

## Numbers Chapter 7

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- Numbers Ch. 7 is the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest chapter in the Bible. The longest chapter is Psalm 119 – which is all about God's word.
- This chapter is about giving.

**James 1:22** “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”

- It is easy to be a hearer of the word, but it is something else to be a doer of the word. One of the greatest indicators of whether were just a hearer or a doer is what we do with our finances.
- This chapter is a detailed account of what Israel's leaders gave over a 12 day period.

V: 1-5        On the day that the Tabernacle was completely set up, anointed, and operating.

- The princes / leaders of Israel brought an offering.
- There is no mention of this beforehand, in a way the process is reversed.
- We don't see God speaking to Moses, “tell the people they are to make me some carts and present them with the oxen for the service of the Tabernacle.”
- Instead what we see is God speaking to or putting it on the heart of the people to make the carts, gather the oxen, and present them at the Tabernacle.
- He spoke to each of them and they all brought their offerings in unison, then seemingly God lets Moses in on it and says “receive it from them.”

**Romans 8:16**        “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

**Exodus 36:3-6**        “<sup>3</sup>And they received of Moses all the offering, which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, to make it withal. And they brought yet unto him free offerings every morning. <sup>4</sup>And all the wise men, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came every man from his work which they made; <sup>5</sup>and they spake unto Moses, saying, the people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the Lord commanded to make. <sup>6</sup>And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing.”

**James 3:17** “But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.”

- When God is behind it, everyone seemingly just affirms the wisdom of God – it brings peace and unity of spirit.

V: 6-8 This offering met some very practical needs in the ministry.

- 2 carts go to the tribe of Gershon who has been tasked with transporting all the curtains of the Tabernacle, the badger skins and various coverings of the Tabernacle.
- 4 carts go to the sons of Merari who are to transport all the boards, bars, pillars, sockets, and pins of the Tabernacle and courtyard.

V: 7 “... *according to their service*...”

V: 9 The sons of Kohath don't receive anything beyond what they already have.

Speaking about spiritual gifts; Paul wrote:

**1 Corinthians 12:11** “... *dividing to every man severally as He will.*”

- God knows what each of us needs and His provision is tailor made to meet our specific needs in life and in ministry.
- Even though it's not stated, God probably gave them big shoulders!

V: 10-11 Each of the leaders was to make an offering on behalf of their respective tribe, for the dedication of the altar:

- They were to each make their offering on their respective day, or in turn.

V: 12-83 A listing of each of the 12 tribes beginning with Judah, each in turn on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> day, and so on.

- The respective offerings are identical for each tribe, each take up 6 verses to describe them, and are repeated word for word except for the day, the name of the tribe and their respective leader.
  1. Silver charger (plate), 130 shekels of silver in weight.
  2. Silver bowl, 70 shekels of silver in weight.
  3. Both filled with fine flower, mingled with oil for a **meat offering**.
  4. Spoon, 10 shekels weight of gold.
  5. Filled with incense.

6. 1 bullock, one ram, and one lamb of the 1<sup>st</sup> year; for a burnt offering.
7. 1 kid of the goats for a sin offering.
8. 2 oxen, 5 rams (male lambs), 5 he goats, 5 lambs – of the 1<sup>st</sup> year. Peace offering.

- Charger & bowl of silver:

**2 Timothy 2:20** “But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonor.”

- The material that the vessel is made from doesn't necessarily determine its value. A golden pot used as a spittoon does not a vessel of honor make. The content determines the value.
- Looking at the charger of 130 shekels of silver or the bowl of 70 shekels isn't the true value – the true value is determined by what they contain:
- They each contain fine flour, mingled with oil – the “meat offering” – the bread of life! The Word of God on a silver platter!

**John 6:48** “I am the bread of life.”

**Matthew 4:4** “... man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

- Likewise the golden spoons of 10 shekels weight – filled with incense!
- Prayer gives this vessel its worth!

**Psalms 141:2** “Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”

1. Burnt offering: consecration.
2. Sin offering: forgiveness.
3. Peace offering: peace with God, fellowship with God – relationship.

### **Salvation! How valuable? Quantify?**

**Matthew 16:26** “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

- These are all valuable gifts indeed!

V: 12	1 <sup>st</sup> day, Judah.	V: 18	2 <sup>nd</sup> day, Issachar.	V: 24	3 <sup>rd</sup> day, Zebulun.
V: 30	4 <sup>th</sup> day, Reuben.	V: 36	5 <sup>th</sup> day, Simeon.	V: 42	6 <sup>th</sup> day, Gad.
V: 48	7 <sup>th</sup> day, Ephraim.	V: 54	8 <sup>th</sup> day, Manasseh.	V: 60	9 <sup>th</sup> day, Benjamin.
V: 66	10 <sup>th</sup> day, Dan.	V: 72	11 <sup>th</sup> day, Asher.	V: 78	12 <sup>th</sup> day, Naphtali

- While much of this chapter is repetitive, it's worth noting that God thought it was worth repeating, and that He took note of every gift given to Him.

**1 Corinthians 15:58** “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

- Which takes us through verse 83.

V: 84-88 Then does all the math adding up all the various sacrificial elements:

- 12 Silver chargers.
- 12 Silver bowls.
- 12 golden spoons.
- For the burnt offerings; 12 bullocks, 12 rams & 12 lambs of the 1<sup>st</sup> year.
- For the sin offerings; 12 kids of the goats.
- For the peace offering 24 oxen, 60 rams (male lambs), 60 he goats, 60 lambs – of the 1<sup>st</sup> year.

V: 89 Everything is set up and in place, Moses went into the Tabernacle to speak with God.

- Then Moses heard the voice of God, speaking to him from the mercy seat.



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## *Numbers Chapter 8*

- Chapter 7 described giving unto the Lord; chapter 8 is about serving the Lord.

V: 1-4 Light the lamps of the lamp stand.



- The light reveals the glory of the Lamb stand:

**John 15:26** “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me.”

**Exodus 25: 31-39** give the instructions for the making of the golden candlestick, a menorah (Hebrew for candlestick), a candlestick with 6 branches.

- Six is the number of man / incomplete, 7 is the number of completion.
- A candlestick with 6 branches: complete.

**John 15:5** “I am the vine, ye are the branches...” We find our completion in Him.

**Exodus 25:31** Uses the personal pro-noun: **His** shaft, **His** branches, **His** bowls, **His** knops, **His** flowers... indicating that this candle stick is representative of someone, not just a thing.

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

- The lamp stand was to be of pure “beaten” gold.

**Isaiah 53:5** “...He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him...”

- Made using a talent (75 lbs.) of pure gold, with lamps, filled with oil at the top of each branch.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin;...”

- A very specific design incorporating the shapes of almonds blossoms and flowers, “knops” or buds:

**John 15:5** “I am the vine, ye are the branches, he that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit...”

- All of this culminating in a usable lamp or lamp stand, this was to be the light within the Tabernacle. Jesus is that light!

**John 8:12** “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

- When the Roman general Titus destroyed the Temple in 70 AD they did bring the Menorah and the table of show bread back to Rome because they are depicted in Titus’ triumphal arch in Rome – the only ancient depiction that we have of these items.
- We also know that in 550 AD both the Menorah and the Table of showbread were returned to the Christian church in Jerusalem – but in the intervening invasions by the Muslims, they both disappeared and their whereabouts have since been a mystery.

**Exodus 25: 37** “... *that they may give light over against it.*”

- The purpose of the Menorah is to light the Tabernacle, but it is also intended to shed light upon itself, more specifically upon the center lamp stand / vine.
- The branches were intended to illuminate or glorify the Lamp stand.

**Psalm 150:6** “Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.”

- None of this was random, or left to Moses', or the craftsman's imagination; it was all done according to the “pattern” or plan that God gave Moses.

V: 5-22 Instructions to Moses regarding the purification of the Levites, and their sanctification / consecration to the service of the Lord – as an offering unto the Lord.

V: 5-7 The cleansing of the Levites.

- Not sure if this is speaking of the men, or males from one month old and older, those that were previously redeemed for God's service. Or if this is about those that are 30-50 and doing the actual service.
  1. Sprinkle the water of purification upon them. (Water from the laver?)
  2. Shave all their flesh.
  3. Wash their clothes.
- As Moses sprinkled them with water; we realize that the first part of the process was passive in that they / the Levites didn't do anything.

**Ephesians 5:25-26** <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it; <sup>26</sup>that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”

- In the first part, the Levites like the bride needed simply to be still and allow the cleansing to happen.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> parts were different; they were to actively participate – in shaving, cutting away – and washing their garments.

**Psalm 119:9** “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.”

**Psalm 119:11** “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

V: 8 Another part of the cleansing process or ritual: offerings for a “meat” offering, an offering of thanksgiving; and for a “sin” offering.

V: 9-11 Bring all the Levites out before the Tabernacle, before the Lord.

- Bring the rest of the congregation to gather around them: and **lay hands upon** them

**1 Timothy 4:14** “Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.” (elders)

- I learned something interesting about what they do at Costa Mesa reading over Pastor Chuck’s notes on this chapter. At their monthly board meetings, at the conclusion of the meeting, the board gathers around Pastor Chuck, lay hands on him and they pray for him. I thought that was pretty cool.
- Aaron, the High Priest shall offer the Levites before the Lord as an offering of the children of Israel, to do the service of the Lord. Similar to a “wave” offering, presenting them to the Lord.

**Romans 12:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

V: 12-13 The Levites will in turn lay their hands upon the heads of the bullocks, one for sin offering, the other for the burnt offering of consecration.

- All this to make an atonement for the Levites.
- This is similar to when the priests were sanctified, cleansed, and appointed to their offices.

V: 14-18 God has taken the Levites in exchange for all the first born men, because all the firstborn belong to God – whom He either slew or redeemed in Egypt.

- God’s plan for redemption was demonstrated in the Passover. The children of Israel were instructed to take a lamb of the first year, without blemish and kill it. They were to take of the blood, using hyssop and sprinkle it upon the lenti and door posts of their homes.
- That lamb was a substitute for the firstborn of the house; it died in the place of the firstborn.
- When the death angel came and saw the blood of the lamb upon the door posts he “passed over” that house – the first born were redeemed with the lamb.
- Now the Lord said, “in that night, I purchased all of the first born, they became mine, they owe me their lives, and they are mine.”
- God then agreed to take all the Levites as a group instead of the firstborn from all the various tribes.

- When we accept of the sacrifice of Jesus our Passover Lamb, as a substitute we too are redeemed, purchased of God and we belong to Him.

**1 Corinthians 6:20**      “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

V: 19-20      In verse 11 Aaron was called to offer the Levites to the Lord, which he did.

- Now God gives the Levites back to Aaron, to do the service of the children of Israel in the Tabernacle.
- We simply can not out give God.

V: 21-22      The Levites were purified, Aaron offered the sacrifices, atonement was made for them, and they went to work.

- This was their “ordination”, which was simply God’s appointing them to service, to work.

V: 23-26      From 25 years old up to 50 years old, the Levites shall serve the Lord.

- Previously it was described in **Numbers 4:3**, that their service was from 30 years old and up. The distinction is that of being in training and actually serving.
- I’ve said many times that retirement is not a Biblical concept, but it appears that I’ll have to stop saying that.