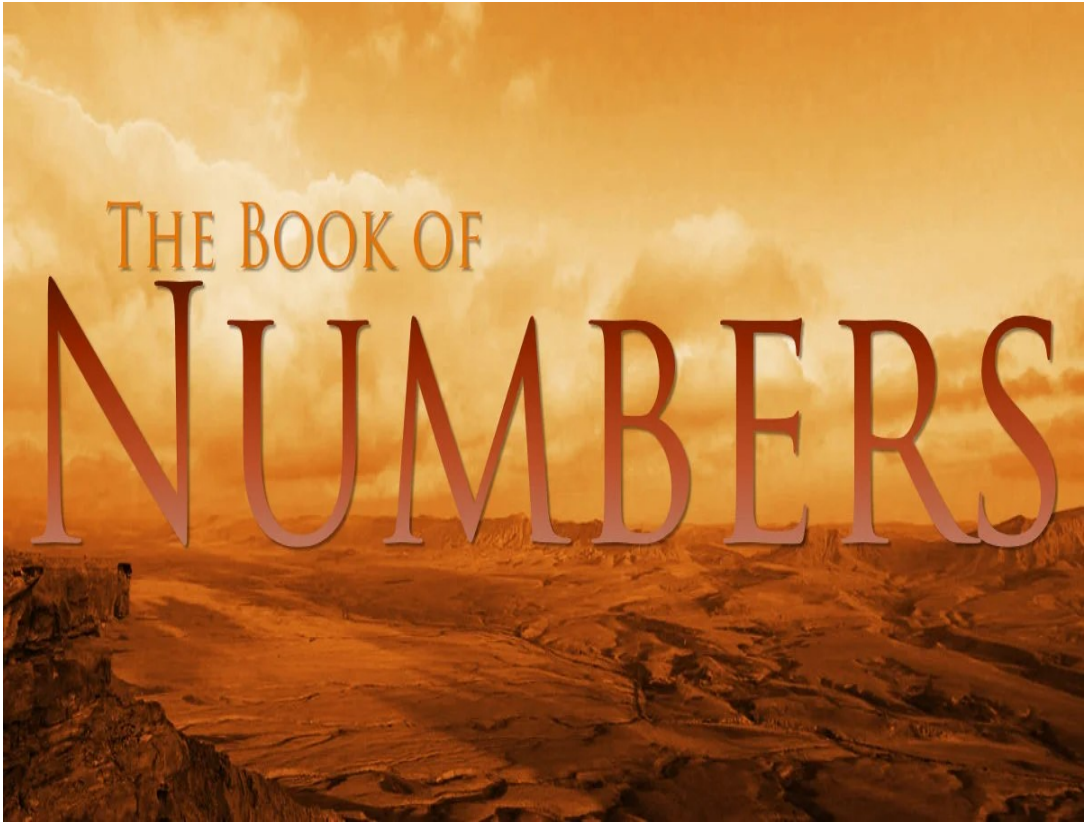


Let's Worship God

19th-24th June 2023
Numbers

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS



THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Monday - Numbers 3:1-13 - Aaron and His Family

In this chapter the family of Aaron is confirmed in the priests' office. The stranger that comes near shall be put to death; none must come to minister but Aaron and his sons only, all others are strangers.

The sons of Aaron are all anointed to minister before the Lord, though it appears afterwards, and God knows it, that two of them are wise and two are foolish. The two older sons offer strange fire, and die for so doing, before the Lord. This is mentioned here in the preamble to the law concerning the priesthood, for a warning to all succeeding priests; let them know, by this example, that God is a jealous God, and will not be mocked; the holy anointing oil is an honour to the obedient, but not a shelter to the disobedient. Eleazar and Ithamar, the two younger sons, are careful not to make any blunders; they keep under their father's eye, and take instruction from him in all they do, because, probably, Nadab and Abihu got out of their father's sight when they offered strange fire. It is good for young people to act under the direction and inspection of those that are experienced.

There is a great deal of work belonging to the priests' office, and there are now only three pairs of hands to do it all, Aaron's and his two sons'; so God appoints the Levites to assist them. Those whom God finds work for, He will find help for. After God saves all the Israelites at the Passover in Egypt, He tells the Israelites that from then on, all the firstborn will belong to Him, but now He takes the Levites instead. When He that made us saves us, we are under further obligations to serve Him and live to Him. It is presumed that the Israelites would rather part with the Levites than with the first-born, and therefore God graciously orders the exchange; yet for us He spares not His own Son.

Question

1. What were Aaron's sons like?
2. Whom did God take instead of the first-born?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God gave up His Son for us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2

Praise: Psalm 103 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Tuesday - Numbers 3:14-39 - The Levites

The Levites are here delivered to Aaron, that he might know what he has, and employ them accordingly. Every male from a month old and upward is numbered. The rest of the tribes are numbered only from twenty years old and upwards, and of them only those that are able to go forth to war; but the Levites count both infants, and infirm. Though it appears afterwards that little more than a third of the Levites are fit to be employed in the service of the tabernacle (ch. 4:47-48), yet God wants them all numbered; that none may think themselves disowned and rejected of God because they are not in a capacity of doing Him that service which they see others do Him. The redemption of the first-born is reckoned from a month old (ch. 18:15-16), therefore from that age the Levites are numbered.

The rest of the tribes don't have their separate families numbered by themselves like Levi does; this honour God puts upon His own tribe. The Gershonites pitch behind the tabernacle, westward, v. 23. The Kohathites on the right hand, southward, v. 29. The Merarites on the left hand, northward, v. 35. And, to complete the square, Moses and Aaron, with the priests, encamp in the front, eastward, v. 38. So the tabernacle is surrounded with its guards. Every one knows his place, and must stay there. As each family has its own place, so each has its own prince. Each family knows their own business; it is important they should, for that which is everybody's work often proves nobody's work. Moses' family doesn't receive special treatment but are Levites just like the rest of the tribe. The tribe of Levi is one of the least of all the tribes. It is a characteristic of God that though He gives us so much, He takes so little for Himself.

Questions

1. Who all is numbered among the Levites?
2. How big was the tribe of the Levites?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's grace to you.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2

Praise: Psalm 104 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS

Wednesday - Numbers 3:40-51 - Redemption of the First-Born

The first-born are numbered from a month old. If there are 22,000 first-born males, we may suppose there are as many females. It is a sign of God's goodness and blessing, that they are not only kept alive, but greatly increased, in a barren wilderness.

The number of the first-born, and that of the Levites, by a special providence, come pretty close to each other. God knows all His works beforehand, and there is an exact proportion between them.

The Levites' cattle are said to be taken instead of the first of the cattle of the children of Israel. In other words, the Levites, with all their possessions, are devoted to God instead of the first-born and all theirs. When we give ourselves to God, we give all we have to God as well.

The small number of first-born which exceeds the number of the Levites (273 in all) are to be redeemed, at five shekels apiece, and the redemption-money given to Aaron.

The church is called the church of the first-born, which is redeemed, not as these are, with silver and gold, but, being devoted by sin to the justice of God, is ransomed with the precious blood of the Son of God.

Question

1. Why did the Levites cattle belong to God?
2. How has God redeemed His Church?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's care for His Church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2

Praise: Psalm 105 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS

Thursday - Numbers 4:1-20 - The Coverings

Of the other tribes, those that are numbered to go forth to war are from twenty years old and upward, but of the Levites only from thirty to fifty; for the service of God requires the best of our strength, and the prime of our time. They are entered as probationers at twenty-five years old, (ch. 8:24); but they must be five years learning and waiting, and so preparing themselves for service. This gives us two good rules:—(1.) That ministers must not be novices, 1 Tim. 3:6. It is a work that requires ripeness of judgment and great steadiness. (2.) That they must learn before they teach, serve before they rule, and must first be proved, 1 Tim. 3:10. When they begin to enter upon old age, they are dismissed, (1.) In honour to them, that they might not be overworked as their strength diminishes. (2.) In honour to the work, that it might not be done by those who, through the weaknesses of age, are slow and heavy. Serving God should be done when we are young and energetic. Those who put off their repentance to old age, leave the best work to be done in the worst time.

Wherever the camp of Israel goes, the tabernacle of the Lord goes, and care must be taken for the carrying of it. Aaron, and his sons, must pack up the things which the Kohathites are to carry. All the holy things must be covered. All these coverings are designed for safety, for decency, and for concealment. Great care is taken to preserve the lives of these Levites, by preventing them from seeing the most holy things. But now, through Christ, we have seen with our eyes, and our hands have handled, the word of life (1 John 1:1), and we are encouraged to come boldly to the throne of grace.

Questions

1. How old were the Levites when they started their work?
2. Why were the things of the tabernacle covered by Aaron and his sons?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the young people in the congregation.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2

Praise: Psalm 106 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF

NUMBERS

Friday - Numbers 4:21-33 - Every One With His Job

The Gershonites are in charge of all the drapery of the tabernacle, the curtains, and hangings, and the coverings of badgers' skins. These they are to take down when the cloud moves, and the ark and the rest of the holy things are carried away, to pack up and bring with them, and then to set up again, where the cloud rests. Aaron and his sons allot to them their respective jobs. Ithamar is to take the oversight of them.

The Merarites are charged with carrying the boards and bars, the pillars and sockets, and the pins and cords. An inventory is given them of everything, so they don't have to search for anything when the tabernacle is set up again. Though these jobs seem less important than the other jobs of the sanctuary, God still is very exact about it all and takes care that nothing is lost. This shows the care God takes of His church, and every member of it.

Here are thousands of men employed in these jobs, even though a much smaller number could have coped with the work; but it is important that the tabernacle can be taken down and set up quickly, and many hands make quick work, especially when every one knows his work. They have tents of their own to take care of, and to take along with them, but the young men under thirty, and the old men above fifty, can look after them; nor is there any mention of them, for God's house must always be put before our own.

Question

1. Why is God so precise about all the details here?
2. What were the Levites to set up before they set up their own tents?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would put God's house before our own.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2

Praise: Psalm 107 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Saturday - Numbers 4:34-49 - Strength For The Task

We have here an account of the numbers of the three families of the Levites, that is, of the men, between thirty years old and fifty. Notice that the Kohathites are, in all, 8,600 from a month old and upwards; but of these there are only 2,750 serviceable men, not even a third. The Gershonites, in all, 7,500, and of them but 2,630 serviceable men, little more than a third. Often of the many that add to the numbers of the church, there are comparatively few that contribute to the service of it. So it has been, and so it is; many have a place in the tabernacle that only do a little of the work of the tabernacle.

Notice that the Merarites are but 6,200 in all, and yet of these there are 3,200 serviceable men, that is, more than half. The greatest burden lies upon that family, the boards, and pillars, and sockets; and God so orders it that, though they are the fewest in number, yet they have the most able men among them; for whatever service God calls men to He will equip them for it, and give strength in proportion to the work, grace sufficient for every need.

The whole number of the able men of the tribe of Levi who enter into God's service is just 8,580, whereas the able men of the other tribes that enter into the army of Israel is many more. The least of the tribes has almost four times as many able men as the Levites, and some of them more than eight times as many; for those that are engaged in the service of this world are many more than those that are devoted to the service of God, and fight the good fight of faith.

Question

1. Why are there so many able-bodied Merarites?
2. Were there more or less Levites than the other tribes?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2

Praise: Psalm 108 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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