do.

V: 5-15 Describe what the sons of Aaron will do to facilitate the job of the Kohathites:

- Packaging up the most holy things in preparation for the Kohathites.

V: 5-6 Take down the covering veil over the **Ark of the Testimony**, and place it upon the Ark.

1. Place the covering of badger skins over that.
2. Place a cloth wholly of blue over that.
3. Place the staves into the rings on the side of the ark in preparation for transportation.

V: 7-8 **Table of Show Bread**: along with the various dishes, spoons, and bowls – with the bread still on it.

1. Cover them with a cloth of scarlet.
2. Place badger skins over that.

3. Place the staves into the rings, in preparation for transportation.

- Jesus being the bread of life was also covered in scarlet...

John 19:34 “But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.”

- Jesus, the bread of life was covered in scarlet.

V: 9-12 The **Candlestick, Golden Altar of Incense, and all the instruments** of service; cloth of blue, badger skins.

V: 13-14 **Altar of sacrifice**; a cloth of purple, then all the instruments of sacrifice, then the badger skins and staves.

So too when Jesus went to the altar of sacrifice, the cross:

John 19:5 “Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, behold the man!”

- The only item not accounted for is the brazen laver for washing.

V: 15 When Aaron and his sons have completed their part, then the sons of Kohath shall come and bear it, they were basically porters.

- They were not to touch any of these things, except the staves, lest they die.

God was very serious about this:

2 Samuel 6:3-7 “³And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab drave the new cart.”

- Transporting the Ark, Table of Shewbread, the Candlestick, the Golden Altar of Incense, and the Altar of Sacrifice and all their respective instrument; the most holy things – was the job, ministry of the sons of Kohath.

V: 16-20 Eleazar takes charge of the things in the Tabernacle, giving direction and oversight to the sons of Kohath so that they don't actually see the “most holy” things or touch them lest they be cut off and die.

- Following God's instructions is a matter of life and death.
- Prior to the incident with Uzzah at Kirjath Jearim, the Ark had been taken by the Philistines who were forced by God to send it back.

1 Samuel Ch. 6 Describes the Levites receiving it, taking it off of the cart and offering of sacrifices.

- Then inexplicably the men of Beth-she-mesh decide to look inside the Ark.

1 Samuel 6:19 “And He smote the men of Beth-she-mesh, because they had looked into the ark of the Lord, even He smote of the people fifty thousand and threescore and ten men: and the people lamented, because the Lord had smitten many of the people with a great slaughter.”

V: 21-28 Number the sons of Gershom, 30-50 years old, their ministry:

- Bear the curtains of the Tabernacle, all the coverings, hangings for the doors, and the instruments of the service therein.
- Ithamar, the son of Aaron shall be in charge of this group of workers.

V: 29-33 The sons of Merari, 30-50 years old, able to serve:

- The boards of the Tabernacle, the bars, the pillars & sockets, pins and cords of the Tabernacle and courtyard.
- The boards of the Tabernacle were 1 ½ cubits wide (18”) about 2 inches thick, 10 cubits or 15’ tall and covered in gold, meaning they were heavy.
- It is estimated that just the metal described in the construction of the Tabernacle and all the holy things weighed approximately 10 tons.
- Later in Ch. 7 the Gershomites and sons of Merari were given wagons to carry their burdens. The sons of Kohath carried the most holy things upon their shoulders using the staves for each furnishing.
- Under the supervision of Ithamar, the son of Aaron.

V: 34-49 The actual numbering of the Levites:

Kohath:	2,750
Gershon:	2,630
Marari:	3,200

- Levites, 30-50, able to serve: 8,580
- As the Lord commanded Moses: obedience.

Numbers Chapter 5

V: 1-4 Remove, put out of the camp all the lepers, or otherwise defiled. Why?

- Because God is in the midst of their camp – and He is Holy, and they / we are called to be holy, because He is Holy.

Deuteronomy 23:14 “For the Lord thy God walketh in the midst of thy camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that He see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from thee.”

- Whether it's our home, our church, our own walk with the Lord, we need to deal with those things that defile us, get it out of the camp.

V: 5-10 Anyone who commits sin or trespass must confess it and make atonement and restitution as necessary; taking responsibility for our actions before the Lord.

- This describes simply dealing with sin, dealing with it Biblically.

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin, and to cleanse us from all iniquity.”

V: 11-31 This is a lie detection ritual used to determine the guilt or innocence of a woman suspected of adultery.

- A husband suspects her unfaithfulness, but he has no proof, and he becomes jealous.

V: 15 He brings his wife and the offerings for jealousy and a memorial offering, neither is to be anointed with oil or frankincense. (His jealousy may be a sin and not righteous.)

V: 16 She's brought before the Lord.

V: 17-18 This is the first and only mention in the Bible of Holy water, which is water from the laver.

- Holy water in an earthen vessel, dust from the floor of the tabernacle = dirty water.
- The woman's head is uncovered: her hair is loosed.

1 Corinthians 11:15 “But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.”

- A symbolic statement before the Lord that she has nothing to hide.

V: 19-22 The woman is put under an oath.

- If you haven't sinned, then it will have no effect on you.

- But if you have sinned; then this water will cause your thigh to rot, and your belly to swell.

V: 23-24 The woman agrees, says amen, amen (be it so). This is all recorded, then the writing of it is also scraped off into the water, which she then drinks.

V: 25-26 As the woman drinks the water the priest take the offerings and sacrifices them before the Lord.

V: 27 If her belly swells and her thigh rots, then she's guilty and shall become a curse.

- The rotting thigh is considered a reference to her reproductive organs, child bearing and infertility – a curse to any Jewish woman. The swollen belly is likened to the same in terms of internal maladies of a similar nature.

V: 28 If those things do not happen then she is declared to be clean, she shall be free and shall conceive seed.

- Conceiving seed meaning her husband shall receive her as his wife, not denying her intimacy, and she shall conceive and bear children.
- Thus done, the issue was settled once and for all.
- Interesting as this is, we never see it actually utilized.

V: 29-31 Why was the woman singled out for this as opposed to the man?

- Because the woman, the bride, represents us. We're the ones who have been unfaithful and deserving of judgment; while our heavenly groom is always faithful and pure.
 - This chapter deals with 3 types of defilement that each need to be dealt with:
 1. Physical defilement.
 2. Interpersonal defilement.
 3. Marital defilement.
 - Numbers Ch. 6 will now deal with consecration, under the Nazarite vow.
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Numbers Chapter 6

V: 1-8 The Nazarite vow, which is different than being a Nazarene.

- Nazarite vow: Separation & sanctification unto the Lord.
 1. No wine or strong drink.
 2. No vinegar, grapes, raisins, or anything from a grape vine at all.
 3. This vow was for a set time period, "... all the days of his separation..."

4. No razor, must allow hair to grow. (Identification & humility)
 5. No touching a dead body, including father, mother, near relatives, etc.
- Samuel, Sampson, and John the Baptist were all Nazarites for life.
 - The removal of wine and strong drink, or anything even related to them was an attempt to have a clear mind, unobstructed in any way from hearing God's voice and discerning His perfect will.

Proverbs 31:4-5 ⁴“It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: ⁵Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.”

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

- No razor to touch his head: letting his hair grow was a method of identification and of expressing humility.

1 Corinthians 11:14 “Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?”

Application:

1. **Alcohol:** This isn't legalism, and it doesn't apply to everyone. But if you want to be a leader in ministry, a leader in your family, if you want to be on the cutting edge of being used by God – if you want to be a Nazarite, then stay away from anything that would cause you to forget the law or pervert judgment.
2. **Identification:** Not cutting the hair distinguished & identified the Nazarite. Today, being easily identified as a believer, letting everyone know that you are a child of God, a Christian will help to keep you on course and out of trouble.
3. **Separation from dead things:** If we enjoy hanging around places of spiritual death, where the spiritually dead hang out, or do the things that the spiritually dead do, we have to understand that we are defiling ourselves, and at the same time consider what we are living for? It's one thing to minister there, seeking to save the lost, it's another thing to join in and be a partaker.

V: 8 “All the days of his separation he is holy unto the Lord.”

- While the Levites were separated totally for the Lord, this vow gave all the other men and women of the various tribes and opportunity to set themselves apart for God in a radical way.

V: 9-12 If he is defiled accidentally by a dead body:

1. He must go through the ritual cleansing which takes a week.
2. Shave his head.

3. Offer the sin offering, burnt offering, and trespass offerings.
4. And start all over, everything prior to the defilement was lost.

- This speaks to a 2nd chance, a new beginning and a fresh start.

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

- It has been said that “the victorious Christian life is a series of new beginnings.”

V: 13-21 When the Nazarite has fulfilled his vow:

1. He shall be brought to the door of the Tabernacle to make his offerings:
2. Burnt offering, sin offering, peace offering, meat offering, and drink offerings.
3. He shall shave his head, and his hair shall be burnt along with the peace offering.
4. He is then released and may drink wine, eat raisins, etc.

V: 22-27 The Lord instructs Moses who is to in turn instruct Aaron on how to bless the people.

- Sadly, there are many people who think that God is angry with them, that He is just waiting to judge them harshly – when nothing could be farther from the truth.
- God loves His children and wants them to be blessed, He wants to bless them!
- God wants His ministers, His servants to bless the people.

V: 24 “*The Lord bless thee:*” “Bless” (H-1288) “barak”

Webster’s definition: “bless”

1. to consecrate or sanctify by a religious rite; make or pronounce holy.
2. to request God's divine favor upon or for: *Bless this house.*
3. to bestow some benefit upon; endow: *Nature blessed me with strong teeth.*
4. to extol as holy; glorify: *Bless the name of the Lord.*
5. to protect or guard from evil: *Bless you!*

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

“*And keep thee.*” “Keep” (H-8104) “shamar”, shaw-mar'; to hedge about, guard; to protect.

V: 25 “*The LORD make His face shine upon thee,*” “Shine” (H-215) ovr, make luminous, show, reveal, set on fire, shine.

2 Corinthians 4:6 “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

“And be gracious to thee.” Grace is simply God’s unmerited favor.

John 1:14 “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

V: 26 *“The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee,”* – May the Lord “smile” upon thee...

“And give thee peace.” “Peace” (H-7965) “shalom”, peace, quiet, rest, tranquility, comfort, and contentment.

John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

- This blessing invokes the “LORD” three times, reminding us of the Trinity:

V: 24 LORD: (Father)

Psalms 110:1 “The LORD said unto my Lord, sit thou at My right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”

- God the Father, the giver and protector.

V: 25 LORD: (Jesus)

Romans 10:9 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus...”

- God the Son, the Revelation, full of grace.

V: 26 LORD: (Holy Spirit)

2 Corinthians 3:17 “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

- God the Holy Spirit, the giver of peace and comfort.

V: 27 *“And they shall put My name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.”*

Ephesians 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: