

## Message Three

### The Service of the Priests and the Levites for God's Move

MR *Hymns*: 911, 912

Scripture Reading: Num. 3:1-39; 4:1-33

- Num 3:1 Now these are the generations of Aaron and Moses at the time when Jehovah spoke with Moses on Mount Sinai.
- Num 3:2 And these are the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab the firstborn and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar;
- Num 3:3 These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whose were consecrated to serve as priests.
- Num 3:4 But Nadab and Abihu died before Jehovah when they offered strange fire before Jehovah in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children. So Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests in the presence of Aaron their father.
- Num 3:5 And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Num 3:6 Bring the tribe of Levi near and set them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister to him.
- Num 3:7 And they shall keep his charge and the charge of the whole assembly before the Tent of Meeting to do the service of the tabernacle.
- Num 3:8 And they shall keep all the furnishings of the Tent of Meeting and the charge of the children of Israel to do the service of the tabernacle.
- Num 3:9 And you shall give the Levites to Aaron and to his sons; they are wholly given to him from among the children of Israel.
- Num 3:10 And you shall appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall keep their priesthood; but the stranger who comes near shall be put to death.
- Num 3:11 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Num 3:12 As for Me, I have now taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the children of Israel. So the Levites shall be Mine.
- Num 3:13 For all the firstborn are Mine; on the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified to Myself all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast. They shall be Mine; I am Jehovah.
- Num 3:14 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, saying,
- Num 3:15 Number the children of Levi by their fathers' households, by their families; every male from a month old and upward you shall number.
- Num 3:16 And Moses numbered them according to the word of Jehovah, as he was commanded.
- Num 3:17 And these were the sons of Levi by their names: Gershon and Kohath and Merari.
- Num 3:18 And these are the names of the sons of Gershon according to their families: Libni and Shimei.
- Num 3:19 And the sons of Kohath by their families: Amram and Izhar, Hebron and Uzziel.
- Num 3:20 And the sons of Merari according to their families: Mahli and Mushi. These are the families of the Levites according to their fathers' households.
- Num 3:21 Of Gershon was the family of the Libnites and the family of the Shimeites; these are the families of the Gershonites.
- Num 3:22 Those who were numbered of them, according to the number of all the males, from a month old and upward, even those who were numbered of them were seven thousand five hundred.
- Num 3:23 The families of the Gershonites shall encamp behind the tabernacle on the west.
- Num 3:24 And the leader of the father's household of the Gershonites shall be Eliasaph the son of Lael.
- Num 3:25 And the charge of the sons of Gershon in the Tent of Meeting shall be the tabernacle and the tent, its covering and the screen for the entrance of the Tent of Meeting,
- Num 3:26 And the hangings of the court, and the screen for the entrance of the court, which is around the tabernacle and around the altar, and its cords for all its service.
- Num 3:27 And of Kohath was the family of the Amramites and the family of the Izharites and the family of the Hebronites and the family of the Uzzielites; these are the families of the Kohathites.
- Num 3:28 According to the number of all the males, from a month old and upward, there were eight thousand six hundred, keeping the charge of the sanctuary.
- Num 3:29 The families of the sons of Kohath shall encamp on the side of the tabernacle to the south.
- Num 3:30 And the leader of the father's household of the families of the Kohathites shall be Elizaphan the son of Uzziel.
- Num 3:31 And their charge shall be the Ark and the table and the lampstand and the altars and the utensils of the sanctuary with which they minister and the screen and all its service.
- Num 3:32 And Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest shall be leader of the leaders of the Levites and have the oversight of those who keep the charge of the sanctuary.

- Num 3:33 Of Merari was the family of the Mahlites and the family of the Mushites; these are the families of Merari.
- Num 3:34 And those who were numbered of them, according to the number of all the males, from a month old and upward: six thousand two hundred.
- Num 3:35 And the leader of the father's household of the families of Merari was Zuriel the son of Abihail. They shall encamp on the side of the tabernacle to the north.
- Num 3:36 And the appointed charge of the sons of Merari shall be the boards of the tabernacle and its bars and its pillars and its sockets and all its equipment and all the service pertaining to it,
- Num 3:37 And the pillars around the court and their sockets and their pegs and their cords.
- Num 3:38 And those who encamp before the tabernacle to the east, before the Tent of Meeting toward the sunrise, shall be Moses and Aaron and his sons, keeping the charge of the sanctuary for the charge of the children of Israel; and the stranger who comes near shall be put to death.
- Num 3:39 All who were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron numbered at the commandment of Jehovah, by their families, all the males from a month old and upward were twenty-two thousand.
- Num 4:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,
- Num 4:2 Take the sum of the sons of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, by their families, by their fathers' households,
- Num 4:3 From thirty years old and upward even to fifty years old, all who enter into the service to perform the skilled work in the Tent of Meeting.
- Num 4:4 This is the service of the sons of Kohath in the Tent of Meeting concerning the most holy things.
- Num 4:5 When the camp sets out, Aaron and his sons shall go in, and they shall take down the veil of the screen and cover the Ark of the Testimony with it,
- Num 4:6 And they shall put on it a covering of porpoise skin, and shall spread over it a cloth all of blue strands, and shall put in its poles.
- Num 4:7 And over the table of the bread of the Presence they shall spread a blue cloth, and put on it the plates and the cups and the bowls and the pitchers of the drink offering; and the continual bread shall be on it.
- Num 4:8 And they shall spread over them a scarlet cloth, and cover it with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put in its poles.
- Num 4:9 And they shall take a blue cloth, and cover the lampstand of the light and its lamps and its tongs and its firepans and all its oil vessels with which they minister to it.
- Num 4:10 And they shall put it and all its utensils within a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put it on the carrying frame.
- Num 4:11 And over the golden altar they shall spread a blue cloth, and cover it with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put in its poles.
- Num 4:12 And they shall take all the utensils of ministry with which they minister in the sanctuary, and put them in a blue cloth, and cover them with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put them on the carrying frame.
- Num 4:13 And they shall remove the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth over it.
- Num 4:14 And they shall put upon it all its utensils with which they minister at it, the firepans, the forks, and the shovels, and the basins—all the utensils of the altar; and they shall spread over it a covering of porpoise skin, and put in its poles.
- Num 4:15 And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, whenever the camp sets out, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch the holy things, or they will die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the Tent of Meeting.
- Num 4:16 And the oversight of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest shall be the oil for the light and the fragrant incense and the continual meal offering and the anointing oil, the oversight of all the tabernacle and all that is in it, the sanctuary and its furnishings.
- Num 4:17 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,
- Num 4:18 Do not let the tribe of the families of the Kohathites be cut off from among the Levites;
- Num 4:19 But do this to them that they may live and not die when they approach the most holy things: Aaron and his sons shall go in and assign each one of them to his service and to his burden;
- Num 4:20 But the Kohathites shall not go in to see the sanctuary even for a moment; otherwise they will die.
- Num 4:21 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Num 4:22 Take the sum of the sons of Gershon also, by their fathers' households, by their families;
- Num 4:23 From thirty years old and upward to fifty years old you shall number them, everyone who enters to carry out the service to do the work in the Tent of Meeting.

- Num 4:24 This is the service of the families of the Gershonites, in serving and in bearing burdens:
- Num 4:25 They shall carry the curtains of the tabernacle, and the Tent of Meeting, its covering, and the covering of porpoise skin that is on top of it, and the screen for the entrance of the Tent of Meeting,
- Num 4:26 And the hangings of the court, and the screen for the entrance of the gate of the court, which is around the tabernacle and around the altar, and their cords, and all the equipment for their S and whatever is to be done with them, so shall they do.
- Num 4:27 All the service of the sons of the Gershonites shall be at the command of Aaron and his sons, in all their burden and in all their service; and you shall assign to them the charge of all they are to carry.
- Num 4:28 This is the service of the families of the sons of the Gershonites in the Tent of Meeting, and their charge shall be under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.
- Num 4:29 As for the sons of Merari, you shall number them by their families, by their fathers' households;
- Num 4:30 From thirty years old and upward even to fifty years old you shall number them, everyone who enters into the service to do the work of the Tent of Meeting.
- Num 4:31 And this is the charge of what they are to carry, according to all their service in the Tent of Meeting: the boards of the tabernacle and its bars and its pillars and its sockets,
- Num 4:32 And the pillars around the court and their sockets and their pegs and their cords, with all their equipment and with all their service; and you shall assign by name the equipment they have been charged to carry.
- Num 4:33 This is the service of the families of the sons of Merari, according to all their service in the Tent of Meeting, under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

## **I. Numbers is a book of service, and chapters 3 and 4 cover the holy service:**

Num 3, 4 be omitted..

- A. In Numbers we have a full type of the church service; the service in Numbers is a picture of the church service—3:1-39; 4:1-33; Rom. 12:5-8, 11.

Num 3:1~39 be omitted.

Num 4:1~33 be omitted.

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rom 12:6 And having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

Rom 12:7 Or service, let us be faithful in that service; or he who teaches, in that teaching;

Rom 12:8 Or he who exhorts, in that exhortation; he who gives, in simplicity; he who leads, in diligence; he who shows mercy, in cheerfulness.

Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.

- B. The service is holy because it takes care of the Tabernacle of the Testimony of God—Num. 3:7-8; 4:4-16.

Num 3:7 And they shall keep his charge and the charge of the whole assembly before the Tent of Meeting to do the service of the tabernacle.

Num 3:8 And they shall keep all the furnishings of the Tent of Meeting and the charge of the children of Israel to do the service of the tabernacle.

Num 4:4 This is the service of the sons of Kohath in the Tent of Meeting concerning the most holy things.

Num 4:5 When the camp sets out, Aaron and his sons shall go in, and they shall take down the veil of the screen and cover the Ark of the Testimony with it,

Num 4:6 And they shall put on it a covering of porpoise skin, and shall spread over it a cloth all of blue strands, and shall put in its poles.

Num 4:7 And over the table of the bread of the Presence they shall spread a blue cloth, and put on it the plates and the cups and the bowls and the pitchers of the drink offering; and the continual bread shall be on it.

Num 4:8 And they shall spread over them a scarlet cloth, and cover it with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put in its poles.

Num 4:9 And they shall take a blue cloth, and cover the lampstand of the light and its lamps and its tongs and its firepans and all its oil vessels with which they minister to it.

Num 4:10 And they shall put it and all its utensils within a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put it on the carrying frame.

- Num 4:11 And over the golden altar they shall spread a blue cloth, and cover it with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put in its poles.
- Num 4:12 And they shall take all the utensils of ministry with which they minister in the sanctuary, and put them in a blue cloth, and cover them with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put them on the carrying frame.
- Num 4:13 And they shall remove the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth over it.
- Num 4:14 And they shall put upon it all its utensils with which they minister at it, the firepans, the forks, and the shovels, and the basins—all the utensils of the altar; and they shall spread over it a covering of porpoise skin, and put in its poles.
- Num 4:15 And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, whenever the camp sets out, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch the holy things, or they will die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the Tent of Meeting.
- Num 4:16 And the oversight of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest shall be the oil for the light and the fragrant incense and the continual meal offering and the anointing oil, the oversight of all the tabernacle and all that is in it, the sanctuary and its furnishings.
- C. The basic principle of the holy service is that it is without confusion because it is based on life; everything in the holy service is under the divine administration, and thus it is in good order—3:7.
- Num 3:7 And they shall keep his charge and the charge of the whole assembly before the Tent of Meeting to do the service of the tabernacle.

## II. The holy service was carried out by the priests and the Levites—vv. 3, 6, 9-10:

- Num 3:3 These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whose were consecrated to serve as priests.
- Num 3:6 Bring the tribe of Levi near and set them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister to him.
- Num 3:9 And you shall give the Levites to Aaron and to his sons; they are wholly given to him from among the children of Israel.
- Num 3:10 And you shall appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall keep their priesthood; but the stranger who comes near shall be put to death.
- A. The priests were the anointed ones who served God directly—v. 3:
- Num 3:3 These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whose were consecrated to serve as priests.
1. The priests were to camp before the tabernacle, on the east, toward the sunrise; they guarded the entrance to the Tent of Meeting, and anyone who wanted to serve God had to pass through the priests—v. 38.
 

Num 3:38 And those who encamp before the tabernacle to the east, before the Tent of Meeting toward the sunrise, shall be Moses and Aaron and his sons, keeping the charge of the sanctuary for the charge of the children of Israel; and the stranger who comes near shall be put to death.
  2. The priests were to keep the charge of the sanctuary, the tabernacle with the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies—vv. 32, 38:
 

Num 3:32 And Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest shall be leader of the leaders of the Levites and have the oversight of those who keep the charge of the sanctuary.

Num 3:38 And those who encamp before the tabernacle to the east, before the Tent of Meeting toward the sunrise, shall be Moses and Aaron and his sons, keeping the charge of the sanctuary for the charge of the children of Israel; and the stranger who comes near shall be put to death.

    - a. The word *charge* refers to responsibility—vv. 7, 32, 38.
 

Num 3:7 And they shall keep his charge and the charge of the whole assembly before the Tent of Meeting to do the service of the tabernacle.

Num 3:32 And Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest shall be leader of the leaders of the Levites and have the oversight of those who keep the charge of the sanctuary.

Num 3:38 And those who encamp before the tabernacle to the east, before the Tent of Meeting toward the sunrise, shall be Moses and Aaron and his sons, keeping the charge of the sanctuary for the charge of the children of Israel; and the stranger who comes near shall be put to death.

- b. For the priests to keep the charge of the sanctuary meant that they were responsible for the entire sanctuary and everything related to it.
- B. The Levites were not priests directly but were the serving ones of the priesthood—vv. 9, 12, 17:
- Num 3:9 And you shall give the Levites to Aaron and to his sons; they are wholly given to him from among the children of Israel.
- Num 3:12 As for Me, I have now taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the children of Israel. So the Levites shall be Mine.
- Num 3:17 And these were the sons of Levi by their names: Gershon and Kohath and Merari.
1. In the priesthood, the ministry of the priests, there were many business affairs that required the service of the Levites—vv. 25-37.
- Num 3:25 And the charge of the sons of Gershon in the Tent of Meeting shall be the tabernacle and the tent, its covering and the screen for the entrance of the Tent of Meeting,
- Num 3:26 And the hangings of the court, and the screen for the entrance of the court, which is around the tabernacle and around the altar, and its cords for all its service.
- Num 3:27 And of Kohath was the family of the Amramites and the family of the Izharites and the family of the Hebronites and the family of the Uzzielites; these are the families of the Kohathites.
- Num 3:28 According to the number of all the males, from a month old and upward, there were eight thousand six hundred, keeping the charge of the sanctuary.
- Num 3:29 The families of the sons of Kohath shall encamp on the side of the tabernacle to the south.
- Num 3:30 And the leader of the father's household of the families of the Kohathites shall be Elizaphan the son of Uzziel.
- Num 3:31 And their charge shall be the Ark and the table and the lampstand and the altars and the utensils of the sanctuary with which they minister and the screen and all its service.
- Num 3:32 And Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest shall be leader of the leaders of the Levites and have the oversight of those who keep the charge of the sanctuary.
- Num 3:33 Of Merari was the family of the Mahlites and the family of the Mushites; these are the families of Merari.
- Num 3:34 And those who were numbered of them, according to the number of all the males, from a month old and upward: six thousand two hundred.
- Num 3:35 And the leader of the father's household of the families of Merari was Zuriel the son of Abihail. They shall encamp on the side of the tabernacle to the north.
- Num 3:36 And the appointed charge of the sons of Merari shall be the boards of the tabernacle and its bars and its pillars and its sockets and all its equipment and all the service pertaining to it,
- Num 3:37 And the pillars around the court and their sockets and their pegs and their cords.
2. The service of the Levites was to take care of the Tent of Meeting—the Tabernacle of the Testimony—which is a type of Christ and the church—18:1-4, 6:
- Num 18:1 Then Jehovah said to Aaron, You and your sons and your father's household with you shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary; and you and your sons with you shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood.
- Num 18:2 And your brothers also, the tribe of Levi, the tribe of your father, bring near with you, so that they may be joined to you and minister to you, while you and your sons with you are before the Tent of the Testimony.
- Num 18:3 And they shall keep your charge and the charge of all the tent, but they shall not come near to the furnishings of the sanctuary and to the altar, so that they do not die, neither they nor you.
- Num 18:4 And they shall be joined to you and keep the charge of the Tent of Meeting for all the service of the tent, but a stranger shall not come near to you.
- Num 18:6 And I Myself have taken your brothers the Levites from among the children of Israel. They are a gift to you, given to Jehovah, to do the service of the Tent of Meeting.

- a. In taking care of the tabernacle and its contents, the Levites did not serve God directly; rather, they served the priesthood and the priests, who served God directly—3:9, 12, 17.
- Num 3:9 And you shall give the Levites to Aaron and to his sons; they are wholly given to him from among the children of Israel.
- Num 3:12 As for Me, I have now taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the children of Israel. So the Levites shall be Mine.
- Num 3:17 And these were the sons of Levi by their names: Gershon and Kohath and Merari.
- b. The priests were to keep the charge of the sanctuary and the altar, and the Levites served under the priests in caring for the sanctuary and the altar—18:5-6.
- Num 18:5 And you shall keep the charge of the sanctuary and the charge of the altar, so that there may be no more wrath upon the children of Israel.
- Num 18:6 And I Myself have taken your brothers the Levites from among the children of Israel. They are a gift to you, given to Jehovah, to do the service of the Tent of Meeting.
- C. The Tabernacle of the Testimony with all its furnishings and the altar, to which the priests ministered, are types of Christ in all His rich aspects, whom the New Testament believers minister to others—3:25-26, 31, 36-37; Eph. 3:8; 2 Cor. 3:3; 1 Tim. 4:6:
- Num 3:25 And the charge of the sons of Gershon in the Tent of Meeting shall be the tabernacle and the tent, its covering and the screen for the entrance of the Tent of Meeting,
- Num 3:26 And the hangings of the court, and the screen for the entrance of the court, which is around the tabernacle and around the altar, and its cords for all its service.
- Num 3:31 And their charge shall be the Ark and the table and the lampstand and the altars and the utensils of the sanctuary with which they minister and the screen and all its service.
- Num 3:36 And the appointed charge of the sons of Merari shall be the boards of the tabernacle and its bars and its pillars and its sockets and all its equipment and all the service pertaining to it,
- Num 3:37 And the pillars around the court and their sockets and their pegs and their cords.
- Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
- 2 Cor 3:3 Since you are being manifested that you are a letter of Christ ministered by us, inscribed not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tablets of stone but in tablets of hearts of flesh.
- 1 Tim 4:6 If you lay these things before the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, being nourished with the words of the faith and of the good teaching which you have closely followed.
1. The altar, signifying the cross (Heb. 13:10), refers to Christ's redemption, and the tabernacle refers to Christ as the embodiment of God (Col. 2:9), through whom God dwells among men (John 1:14) and through whom men can enter into God to enjoy all that He is (14:2, 6, 20).
- Heb 13:10 We have an altar from which they who are serving the tabernacle have no right to eat.
- Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily,
- John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality.
- John 14:2 In My Father's house are many abodes; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, I am the way and the reality and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.
- John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
2. The ministry of the priests and the Levites always supplies people with the riches of Christ—Eph. 3:8:
- Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

- a. To minister is to serve, and to serve is to supply people by ministering to them—2 Cor. 4:1; 3:3, 6, 8; 1 Pet. 4:10-11.
- 2 Cor 4:1 Therefore having this ministry as we have been shown mercy, we do not lose heart;
- 2 Cor 3:3 Since you are being manifested that you are a letter of Christ ministered by us, inscribed not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tablets of stone but in tablets of hearts of flesh.
- 2 Cor 3:6 Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
- 2 Cor 3:8 How shall the ministry of the Spirit not be more in glory?
- 1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.
- 1 Pet 4:11 If anyone speaks, as speaking oracles of God; if anyone ministers, as ministering out of the strength which God supplies; that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.
- b. The New Testament believers serve others the cross of Christ for redemption (1 Cor. 1:23; 2:2) and the riches of Christ for the life supply (Eph. 3:8; Col. 1:27-28).
- 1 Cor 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness,
- 1 Cor 2:2 For I did not determine to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and this One crucified.
- Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
- Col 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- Col 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;

### **III. The holy service portrayed in Numbers is not for a Christ who is inactive but for a Christ who is very active; in His activity, in His move, we must match Him—4:1-33:**

- Num 4:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,
- Num 4:2 Take the sum of the sons of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, by their families, by their fathers' households,
- Num 4:3 From thirty years old and upward even to fifty years old, all who enter into the service to perform the skilled work in the Tent of Meeting.
- Num 4:4 This is the service of the sons of Kohath in the Tent of Meeting concerning the most holy things.
- Num 4:5 When the camp sets out, Aaron and his sons shall go in, and they shall take down the veil of the screen and cover the Ark of the Testimony with it,
- Num 4:6 And they shall put on it a covering of porpoise skin, and shall spread over it a cloth all of blue strands, and shall put in its poles.
- Num 4:7 And over the table of the bread of the Presence they shall spread a blue cloth, and put on it the plates and the cups and the bowls and the pitchers of the drink offering; and the continual bread shall be on it.
- Num 4:8 And they shall spread over them a scarlet cloth, and cover it with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put in its poles.
- Num 4:9 And they shall take a blue cloth, and cover the lampstand of the light and its lamps and its tongs and its firepans and all its oil vessels with which they minister to it.
- Num 4:10 And they shall put it and all its utensils within a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put it on the carrying frame.
- Num 4:11 And over the golden altar they shall spread a blue cloth, and cover it with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put in its poles.

- Num 4:12 And they shall take all the utensils of ministry with which they minister in the sanctuary, and put them in a blue cloth, and cover them with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put them on the carrying frame.
- Num 4:13 And they shall remove the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth over it.
- Num 4:14 And they shall put upon it all its utensils with which they minister at it, the firepans, the forks, and the shovels, and the basins—all the utensils of the altar; and they shall spread over it a covering of porpoise skin, and put in its poles.
- Num 4:15 And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, whenever the camp sets out, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch the holy things, or they will die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the Tent of Meeting.
- Num 4:16 And the oversight of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest shall be the oil for the light and the fragrant incense and the continual meal offering and the anointing oil, the oversight of all the tabernacle and all that is in it, the sanctuary and its furnishings.
- Num 4:17 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,
- Num 4:18 Do not let the tribe of the families of the Kohathites be cut off from among the Levites;
- Num 4:19 But do this to them that they may live and not die when they approach the most holy things: Aaron and his sons shall go in and assign each one of them to his service and to his burden;
- Num 4:20 But the Kohathites shall not go in to see the sanctuary even for a moment; otherwise they will die.
- Num 4:21 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Num 4:22 Take the sum of the sons of Gershon also, by their fathers' households, by their families;
- Num 4:23 From thirty years old and upward to fifty years old you shall number them, everyone who enters to carry out the service to do the work in the Tent of Meeting.
- Num 4:24 This is the service of the families of the Gershonites, in serving and in bearing burdens:
- Num 4:25 They shall carry the curtains of the tabernacle, and the Tent of Meeting, its covering, and the covering of porpoise skin that is on top of it, and the screen for the entrance of the Tent of Meeting,
- Num 4:26 And the hangings of the court, and the screen for the entrance of the gate of the court, which is around the tabernacle and around the altar, and their cords, and all the equipment for their S and whatever is to be done with them, so shall they do.
- Num 4:27 All the service of the sons of the Gershonites shall be at the command of Aaron and his sons, in all their burden and in all their service; and you shall assign to them the charge of all they are to carry.
- Num 4:28 This is the service of the families of the sons of the Gershonites in the Tent of Meeting, and their charge shall be under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.
- Num 4:29 As for the sons of Merari, you shall number them by their families, by their fathers' households;
- Num 4:30 From thirty years old and upward even to fifty years old you shall number them, everyone who enters into the service to do the work of the Tent of Meeting.
- Num 4:31 And this is the charge of what they are to carry, according to all their service in the Tent of Meeting: the boards of the tabernacle and its bars and its pillars and its sockets,
- Num 4:32 And the pillars around the court and their sockets and their pegs and their cords, with all their equipment and with all their service; and you shall assign by name the equipment they have been charged to carry.
- Num 4:33 This is the service of the families of the sons of Merari, according to all their service in the Tent of Meeting, under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.
- A. The priests and the Levites had certain duties in the tabernacle's setting out, in its going forward:
1. The priests appointed the Levites to do their service—vv. 19, 27-28, 33:
    - Num 4:19 But do this to them that they may live and not die when they approach the most holy things: Aaron and his sons shall go in and assign each one of them to his service and to his burden;
    - Num 4:27 All the service of the sons of the Gershonites shall be at the command of Aaron and his sons, in all their burden and in all their service; and you shall assign to them the charge of all they are to carry.
    - Num 4:28 This is the service of the families of the sons of the Gershonites in the Tent of Meeting, and their charge shall be under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

- Num 4:33 This is the service of the families of the sons of Merari, according to all their service in the Tent of Meeting, under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.
- a. The Levites did their service not according to their way but under the direction of the anointed priests.
  - b. This indicates that we, the New Testament priests serving God, should not act according to our own idea but under the direction of the anointed view, that is, under the direction of the Spirit who anoints us—3:3; Exo. 28:41.
 

Num 3:3 These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests, whose were consecrated to serve as priests.

Exo 28:41 And you shall put them upon Aaron your brother and upon his sons with him, and you shall anoint them and consecrate them and sanctify them, that they may serve Me as priests.
2. The priests took care of the primary things, the important things, and the Kohathites (Levites) took care of some of the secondary things—Num. 4:5-14:
- Num 4:5 When the camp sets out, Aaron and his sons shall go in, and they shall take down the veil of the screen and cover the Ark of the Testimony with it,
- Num 4:6 And they shall put on it a covering of porpoise skin, and shall spread over it a cloth all of blue strands, and shall put in its poles.
- Num 4:7 And over the table of the bread of the Presence they shall spread a blue cloth, and put on it the plates and the cups and the bowls and the pitchers of the drink offering; and the continual bread shall be on it.
- Num 4:8 And they shall spread over them a scarlet cloth, and cover it with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put in its poles.
- Num 4:9 And they shall take a blue cloth, and cover the lampstand of the light and its lamps and its tongs and its firepans and all its oil vessels with which they minister to it.
- Num 4:10 And they shall put it and all its utensils within a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put it on the carrying frame.
- Num 4:11 And over the golden altar they shall spread a blue cloth, and cover it with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put in its poles.
- Num 4:12 And they shall take all the utensils of ministry with which they minister in the sanctuary, and put them in a blue cloth, and cover them with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put them on the carrying frame.
- Num 4:13 And they shall remove the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth over it.
- Num 4:14 And they shall put upon it all its utensils with which they minister at it, the firepans, the forks, and the shovels, and the basins—all the utensils of the altar; and they shall spread over it a covering of porpoise skin, and put in its poles.
- a. To take care of the furnishings of the sanctuary is to take care of the primary things.
  - b. The priests took care of the Ark; this is to take care of Christ directly and to minister Christ—vv. 5-6.
 

Num 4:5 When the camp sets out, Aaron and his sons shall go in, and they shall take down the veil of the screen and cover the Ark of the Testimony with it,

Num 4:6 And they shall put on it a covering of porpoise skin, and shall spread over it a cloth all of blue strands, and shall put in its poles.
  - c. The Kohathites carried the furnishings of the sanctuary (vv. 2-4, 15, 17-20, 34-37); to do this today is to speak concerning the church as the expansion of Christ.
 

Num 4:2 Take the sum of the sons of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, by their families, by their fathers' households,

Num 4:3 From thirty years old and upward even to fifty years old, all who enter into the service to perform the skilled work in the Tent of Meeting.

Num 4:4 This is the service of the sons of Kohath in the Tent of Meeting concerning the most holy things.

- Num 4:15 And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, whenever the camp sets out, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch the holy things, or they will die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the Tent of Meeting.
- Num 4:17 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying,
- Num 4:18 Do not let the tribe of the families of the Kohathites be cut off from among the Levites;
- Num 4:19 But do this to them that they may live and not die when they approach the most holy things: Aaron and his sons shall go in and assign each one of them to his service and to his burden;
- Num 4:20 But the Kohathites shall not go in to see the sanctuary even for a moment; otherwise they will die.
- Num 4:34 And Moses and Aaron and the leaders of the assembly numbered the sons of the Kohathites by their families and by their fathers' households,
- Num 4:35 From thirty years old and upward even to fifty years old, everyone who entered into the service for work in the Tent of Meeting.
- Num 4:36 And those who were numbered of them by their families were two thousand seven hundred fifty.
- Num 4:37 These are those who were numbered of the families of the Kohathites, all who served in the Tent of Meeting, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the commandment of Jehovah through Moses.

B. In order to see how Christ moves on earth, we should look at the move of the tabernacle—vv. 5, 25, 31-32:

- Num 4:5 When the camp sets out, Aaron and his sons shall go in, and they shall take down the veil of the screen and cover the Ark of the Testimony with it,
- Num 4:25 They shall carry the curtains of the tabernacle, and the Tent of Meeting, its covering, and the covering of porpoise skin that is on top of it, and the screen for the entrance of the Tent of Meeting,
- Num 4:31 And this is the charge of what they are to carry, according to all their service in the Tent of Meeting: the boards of the tabernacle and its bars and its pillars and its sockets,
- Num 4:32 And the pillars around the court and their sockets and their pegs and their cords, with all their equipment and with all their service; and you shall assign by name the equipment they have been charged to carry.

1. The tabernacle moved on the shoulders of the descendants of the three sons of Levi—Josh. 3:11, 13-15, 17.

- Josh 3:11 The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord of all the earth is now crossing over before you into the Jordan.
- Josh 3:13 And when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the Ark of Jehovah, the Lord of all the earth, come to rest in the waters of the Jordan; the waters of the Jordan, the waters that flow down from upstream, will be cut off, and they will stand in a heap.
- Josh 3:14 And so it happened that when the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were before the people.
- Josh 3:15 And when those who carried the Ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who carried the Ark dipped into the edge of the water (now the Jordan overflowed all its banks throughout all the days of the harvest),
- Josh 3:17 And the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant of Jehovah stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan while all Israel was crossing over on dry ground, until all the nation had completely crossed over the Jordan.

2. The Lord moves through our bearing the Ark, the furnishings of the sanctuary, and the Tent of Meeting—vv. 3, 11, 13-15.

- Josh 3:3 And they commanded the people, saying, When you see the Ark of the Covenant of Jehovah your God and the Levitical priests bearing it, you shall set out from your place and go after it.
- Josh 3:11 The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord of all the earth is now crossing over before you into the Jordan.

- Josh 3:13 And when the soles of the feet of the priests who carry the Ark of Jehovah, the Lord of all the earth, come to rest in the waters of the Jordan; the waters of the Jordan, the waters that flow down from upstream, will be cut off, and they will stand in a heap.
- Josh 3:14 And so it happened that when the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests who carried the Ark of the Covenant were before the people.
- Josh 3:15 And when those who carried the Ark came to the Jordan, and the feet of the priests who carried the Ark dipped into the edge of the water (now the Jordan overflowed all its banks throughout all the days of the harvest),

C. The principle in God's New Testament economy is that God needs man to match Him in His move on earth—Matt. 28:18-20:

- Matt 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- Matt 28:20 Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all the days until the consummation of the age.

1. Without man, God can do nothing; in His New Testament economy, God does nothing without man—Acts 1:8; 13:1-3.

- Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- Acts 13:1 Now there were in Antioch, in the local church, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.
- Acts 13:2 And as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.
- Acts 13:3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

2. God must have man to match Him, to be one with Him, to coordinate with Him; this is the basic principle of God's New Testament economy—Ezek. 1:15-21; 1 Cor. 6:17.

- Ezek 1:15 And as I watched the living creatures, I saw a wheel upon the earth beside the living creatures, for each of their four faces.
- Ezek 1:16 The appearance of the wheels and their workmanship were like the sight of beryl. And the four of them had one likeness; that is, their appearance and their workmanship were as it were a wheel within a wheel.
- Ezek 1:17 Whenever they went, they went in their four directions; they did not turn as they went.
- Ezek 1:18 As for their rims, they were high and they were awesome; and the rims of the four of them were full of eyes all around.
- Ezek 1:19 And whenever the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and whenever the living creatures were lifted up above the earth, the wheels were lifted up also.
- Ezek 1:20 Wherever the Spirit was to go, they went-wherever the Spirit was to go. And the wheels were lifted up alongside them, for the Spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.
- Ezek 1:21 Whenever those went, these went; and whenever those stood still, these stood still; and whenever those were lifted up above the earth, the wheels were lifted up alongside them; for the Spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

3. Christ is moving today throughout the earth, and He is moving with those who are one with Him—Acts 1:8; John 15:4-5, 16:

- Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- John 15:4 Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

- John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
- John 15:16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and I set you that you should go forth and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give you.
- a. We are today's sons of Gershon, Kohath, and Merari.
  - b. Christ, the embodiment of God for His expansion, moves through those who love Him—S. S. 7:11-12; Rev. 2:4-5.
    - S.S. 7:11 Come, my beloved, let us go forth into the fields; / Let us lodge in the villages.
    - S.S. 7:12 Let us rise up early for the vineyards; / Let us see if the vine has budded, / If the blossom is open, / If the pomegranates are in bloom; / There I will give you my love.
    - Rev 2:4 But I have one thing against you, that you have left your first love.
    - Rev 2:5 Remember therefore where you have fallen from and repent and do the first works; but if not, I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place, unless you repent.

**IV. In the Old Testament there was a distinction between the priests and the Levites; in the New Testament there is only one class, that of the priests—Rom. 15:16; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10:**

- Rom 15:16 That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
- Rev 1:6 And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.
- Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.
- A. In addition to carrying out their own duties in the setting out of the tabernacle, the priests appointed the Levites to do their service—Num. 4:5-14, 19, 27-28, 33.
- Num 4:5 When the camp sets out, Aaron and his sons shall go in, and they shall take down the veil of the screen and cover the Ark of the Testimony with it,
- Num 4:6 And they shall put on it a covering of porpoise skin, and shall spread over it a cloth all of blue strands, and shall put in its poles.
- Num 4:7 And over the table of the bread of the Presence they shall spread a blue cloth, and put on it the plates and the cups and the bowls and the pitchers of the drink offering; and the continual bread shall be on it.
- Num 4:8 And they shall spread over them a scarlet cloth, and cover it with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put in its poles.
- Num 4:9 And they shall take a blue cloth, and cover the lampstand of the light and its lamps and its tongs and its firepans and all its oil vessels with which they minister to it.
- Num 4:10 And they shall put it and all its utensils within a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put it on the carrying frame.
- Num 4:11 And over the golden altar they shall spread a blue cloth, and cover it with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put in its poles.
- Num 4:12 And they shall take all the utensils of ministry with which they minister in the sanctuary, and put them in a blue cloth, and cover them with a covering of porpoise skin, and shall put them on the carrying frame.
- Num 4:13 And they shall remove the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth over it.
- Num 4:14 And they shall put upon it all its utensils with which they minister at it, the firepans, the forks, and the shovels, and the basins—all the utensils of the altar; and they shall spread over it a covering of porpoise skin, and put in its poles.
- Num 4:19 But do this to them that they may live and not die when they approach the most holy things: Aaron and his sons shall go in and assign each one of them to his service and

- to his burden;
- Num 4:27 All the service of the sons of the Gershonites shall be at the command of Aaron and his sons, in all their burden and in all their service; and you shall assign to them the charge of all they are to carry.
- Num 4:28 This is the service of the families of the sons of the Gershonites in the Tent of Meeting, and their charge shall be under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.
- Num 4:33 This is the service of the families of the sons of Merari, according to all their service in the Tent of Meeting, under the direction of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.
- B. What the Levites did in the Old Testament in type, the believers as the New Testament priests should also do in reality—1 Pet. 2:5, 9:
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
1. The fact that the service of the Levites was under the supervision of the priests indicates that when the New Testament priests do the outward Levitical work, they must do it under the supervision of the inward, spiritual view of the New Testament priesthood—Rev. 1:6; 5:10.
 

Rev 1:6 And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.

Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.
  2. The Levitical service should never be separated from the priestly view; the outward service must become a spiritual activity that ministers life to others—Rom. 12:4-13; 15:16; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; 4:10-11.
 

Rom 12:4 For just as in one body we have many members, and all the members do not have the same function,

Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rom 12:6 And having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

Rom 12:7 Or service, let us be faithful in that service; or he who teaches, in that teaching;

Rom 12:8 Or he who exhorts, in that exhortation; he who gives, in simplicity; he who leads, in diligence; he who shows mercy, in cheerfulness.

Rom 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

Rom 12:10 Love one another warmly in brotherly love; take the lead in showing honor one to another.

Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.

Rom 12:12 Rejoice in hope; endure in tribulation; persevere in prayer.

Rom 12:13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality.

Rom 15:16 That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1 Pet 4:10 Each one, as he has received a gift, ministering it among yourselves as good stewards of the varied grace of God.

1 Pet 4:11 If anyone speaks, as speaking oracles of God; if anyone ministers, as ministering out of the strength which God supplies; that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom is the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.
  3. We need to learn to do outward things under the inward view of the priesthood.

4. While we are taking care of outward, practical matters, we should be ministering life to others; if we do this, our Levitical service is under the view and supervision of the priesthood—1 John 1:2-3; 2:25; 5:11-16.

1 John 1:2 (And the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and report to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us);

1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard we report also to you that you also may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:25 And this is the promise which He Himself promised us, the eternal life.

1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.

1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

1 John 5:13 I have written these things to you that you may know that you have eternal life, to you who believe into the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:14 And this is the boldness which we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

1 John 5:15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

1 John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin not unto death, he shall ask and he will give life to him, to those sinning not unto death. There is a sin unto death; I do not say that he should make request concerning that.

- C. When a person serves God, there needs to be both the priestly work and the Levitical work—Rom. 1:9; 15:16:

Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,

Rom 15:16 That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.

1. On the one hand, we partake of the spiritual service; on the other hand, we should also take care of the practical affairs.
2. Before any kind of service, we must first serve as priests in the Lord's presence; all service must be priestly.

## V. In Hebrew the word *service* in Numbers 4:3, 23, 30, 35, 39, and 43 is *warfare*, indicating military service:

Num 4:3 From thirty years old and upward even to fifty years old, all who enter into the service to perform the skilled work in the Tent of Meeting.

Num 4:23 From thirty years old and upward to fifty years old you shall number them, everyone who enters to carry out the service to do the work in the Tent of Meeting.

Num 4:30 From thirty years old and upward even to fifty years old you shall number them, everyone who enters into the service to do the work of the Tent of Meeting.

Num 4:35 From thirty years old and upward even to fifty years old, everyone who entered into the service for work in the Tent of Meeting.

Num 4:39 From thirty years old and upward even to fifty years old, everyone who entered into the service for work in the Tent of Meeting,

Num 4:43 From thirty years old and upward even to fifty years old, everyone who entered into the service for work in the Tent of Meeting,

- A. The holy service of the priests and the Levites involved warfare.

- B. As priests of the gospel of God, we should consider ourselves warriors—Rom. 15:16:

Rom 15:16 That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.

1. While we are preaching, teaching, edifying others, and building up the Body of Christ, we are fighting—Eph. 3:8; 4:12, 16; 6:10-12.

Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

- Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.
2. The New Testament priests are warriors, and our priestly service is a fighting—Rev. 5:10; 19:11-14.
- Rev 5:10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.
- Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
- Rev 19:12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written which no one knows but Himself.
- Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
- Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
- C. All the spiritual work that we are doing for God, whatever form it may take, as long as it touches the things of the spiritual realm, is in nature a warfare—2 Cor. 10:3-5:
- 2 Cor 10:3 For though we walk in flesh, we do not war according to flesh;
- 2 Cor 10:4 For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful before God for the overthrowing of strongholds,
- 2 Cor 10:5 As we overthrow reasonings and every high thing rising up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought unto the obedience of Christ.
1. Preaching the gospel, edifying the saints, administrating the church, and praying are all a kind of warfare—Eph. 1:17-18; 3:8, 14-19; 4:12; 6:10-12.
- Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,
- Eph 1:18 The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
- Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel
- Eph 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father,
- Eph 3:15 Of whom every family in the heavens and on earth is named,
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are
- Eph 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.
- Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
- Eph 6:10 Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
- Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil,
- Eph 6:12 For our wrestling is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenlies.

2. If our eyes have been opened by the Lord, we will see that the nature of our work in serving the Lord is that of warfare.

## **VI. A reward, or compensation, was given to Aaron and his sons as the priests and to the serving Levites—Num. 18:8-32:**

- Num 18:8 Then Jehovah spoke to Aaron, And I Myself have given you charge of My heave offerings, even all the holy things of the children of Israel; I have given them to you because of the anointing, and to your sons, as a perpetual statute.
- Num 18:9 This shall be yours of the most holy things, kept from the fire. Every offering of theirs, even every meal offering of theirs and every sin offering of theirs and every trespass offering of theirs, which they shall render to Me, shall be most holy for you and for your sons.
- Num 18:10 As the most holy things you shall eat it; every male shall eat it; it shall be holy to you.
- Num 18:11 This also is yours, the heave offering of their gift, even all the wave offerings of the children of Israel. I have given them to you and to your sons and to your daughters with you, as a perpetual statute; everyone who is clean in your house may eat it.
- Num 18:12 All the best of the oil, and all the best of the new wine and of the grain, their firstfruits that they give to Jehovah, I have given to you.
- Num 18:13 The firstfruits of all that is in their land, which they bring to Jehovah, shall be yours; everyone who is clean in your house may eat it.
- Num 18:14 Everything devoted in Israel shall be yours.
- Num 18:15 Everything that opens the womb of all flesh, which they present to Jehovah, whether human or animal, shall be yours; nevertheless the firstborn of human beings you shall surely redeem, and the firstborn of unclean animals you shall redeem.
- Num 18:16 And those who are to be redeemed from a month old you shall redeem, according to your estimation, for five shekels of silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs.
- Num 18:17 But the firstborn of a cow or the firstborn of a sheep or the firstborn of a goat you shall not redeem; they are holy. You shall sprinkle their blood upon the altar and burn their fat as an offering by fire for a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.
- Num 18:18 But their flesh shall be yours; like the breast of the wave offering and like the right thigh, it shall be yours.
- Num 18:19 All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer to Jehovah, I have given to you and to your sons and your daughters with you, as a perpetual statute. It is a covenant of salt forever before Jehovah for you and for your descendants with you.
- Num 18:20 And Jehovah said to Aaron, You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel.
- Num 18:21 And to the children of Levi I have now given every tithe in Israel for an inheritance in return for their service which they carry out, the service of the Tent of Meeting.
- Num 18:22 From now on the children of Israel shall not come near the Tent of Meeting, so that they do not incur sin and die.
- Num 18:23 But the Levites shall do the service of the Tent of Meeting, and they shall bear their iniquity; it shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations. And among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.
- Num 18:24 For the tithe of the children of Israel, which they offer as a heave offering to Jehovah, I have given to the Levites for an inheritance; therefore I have said to them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.
- Num 18:25 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,
- Num 18:26 Moreover you shall speak to the Levites and say to them, When you take from the children of Israel the tithe which I have given you from them as your inheritance, then you shall offer up a heave offering from it for Jehovah, a tithe of the tithe.
- Num 18:27 And your heave offering shall be reckoned to you as though it were the grain of the threshing floor and the fullness of the wine press.
- Num 18:28 Thus you shall also offer a heave offering to Jehovah from all your tithes, which you receive from the children of Israel; and from it you shall give Jehovah's heave offering to Aaron the priest.
- Num 18:29 Out of all your gifts you shall offer every heave offering of Jehovah, from all the best of it, the sanctified portion of it from them.

- Num 18:30 Therefore you shall say to them, When you have heaved from it the best of it, then it shall be reckoned to the Levites as though it were the produce of the threshing floor and the produce of the wine press.
- Num 18:31 And you may eat it in every place, you and your households, for it is your reward in return for your service in the Tent of Meeting.
- Num 18:32 And you shall bear no sin by reason of it, when you have heaved from it the best of it. But you shall not profane the holy things of the children of Israel, so that you do not die.
- A. The priests and the Levites had no portion other than Christ; Christ was their house, inheritance, land, clothing, food, and everything—v. 31.
- Num 18:31 And you may eat it in every place, you and your households, for it is your reward in return for your service in the Tent of Meeting.
- B. Today, in the New Testament, the Levitical service is combined with the priesthood—1 Pet. 2:5, 9:
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;
1. There is no difference between the priests and the servants of the priests; the believers in Christ are both the priests and the serving Levites.
  2. The only reward, the only compensation, for our priestly and Levitical service is Christ—Matt. 25:23; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 3:20-21.
- Matt 25:23 His master said to him, Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful over a few things; I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your master.
- 2 Tim 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.
- Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.
- Rev 3:21 He who overcomes, to him I will give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat with My Father on His throne.