

Numbers 08 - Menorah; Cleansing of the Levites

I. Preparation of the first generation at Sinai to enter Canaan (Num 1:1—10:36)

(2) Sanctification of Israel (Num 5:1—10:36)

(C) Sanctification by worship (Num 7:1—9:14)

(b) Setting up of the lamps (Num 8:1-4)

(c) Setting apart of the Levites (8:5-26)

(i) Levites purified, sanctified, ordained (8:5-10)

(ii) Levites presented as an offering to the Lord (8:11-13)

(iii) Levites qualified to worship God (8:14-19)

(iv) Levites followed requirements and commenced their ministries (8:20-22)

(v) Levites' age requirements (8:23-26)

Numbers 8

(b) Setting up of the lamps (Num 8:1-4)

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

1 The LORD told Moses,

1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

2 "Speak to Aaron and say to him, 'When you mount the lamps, the seven lamps will provide light in the front of the lampstand.'"

2 "Speak to Aaron and say to him, 'When you mount the lamps, the seven lamps will give light in the front of the lampstand.'"

2 "Tell Aaron, 'When you set up the lamps, the seven lamps will illuminate the area in front of the lamp stand.'"

2 Speak unto Aaron, and say unto him, When thou lightest the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light over against the lampstand.

3 Therefore Aaron did so; he mounted its lamps at the front of the lampstand, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

3 Aaron therefore did so; he mounted its lamps at the front of the lampstand, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

3 So Aaron did so, setting up the lamps to illuminate the area in front of the lamp stand, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.

3 And Aaron did so; he lighted the lamps thereof over against the lampstand, as the LORD commanded Moses.

- The lampstand is mentioned here between the gifts of the princes and the cleansing of the Levites: It reminds us that everything must be done in the light of the presence of Christ

- What does that mean to you and me? — It means that our gifts to Him and our service for Him must be done in the light of His presence

— In other words, it must be done according to His Word

— This is where the church is to get its instructions—not from a book of church order or some other place—but from the Word of God

— The lampstand is the light, and the Lord Jesus Christ calls Himself the Light of the world. He is revealed in the Word of God.

4 Now this was the workmanship of the lampstand, hammered work of gold; from its base to its flower ornamentation it was hammered work; according to the pattern which the LORD had shown Moses, so he made the lampstand.

4 Now this was the workmanship of the lampstand, hammered work of gold; from its base to its flowers it was hammered work; according to the pattern which the LORD had shown Moses, so he made the lampstand.

4 This was how the lamp stand was crafted from hammered gold: From its base to its flowers, it was made of hammered gold. Moses crafted the lamp stand just as the LORD had showed him.

4 And this work of the lampstand was of beaten gold, unto the shaft thereof, unto the flowers thereof, was beaten work: according unto the pattern which the LORD had shewed Moses, so he made the lampstand.

(c) Setting apart of the Levites (8:5-26)

(i) Levites purified, sanctified, ordained (8:5-10)

5 Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

5 Again the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

5 Then the LORD told Moses,

5 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

6 "Take the Levites from among the sons of Israel and cleanse them.

6 "Take the Levites from among the sons of Israel and cleanse them.

6 "Take the descendants of Levi from the Israelis and purify them.

6 Take the Levites from among the children of Israel, and cleanse them.

- If God is going to use you, He'll have to clean you. He will have His own way of doing it.
- Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations.

7 This is what you shall do to them, for their cleansing: sprinkle purifying **water** on them, and have them use a razor over their whole body, and they shall wash their clothes and cleanse themselves.

7 Thus you shall do to them, for their cleansing: *sprinkle* purifying water on them, and let them use a razor over their whole body and wash their clothes, and they will be clean.

7 This is what you are to do for them in order to purify them: Sprinkle purifying water over them, have them shave their skin, and then have them wash their garments, and they will be purified.

7 And thus shalt thou do unto them, to cleanse them: Sprinkle water of purifying upon them, and let them shave all their flesh, and let them wash their clothes, and so make themselves clean.

- "...water" - called sin-water (*me hattat*); it may be that this water should be identified with the "water of separation" made by use of the ashes of a red heifer and also called *hattat*, "for sin" (Num 19)

- Water + shaving (with a sharp sword) + changing our clothes (habits)...

— The burnt offering speaks of who He is

— The meal offering speaks of His sinless perfection

— The peace offering speaks of the fact that He made peace by the blood of His cross

— The sin offering speaks of what He has done for us

8 Then have them take a bull with its grain offering, fine flour mixed with oil; and you shall take a second bull as a sin offering.

8 Then let them take a bull with its grain offering, fine flour mixed with oil; and a second bull you shall take for a sin offering.

8 They are to take a young bull along with its meal offering made of flour mixed with oil. Then you are to take a second young bull as a sin offering.

8 Then let them take a young bullock with his meat offering, even fine flour mingled with oil, and another young bullock shalt thou take for a sin offering.

9 So you shall present the Levites in front of the tent of meeting. You shall also assemble the whole congregation of the sons of Israel,

9 So you shall present the Levites before the tent of meeting. You shall also assemble the whole congregation of the sons of Israel,

9 Assemble the descendants of Levi in front of the appointed place of meeting, and assemble the whole congregation of Israel, too.

9 And thou shalt bring the Levites before the tabernacle of the congregation: and thou shalt gather the whole assembly of the children of Israel together:

10 and present the Levites before the LORD; and the sons of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites.

10 and present the Levites before the LORD; and the sons of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites.

10 Bring the descendants of Levi into the LORD's presence and have the Israelis lay their hands on the descendants of Levi.

10 And thou shalt bring the Levites before the LORD: and the children of Israel shall put their hands upon the Levites:

- This was done, no doubt, in some representative way, though it is possible that each first-born son actually laid his hand upon one of the Levites

- By this act the truth was conveyed pictorially that these Levites were substitutes for the first-born in the service of the sanctuary

- The early church continued such well-known practices as the laying on of hands (Acts 6:6; 1 Tim 4:14)

(ii) Levites presented as an offering to the Lord (8:11-13)

11 Aaron then shall present the Levites before the LORD as a wave offering from the sons of Israel, so that they may qualify to perform the service of the LORD.

11 Aaron then shall present the Levites before the LORD as a wave offering from the sons of Israel, that they may qualify to perform the service of the LORD.

11 "Then Aaron is to present the descendants of Levi as a wave offering before the LORD from the Israelis, because they are to work in the service of the LORD.

11 And Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD for an offering of the children of Israel, that they may execute the service of the LORD.

12 Now the Levites shall lay their hands on the heads of the bulls; then you are to offer the one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering to the LORD, to make atonement for the Levites.

12 Now the Levites shall lay their hands on the heads of the bulls; then offer the one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering to the LORD, to make atonement for the Levites.

12 The descendants of Levi are then to lay their hands on the head of the bulls, offering one for a sin offering and the other one for a burnt offering to the LORD to atone for the

descendants of Levi.

12 And the Levites shall lay their hands upon the heads of the bullocks: and thou shalt offer the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering, unto the LORD, to make an atonement for the Levites.

13 And you shall have the Levites stand before Aaron and his sons so as to present them as a wave offering to the LORD.

13 You shall have the Levites stand before Aaron and before his sons so as to present them as a wave offering to the LORD.

13 You are to make the descendants of Levi stand in the presence of Aaron and his sons. Then you are to wave them as wave offerings to the LORD.

13 And thou shalt set the Levites before Aaron, and before his sons, and offer them for an offering unto the LORD.

(iii) Levites qualified to worship God (8:14-19)

14 "So you shall single out the Levites from among the sons of Israel, and the Levites shall be Mine.

14 "Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the sons of Israel, and the Levites shall be Mine.

14 This is how you are to separate the descendants of Levi from among the Israelis. The descendants of Levi belong to me.

14 Thus shalt thou separate the Levites from among the children of Israel: and the Levites shall be mine.

- Again the principle of substitution is the lesson taught

— By the substitution of an innocent victim, expiation (atonement) was made for ("in behalf of") the Levites

- God is holy, and his people are holy, for they belong to him; he therefore makes a division between them and others (Lev 20:26)

- So Christ came to call men to holiness and thereby make a distinction among people, so that a man's foes may be even those of his own household (Matt 10:34-36)

15 Then after that the Levites may go in to serve the tent of meeting. But you shall cleanse them and present them as a wave offering;

15 Then after that the Levites may go in to serve the tent of meeting. But you shall cleanse them and present them as a wave offering;

15 "After this, the descendants of Levi are to come to serve at the appointed place of meeting, after you have purified them and presented them as wave offerings,

15 And after that shall the Levites go in to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation: and thou shalt cleanse them, and offer them for an offering.

16 for they are exclusively given to Me from among the sons of Israel. I have taken them for Myself instead of the firstborn of every womb, the firstborn of all the sons of Israel.

16 for they are wholly given to Me from among the sons of Israel. I have taken them for Myself instead of every first issue of the womb, the firstborn of all the sons of Israel.

16 since they've been set apart for me from among the Israelis. I've taken them for myself instead of the first to open the womb—every firstborn of the Israelis,

16 For they are wholly given unto me from among the children of Israel; instead of such as open every womb, even instead of the firstborn of all the children of Israel, have I taken them unto me.

17 For every firstborn among the sons of Israel is Mine, among the people and among the animals; on the day that I fatally struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified them for Myself.

17 For every firstborn among the sons of Israel is Mine, among the men and among the animals; on the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified them for Myself.

17 since every firstborn of Israel belongs to me, from human beings to livestock. On the same day that I destroyed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, I consecrated them to myself,

17 For all the firstborn of the children of Israel are mine, both man and beast: on the day that I smote every firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified them for myself.

18 But I have taken the Levites instead of every firstborn among the sons of Israel.

18 But I have taken the Levites instead of every firstborn among the sons of Israel.

18 taking the descendants of Levi instead of every firstborn of the Israelis.

18 And I have taken the Levites for all the firstborn of the children of Israel.

19 And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and to his sons from among the sons of Israel, to perform the service of the sons of Israel at the tent of meeting and to make atonement on behalf of the sons of Israel, so that there will be no affliction among the sons of Israel due to their approaching the sanctuary."

19 I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and to his sons from among the sons of Israel, to perform the service of the sons of Israel at the tent of meeting and to make atonement on behalf of the sons of Israel, so that there will be no plague among the sons of Israel by their coming near to the sanctuary."

19 I've set the descendants of Levi apart from the Israelis so that Aaron and his sons would work in service at the appointed place of meeting, making atonement on behalf of the Israelis so that there won't be a plague among the Israelis whenever they approach the sanctuary."

19 And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and to his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the service of the children of Israel in the tabernacle of the congregation, and to make an atonement for the children of Israel: that there be no plague among the children of Israel, when the children of Israel come nigh unto the sanctuary.

(iv) Levites followed requirements and commenced their ministries (8:20-22)

20 So *this is what* Moses, Aaron, and all the congregation of the sons of Israel did to the Levites; according to everything that the LORD had commanded Moses regarding the Levites, so the sons of Israel did to them.

20 Thus did Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the sons of Israel to the Levites; according to all that the LORD had commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so the sons of Israel did to them.

20 So Moses and Aaron and the Israelis did this on behalf of the descendants of Levi. The Israelis did everything that the LORD commanded concerning the descendants of Levi.

20 And Moses, and Aaron, and all the congregation of the children of Israel, did to the Levites according unto all that the LORD commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so did the children of Israel unto them.

21 The Levites, too, purified themselves from sin and washed their clothes; and Aaron presented them as a wave offering before the LORD. Aaron also made atonement for them to cleanse them.

21 The Levites, too, purified themselves from sin and washed their clothes; and Aaron presented them as a wave offering before the LORD. Aaron also made atonement for them to cleanse them.

21 The descendants of Levi therefore purified themselves, washed their clothes, and then Aaron presented them as wave offerings to the LORD. Aaron provided atonement for them to purify them.

21 And the Levites were purified, and they washed their clothes; and Aaron offered them as an offering before the LORD; and Aaron made an atonement for them to cleanse them.

22 Then after that the Levites went in to perform their service in the tent of meeting before Aaron and his sons; just as the LORD had commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so they did to them.

22 Then after that the Levites went in to perform their service in the tent of meeting before Aaron and before his sons; just as the LORD had commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so they did to them.

22 After this, the descendants of Levi entered into their work of service at the appointed place, in the presence of Aaron and his sons. They did everything that the LORD commanded Moses concerning the descendants of Levi.

22 And after that went the Levites in to do their service in the tabernacle of the congregation before Aaron, and before his sons: as the LORD had commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so did they unto them.

(v) Levites' age requirements (8:23-26)

23 Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

23 Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

23 Later, the LORD told Moses,

23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

24 "This is what *applies* to the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they shall enter to perform service in the work of the tent of meeting.

24 "This is what *applies* to the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they shall enter to perform service in the work of the tent of meeting.

24 "Now regarding a descendant of Levi who is 25 years and above, he is to enter work in the service at the appointed place of meeting,

24 This is it that belongeth unto the Levites: from twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service of the tabernacle of the congregation:

25 But at the age of fifty years they shall retire from service in the work and not work anymore.

25 But at the age of fifty years they shall retire from service in the work and not work any more.

25 but starting at 50 years of age, he is to retire from service and is no longer to work.

25 And from the age of fifty years they shall cease waiting upon the service thereof, and shall serve no more:

- Soldiers: over 20

- Priests: 30-50

- Levites: (25?)-50 vs 4:35, et al.?

— Five year apprenticeship? (At Kadesh-Barnea, we'll learn that their age of accountability was 20...)

26 They may, however, assist their brothers in the tent of meeting, to fulfill an obligation, but they *themselves* shall do no work. In this way you shall deal with the Levites in their obligations."

26 They may, however, assist their brothers in the tent of meeting, to keep an obligation, but they *themselves* shall do no work. Thus you shall deal with the Levites concerning their obligations."

26 He may minister to his brothers at the Tent of Meeting by keeping watch, but he is not to engage in service. This is how you are to act with respect to the obligations of the descendants of Levi."

26 But shall minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of the congregation, to keep the charge, and shall do no service. Thus shalt thou do unto the Levites touching their charge.