

February 4

Numbers 3:1-13; 8:1-22; 7

### Choice of the tribe of Levi

This is very important! For the rest of time, the Levites will serve before the Lord. They will not have land as an inheritance. They will have cities that will be places of refuge. But I always wondered "Why the tribe of Levi?" "Is it because they had such great Genes?" :)

Three Reasons:

- 1) Smallest and easiest to support of the tribes
- 2) They were the ones who demonstrated loyalty to God by punishing the Golden Calf worshippers
- 3) Moses and Aaron tribe. Sure, pick your own tribe. Actually, God had already picked them, so they were just taking the next logical step.

Chapter 7 is the longest chapter in the Pentateuch (that's a bit of trivia that not many other Bible students will know) and without question it is the most repetitive. Now I think we need to ask a pretty simple question here. Why would the Lord want Moses to repeat the same six verses word for word, with the exception of the name and tribe, 12 different times?

I cannot be dogmatic about this, but perhaps my suggestion of an abbreviated version of the gift list would have had one major disadvantage: my way of lumping all the gifts together would have the tendency of deemphasizing the value and significance of each man's gift. And that is something that God will never do. It makes the chapter a great deal longer - and to be honest, a whole lot more boring - but it emphasizes a very important fact: God takes very special notice of every single thing you do and give for Him. The gifts were identical, but each man's gift is duly noted and recorded.

The Bible says that God keeps an accurate and detailed record of everything we do for Him and give to Him. Christianity is a religion of grace. So you cannot earn salvation by giving him gifts, but you can earn rewards in heaven by the things that you do. Jesus was very clear about this! So, the gifts that you bring in this life matter for your for eternity! Whatever you give to Him, whatever you do for Him, He knows, He remembers – and guess what - it counts!

Now, God doesn't need our gifts – (what does God need that we could bring Him?) - but He loves a cheerful giver. You need to give gifts more than God needs to receive them! God knows that your heart is molded by the gifts you bring. This account also underscores the fact that each tribe, by bringing their gift, is acknowledging the importance of worship in their lives. Worship in Israel was the central thing. It had the center place. The worship of God was that thing around which all the rest of their lives revolved.

The order in which tribes appear to offer their gifts corresponds to the marching order of the nation when the cloud moved and the camp was broken.

It is no accident that the chapter ends with Moses talking to God in the Tent of Meeting - that name, by the way, has now been applied to the Tabernacle. The presence of the Lord was between the cherubim above the Mercy Seat. Israel worshipped God in a manner that pleased Him and He fellowshiped with them. That is the pattern.

So let me ask you a couple of questions before I leave you today. First, what is your pattern of worship? Is it central to your life? Are you meeting with God personally and vibrantly, and regularly? Are you participating in corporate worship, most likely a church service, every week? Your soul needs it and your well being hangs in the balance.

The other question is about your giving patterns. Are you giving generously, joyfully and sacrificially? It is not so much that God needs your money as that he knows that you need to become a giver in order to experience his full life.

Think on that today.

This is Mark Ashton reminding you that people do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4 - and this is project 4:4 - digesting every word of the mouth of God. Peace be with you.