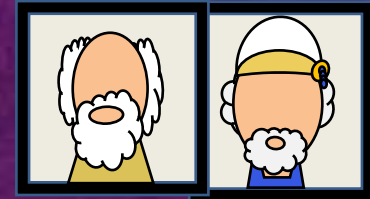
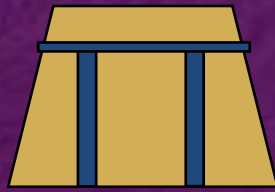
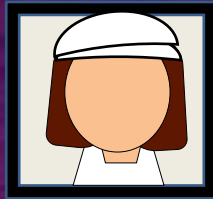
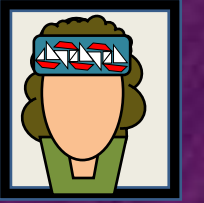


# Organization of Israel Numbers 1-10



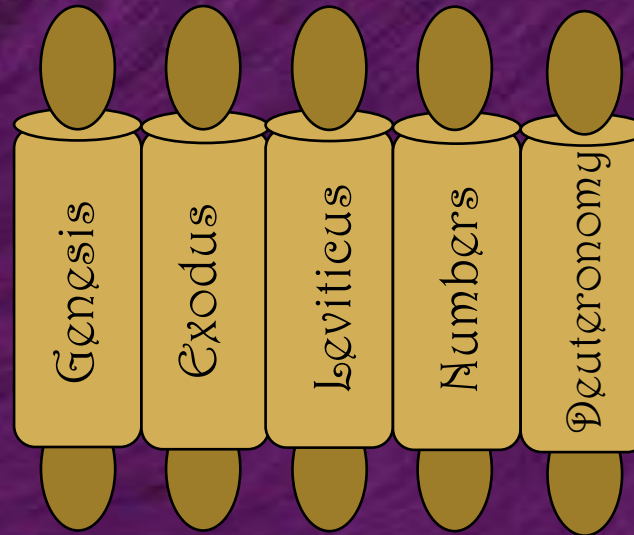
*"For Israel, an eleven-day journey  
became a forty-year agony."  
--Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa*



# Book of Numbers

4<sup>th</sup> book in Pentateuch

“Numbers is the book of wanderings. It take its name from the two numberings of the Israelites—the first at Mount Sinai, and the second on the plains of Moab...



Leviticus covered one month but during the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in the wilderness Israel is counted and organized and Numbers stretches over 38 years.

Numbers starts 21 days before the Israelites leave Mt. Sinai

“...Most of the book describes Israel’s experiences as they wander in the wilderness.” (1)

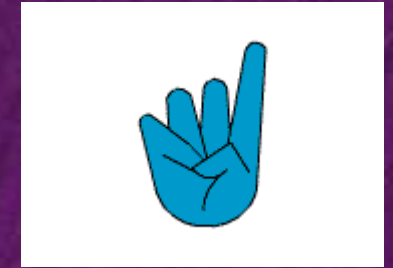
Scholars believe there have been textual errors in the transmission of numbers down through the centuries and that the total number of Israelites would be closer to half a million. (2)

*We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly...*

*Article of Faith 8*

# Head Count

1<sup>st</sup> Day of 2<sup>nd</sup> Month



Age 21 and up—soldiers  
Counted in Tribes



Tribe of Reuben 46,500



Tribe of Simeon 59,300



Tribe of Gad 45,650



Tribe of Judah 74,600



Tribe of Issachar 54,400



Tribe of Zebulun 57,400



Tribe of Ephraim (Joseph) 40,500



Tribe of Manasseh (Joseph) 32,200



Tribe of Benjamin 35,400



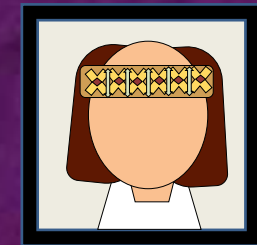
Tribe of Dan 62,700



Tribe of Asher 41,500



Tribe of Naphtali 53,400



Levites---22,000 (Numbers 3:39)

The Lord did not permit  
Moses to take a census from  
the tribe of Levi at this time  
because the Lord did not  
intend to use them in war.  
The Levites were to have a  
special calling. (3)

## 603,550 Men

This also excluded all females, old men, boys under twenty  
years of age, and men unable to bear arms. (2)

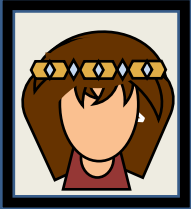
# Camp of Israel



Manasseh



Ephraim



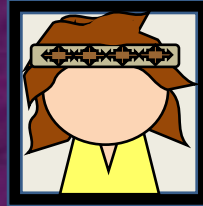
Benjamin



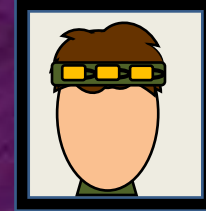
Naphtali



Dan



Asher



Zebulun



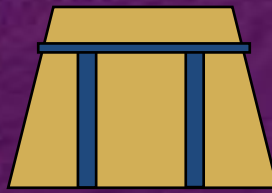
Judah



Issachar



Tent of meeting

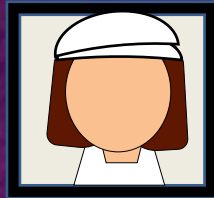


Moses and Aaron--Levites

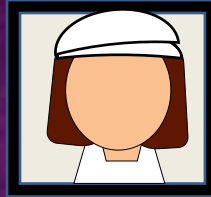


Remember the sun rises in the east

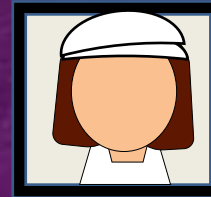
Gershon--Levites



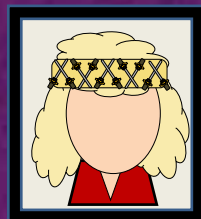
Merari--Levites



Kohath--Levites



“The priest had the first places about the tabernacle; then the Levites.” (4)



Simon

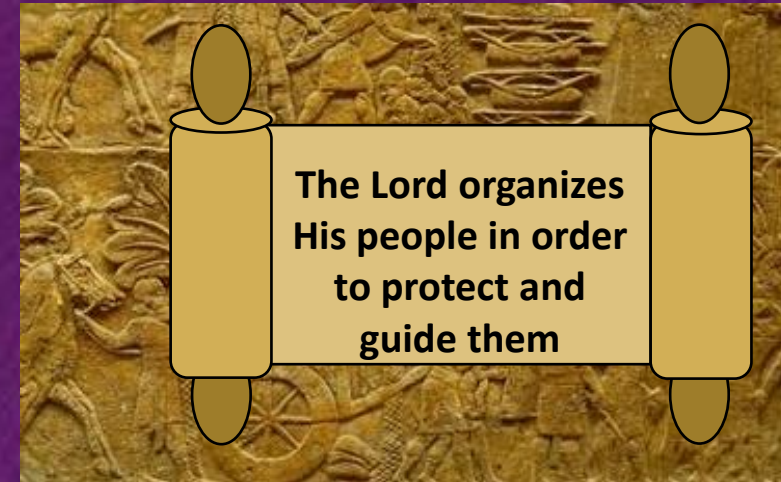
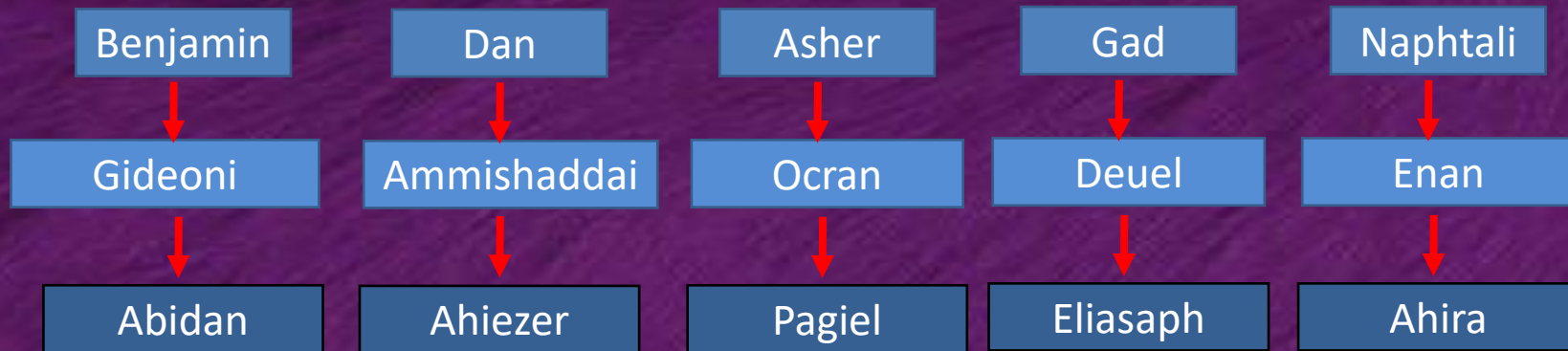
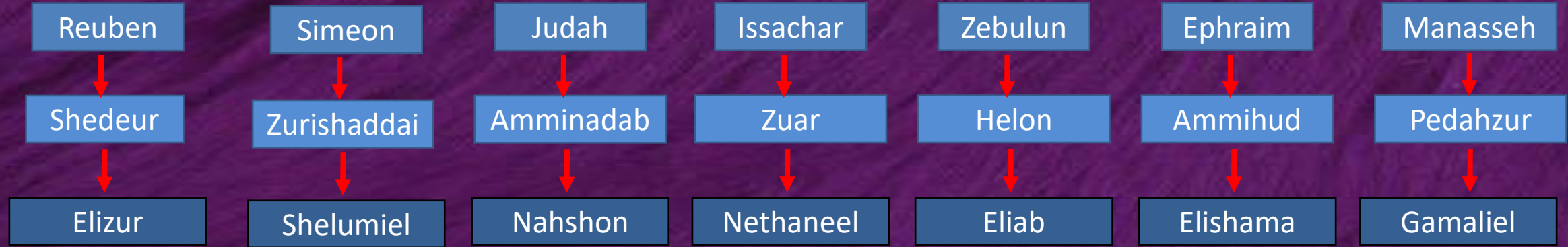


Reuben

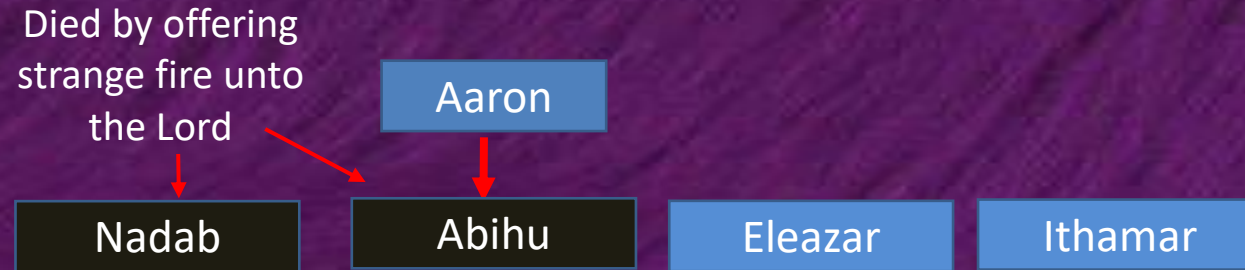


Gad

# Head of Households/Captains



# Ministry of The Levites



Those of the Levitical Priesthood were assigned particularly to care for the house of the Lord: to officiate in it on behalf of the children of Israel and to disassemble and reassemble it in times of movement. They were its protectors, so their tents encircled the sanctuary. (2)

Descendants of Aaron were designated as priests, and they were the ones given the stewardship to preside in the ordinances of the tabernacle.

The other Levites assisted in maintaining the tabernacle and its services, but they could not actually perform the ordinances of sacrifice, burning incense, and so on.

Although all the Levites camped around the tabernacle, Aaron and his sons, along with Moses, were placed in the favored position directly in front of the tabernacle entrance.

# Lord Adopts Tribe of Levi

Number of Levites= 22,000

Number of First Born Levites= 22,273



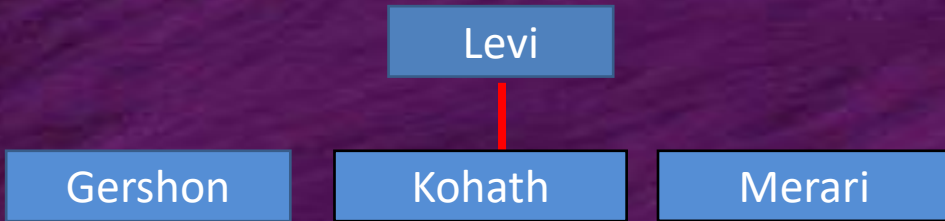
“The Lord said that since there were 273 more firstborn among the various tribes than the total for the tribe of Levi, He would require the various tribes to redeem this difference of 273 by paying a monetary contribution into the sanctuary of the Tabernacle.”

In order to qualify for the Levitical Priesthood one had to be “without blemish” and between the ages of 30 and 50.

Total qualified= 8,580

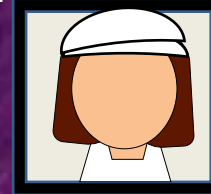
# Gershon, Kohath, Merari

Moses divided the Levites into three groups



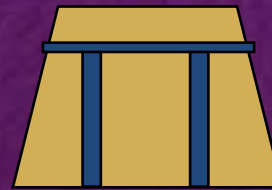
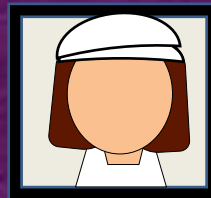
Aaron and his sons were set apart to the priesthood and were given the other sons of Levi to assist them in the movement and functions of the tabernacle.

Kohathites—transported on shoulder all the artifacts within the Tabernacle--



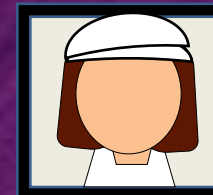
Descendants of Merari

Descendants of Gershon



Moses and Aaron and Family

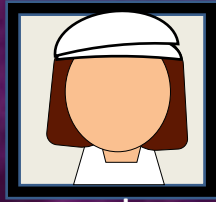
Descendants of Kohath



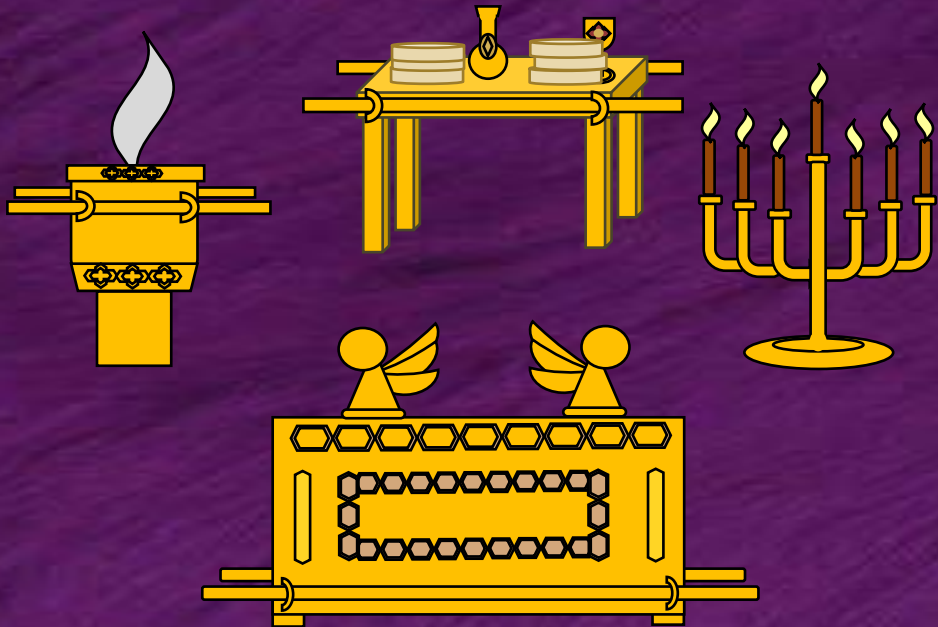


# Special Duties

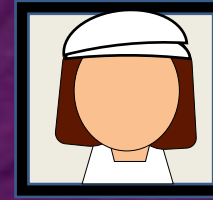
The men were washed, shaved, dressed in clean clothes, and consecrated for transporting the Tabernacle



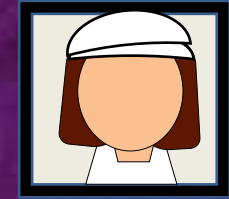
Kohathites—transport on shoulder all the artifacts within the Tabernacle--



Before the items were taken out of the Tabernacle only Aaron and priests could enter and then cover the sacred pieces to be transported.



Gershonites—transport the curtain

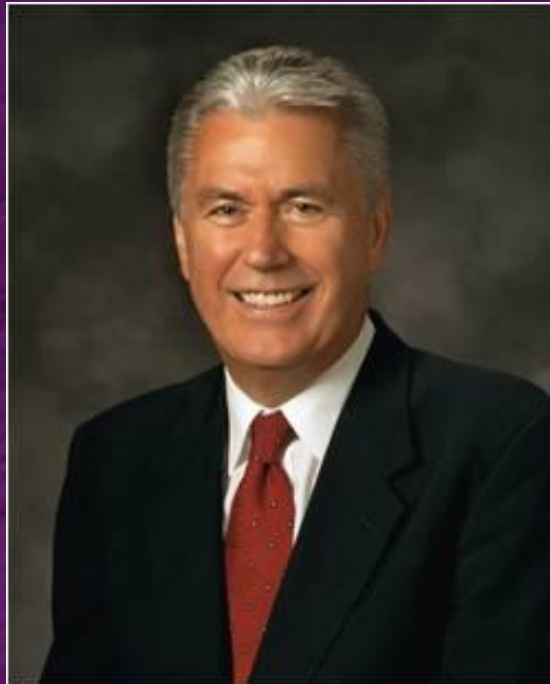
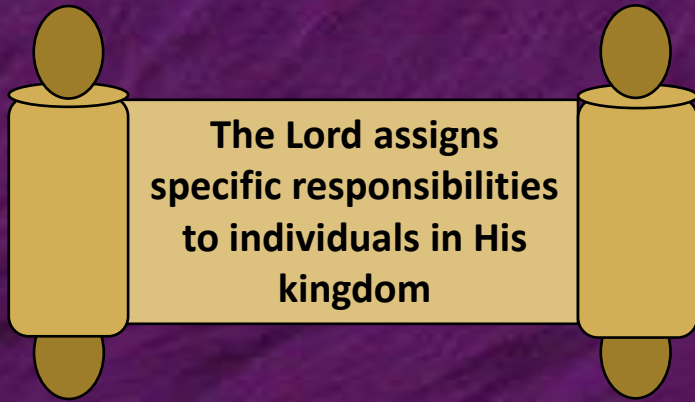


Merarites—transport boards, bars, sockets and pillars.



## The Gift

Because these items were so heavy the tribal leaders of Israel came forward with 6 covered wagons and 12 oxen. These wagons carried the tent and frame. The Kohathites were to carry the sacred items on their shoulders.



“The Lord organized the Church in a way that offers each member an opportunity for service, which, in turn, leads to personal spiritual growth. ...

“You may feel that there are others who are more capable or more experienced who could fulfill your callings and assignments better than you can, but the Lord gave you your responsibilities for a reason.

There may be people and hearts only you can reach and touch. Perhaps no one else could do it in quite the same way” (5)

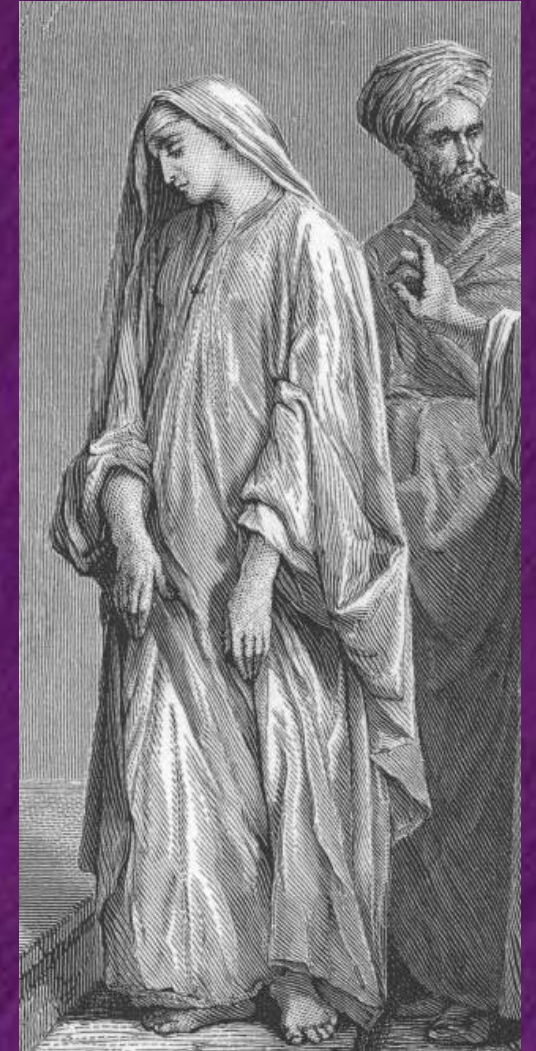
# Separation—Defile Not the Camp

Those with leprosy or sunning sores were not allowed to march or camp with the rest of Israel.

They were to be put out of the camp=only separate from the main body, not a total rejection or abandonment.



Men and women were also separated from the main body of the camp if they had issues with adultery or any sin.



# Separation Today

Those with contagious diseases are put in quarantine



Spiritual Separation- Those who have broken their covenants:

Murder=excommunication

The law of chastity = the Church leader may-especially in cases of adultery, fornication, or homosexuality-convene a disciplinary council to help the transgressor through repentance and to protect the integrity of the Church. Depending on the offense and the spiritual maturity of the offender, a disciplinary council may excommunicate, disfellowship, place on probation, or exonerate the person.

Other sins=non participation in church services, depending upon the sin and the bishop's judgement

# Nazarite Vow

Nothing to do with the town of Nazareth

A Nazarite was a man or woman who took a voluntary vow to separate his life for the service of the Lord, or to live consecrated unto Him. (8)



Nazarite—3 vows (covenant or promise):

Abstain absolutely from wine or strong drink, including any products of the vine in any form.

Would not let a razor touch his head, but would let his hair grow naturally as a crown to God.

Would not allow himself to draw near a dead person, even a member of his own family.



***"Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'If a man or woman wants to make a special vow, a vow of dedication to the LORD as a Nazirite, ... Numbers 6:2***

# Those Who Took Nazarite Vow

His life and all his efforts were completely and expressly dedicated to the Lord:

Those who seem to have take such vows, or had parents who made the vows for them:



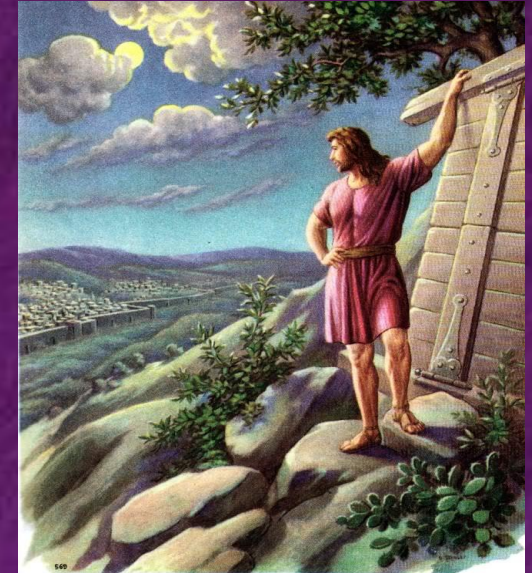
Paul (Acts 18:18)



John the Baptist (Luke 1:15)



Samuel (1 Samuel 1:11, 28)



Samson (Judges 13:5)

# Prince—Leader of the Tribe

## Dedication at the altar:

- 1 silver charger of 130 shekels (3.25 lbs.)
- 1 silver bowl of 70 shekels full of flour mingled with oil
- 1 golden spoon of 10 shekels of incense
- 1 young bullock
- 1 ram
- 1 lamb (1<sup>st</sup> yearling) for burnt offering
- 1 kid for sin offering
- 2 oxen, 5 ram, 5 he goats, and 5 lambs (1<sup>st</sup> yearling) for a peace offering

## Total:

- 12 silver chargers—weight 2,400 shekels (60 lbs. or 27.22 kilograms)
- 12 golden spoons—weight 120 shekels (3 lbs. or 1.361 kilograms)
- 12 oxen, rams, lambs, goats

## Total Offerings:

- 24 bullocks
- 60 rams, he goat, lambs all dedicated at the altar



Day 1

Tribe of Judah  
Nahshon



Day 3

Tribe of Zebulun  
Eliab



Day 5

Tribe of Simeon  
Shelumiel



Day 7

Tribe of Ephraim  
Elishama



Day 10

Tribe of Dan  
Ahiezer



Day 11

Tribe of Asher  
Pagiel



Day 2

Tribe of Issachar  
Nethaneel



Day 4

Tribe of Reuben  
Elizar



Day 6

Tribe of Gad  
Eliasaph



Day 8

Tribe of Manasseh  
Gamaliel



Day 9

Tribe of Benjamin  
Abidan



Day 12

Tribe of Naphtali  
Ahira

# The Levites Are Consecrated

The Levites are washed clean upon entering into their service in the Tabernacle.

People laid hands upon the priest, who were then set apart for his service.

This could mean that they were symbolically sustained to become the representative before the Lord.

“Over against the Candlestick”

Hebrew: its light illuminated whatever was on the opposite side of the room.





# Aaronic VS Levitical

The Aaronic Priesthood is sometimes called the lesser priesthood.

The fact that it is called the lesser priesthood does not diminish at all the importance of the Aaronic Priesthood.

It is a matter of designating duties; it is all one priesthood.

Aaronic-- The Preparatory Priesthood:

Within the tribe, only Aaron and his sons could hold the office of priest. (10)

Today: It prepares young men to hold the higher priesthood, for missions, and for temple marriage.



The Aaronic Priesthood is also called the Levitical Priesthood. The word *Levitical* comes from the name Levi, one of the twelve sons of Israel. Moses and Aaron, who were brothers, were Levites.



Levitical--*presiding* and administrative responsibility. They were put in charge of the ceremonies of the tabernacle, including the Mosaic law of sacrifice.

# Priests VS Levites

The priests could offer sacrifices for the people, burn incense on the altar, and teach the law

The other Levites were employed in more menial tasks, such as the housekeeping of the tabernacle, keeping oil in the lamps, transporting the Ark of the Covenant, taking down and setting up the tabernacle when moving, and related tasks in assisting the priests



The Aaronic (or Levitical) Priesthood thus functioned only within the tribe of Levi, and the right to have it conferred upon one was determined by lineage and worthiness.

The lineal restrictions of that Aaronic (Levitical) Priesthood were lifted when the law of Moses was fulfilled, and thereafter the offices of the priesthood were conferred upon worthy men without limitation to the tribe of Levi.

# Passover

It is the oldest of the Jewish festivals, celebrating an event in advance of receiving the traditional Mosaic Law.

It reminds every generation of the return of the children of Israel to the promised land and of the great travail in Egypt which preceded it.

It commemorates the passage of a people from subjection and bondage to freedom and deliverance.



The Last Feast:

By that final week of His mortal ministry, Jesus knew clearly what this particular Passover would mean to him.

Jesus sat down with his disciples and, after the eating of the sacrificial lamb and of the bread and wine of this ancient feast, he taught them a newer and holier meaning of that ancient blessing from God.

# The Cloud—Divine Protection

The Law of the Lord concerning the movement of the camp of Israel

Since the cloud of smoke and fire was a visible sign of God's presence, Israel learned to literally follow the Lord.



They made camp, broke camp, traveled, and performed their services at the command of the Lord—the Hebrew reads, “at the mouth of Jehovah.”

In very deed they were schooled to follow Jehovah, who has ever directed His church and kingdom, and yet many of them did not transfer the meaning from this miraculous physical demonstration to its more important spiritual corollary.

# The Trumpet

Beaten or Hammered Silver



To call the general assembly

To assemble the princes or tribal leaders

To sound the signal for breaking camp

To sound an alarm for war

To announce the days of celebration and gladness

To announce solemn feasts days

To announce the start of offering and sacrifices at the beginning of each month

Sources:

Suggested Hymn: #6 *Redeemer of Israel*

Video: *Dare to Stand Alone* (4:20) 

1. Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa *Talk Thru the Bible* p.28
2. Old Testament Institute Manual (Enrichment Section E)
3. W. Cleon Skousen *The Third Thousand Years* p. 363
4. Josephus (Flavius Josephus) Translated by William Whiston. A.M. 3.12.4 p. 116
5. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf (“Lift Where You Stand,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2008, 56).
6. Clarke, Bible Commentary, 1:631. Found in Old Testament Institute Manual
7. Christensen, BRYCE J (BYU.ed) Chastity, Law of...Encyclopedia of Mormonism Harold B. Lee Collections
8. Keil and Delitzsch, Commentary, 1:3:34. Found in Old Testament Institute Manual
9. Elder Boyd K. Packer The Aaronic Priesthood Oct. 1981 Gen. Conf.
10. Bible Dictionary
11. President Howard W. Hunter Christ, Our Passover April 1985 Gen. Conf.

# The Book of Numbers

Bible Dictionary

Chapters 1-12	Chapters 13-20	Chapter 21-36
Old Generation Organization and Preparation to leave Mt. Sinai	Transition to Kadesh-barnea—drawing back in unbelief—brings God’s discipline Wilderness	New Generation Move to Plains of Moab—east of Promised Land Reorganization of Israel Regulations (offerings and Vows) Conquest and Division of Israel

Numbers 1-2	Numbers 3-4	Numbers 5	Numbers 6	Numbers 7	Numbers 8	Numbers 9	Numbers 10
Organization of Israel (Tribes)	Organization of Priests	Sanctification of Israel	Nazarite Vow	Worship and Donations	Levites Consecrated	Passover	Guidance of the Cloud and Silver Trumpets
<i>First Census Arrangement of Camp</i>	<i>Census of the Levites The Family of Aaron Ministry of Levites Census of Gershon, Kohath, Merari</i>	<i>Separation of Unclean persons, sinful persons, and infidelity</i>	<i>Consecration of oneself.  Three vows  Separation from vow</i>	<i>Princes of Israel make offerings.  Moses and the mercy seat.</i>	<i>Washing and anointing.  First-born of family.  Spiritual gifts to Aaron and sons</i>	<i>Reminder keep the Passover A cloud rests upon the tabernacle by day and by night, plus a fire by night. When the cloud rests, Israel camps; when it lifts, they journey.</i>	<i>Call to assemble Cloud taken and Israel marches forth in order of tribes.  The ark leads the way. (goes before them)</i>

**Numbers 5: Leprosy:** “The expulsion mentioned here was founded, 1. On a pure *physical* reason, viz., the diseases were *contagious*, and therefore there was a necessity of putting those afflicted by them apart, that the infection might not be communicated. 2. There was also a *spiritual* reason; the camp was the habitation of *God*, and nothing impure should be permitted to remain where he dwelt.”

**Sexual Sin:**  
The eternal consequences of moral sin are tragic. Anyone choosing to embrace immoral thoughts and deeds instead of hearkening to the Savior’s commandments is to be barred from his kingdom.  
“Because sexual intimacy is so sacred, the Lord requires self-control and purity before marriage as well as full fidelity after marriage. Never treat your date [or spouse] as an object to be used for your own lustful desires or ego. ...  
In marriage, infidelity often dooms a relationship and leads to the spiritual destruction of the one who has been unfaithful. Unchastity before marriage naturally undermines the confidence of a potential partner, raising unsettling emotional and physical concerns—such as the possibility of dangerous diseases—along with the basic question of trustworthiness. Marital fidelity begins not with the making of the vows on the day of the wedding, but in our hearts long before we reach the altar.  
Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery July 1994 Ensign  
By W. Jeffrey Marsh

**Nazarite Vow Separation:**  
Some took the Nazarite vows for life, but more often they were for a specific period of time, after which the person returned to a normal life. Two instances: Acts 18:18-19 and 21:23-26. Once a person is finished, they bring to the priest:  
1 he lamb= burnt offering ( 1<sup>st</sup> year, unblemished)  
1 ewe= sin offering (1<sup>st</sup> year, unblemished)  
1 ram=peace offering (unblemished)  
Basket of unleavened bread mingled with oil=meat offering and a drink offering.  
  
They shave their hair at the door of the tabernacle and burn it with the peace offering. The priest takes the sodden shoulder of the Ram, 1 unleavened cake, 1 unleavened wafer and put it in hands of the Nazarite for a wave offering and then they drink wine for their separation.  
Numbers 6:13-21

**The Aaronic Priesthood:**  
Although the Aaronic Priesthood is conferred in the Church today without restriction to the lineage of Aaron, the keys of this priesthood rightly belong to the firstborn of the seed of Aaron, and in the restoration of all things the office of bishop (president of the priests) will once again be conferred on one of that lineage, as it is designated by revelation to the president of the Church (D&C 84:14–21; 107:13–17) Bible Dictionary

**Passover** is linked with the Christian observance of Easter which we celebrate this weekend in this great conference of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Passover in the Old Testament and Easter in the New Testament testify of the great gift God has given and of the sacrifice that was involved in its bestowal. Both of these great religious commemorations declare that death would “pass over” us and could have no permanent power upon us, and that the grave would have no victory.  
This is the majesty of the Atonement and Resurrection, not just a Passover from death, but a gift of eternal life by an infinite sacrifice. (11)

**Nazarite:**  
The Nazarite vow is always referred to in the scripture as a vow of limited duration, never for life unless commanded by the Lord as with Samson and Samuel. It is obvious that the Lord never intended that groups of people in a state of “separation” or as Nazarites should band together and become a monastic order. Yet this is what happened during the period of Israel’s apostasy.  
“From the Nazarites sprang the Rechabites, from the Rechabites the Essenes, from the Essenes, the Anchorites or Hermits, and in imitation of these, the different (Christian) meaning (“the pious one”) which produced the “Dead Sea Scrolls.” (Dr. Adam Clarke Bible Commentary, Vol. 1 p. 634)  
The Third Thousand Years by W. Cleon Skousen p. 368