

**God Is Government**

**Isaiah 33:22**

**“For the LORD is our judge, the  
LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is  
our KING; he will save us.”**

**TEACHINGS OF YESHUA HAMASHIACH  
BIBLICAL AND WORLD HISTORY MASTERCLASS**

**A Study of The BOOK of NUMBERS**

**Chapters 3 & 4**

**March 10, 2024**

Num 3:1 These also are the generations (Gen 2:4, Gen 5:1, Gen 10:1; Exo 6:16, Exo 6:20; Mat 1:1) of Aaron and Moses in the day that the LORD spake (Num 1:1; Lev 25:1, Lev 27:34) with Moses in mount Sinai.

Num 3:2 And these are the names of the sons of Aaron; Nadab the firstborn, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar. (Num 26:60; Exo 6:23, Exo 28:1; 1Ch 6:3, 1Ch 24:1)

Num 3:3 These are the names of the sons of Aaron, the priests (Exo 28:41, Exo 40:13, Exo 40:15; Lev 8:2, Lev 8:12, Lev 8:30 which were anointed, whom he (Heb. whose hand he filled, Exo 29:1-37; Lev. 8:1-9:24; Heb 7:28) consecrated to minister in the priest's office.

Aaron, the high priest, had four sons who were to assist him and succeed him in the sacred office. Since only Aaron and his direct descendants could serve as priest (Exodus 28:1, 29:9, 40:15) it was impossible for them to attend to all Israel's religious needs by themselves. So, the entire tribe of Levi was selected to undertake religious responsibilities short of actual priestly ministry. Since Aaron was a Levite, this meant that all the priests were Levites but not all the Levites were priests. There were other priests in the land. Jacob tithed to priests in Genesis prior to the Exodus.

Num 3:4 And Nadab (Num 26:61; Lev 10:1-2) and Abihu died before the LORD, when they offered strange fire before the LORD, in the wilderness of Sinai, and they had no children: and Eleazar and Ithamar ministered in the priest's office in the sight of Aaron their father.

Two of these four, Nadab and Abihu, died as the result of an arrogant deviation from authorized priestly procedure (Lev 10:1-2). [Good intentions are not enough (David's relocating the Ark of the Covenant: 2 Samuel 6:1).] This left the other two sons of Aaron, Eleazar and Ithamar, who served with their father.

*“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”* Romans 15:4

Good intentions are not sufficient:

- Nadab and Abihu's fire (Numbers 3:4)
- David's relocation of the Ark (2 Samuel 6:1)

Num 3:5 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 3:6 Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister unto him. (The word hakraiv, here rendered bring near, is properly a sacrificial word, and signifies the presenting of a sacrifice or offering to the Lord. As an offering, the tribe of Levi was entirely given up to the service of the sanctuary, to be no longer their own, but the Lord's. Num 1:49-53, Num 2:17, Num 2:33, Num 8:6-15, Num 8:22-26, Num 16:9-11, Num 18:2-6; Exo 32:26-29; Deu 33:8-9; Mal 2:4)

Num 3:7 And they shall keep (Num 3:32, Num 8:26, Num 31:30; 1Ch 23:28-32, 1Ch 26:20, 1Ch 26:22, 1Ch 26:26) his charge, and the charge of the whole congregation before the tabernacle of the congregation, to do (Num 1:50, Num 8:11, Num 8:15, Num 8:24-26) the service of the tabernacle.

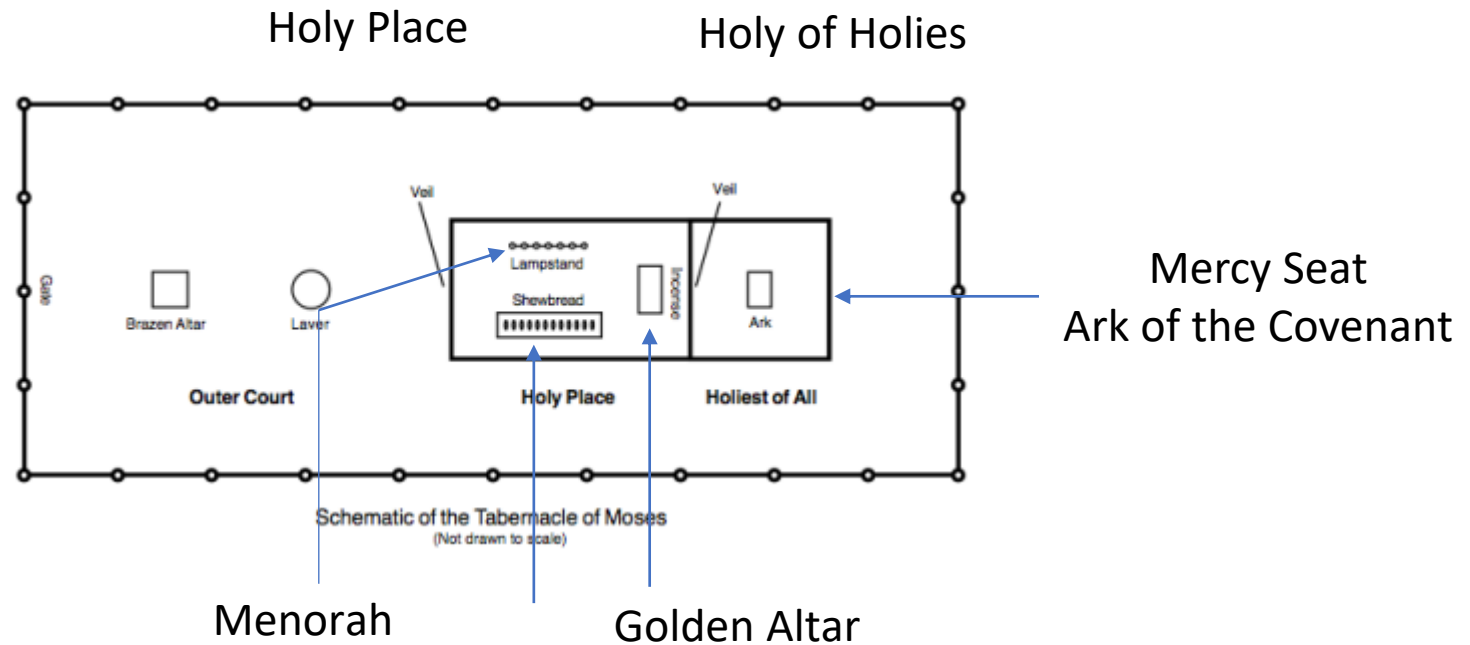
Num 3:8 And they shall keep all the instruments of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the charge of the children of Israel, to do the service of the tabernacle. (Num 4:15, Num 4:28, Num 4:33, Num 10:17, Num 10:21; 1Ch 26:20-28; Eze 8:24-30; Isa 52:11)

## THE TABERNACLE: “THE HOUSE OF BLOOD”

- In addition to the famed Two Tablets of the Law, Moses also received a set of engineering specifications for a portable sanctuary.
- The Scriptures devote more space to the description of the Tabernacle than any other single subject.
  
- The Structure – Exodus
- The Furniture – Exodus
- The Priesthood – Exodus
- The Offerings - Leviticus

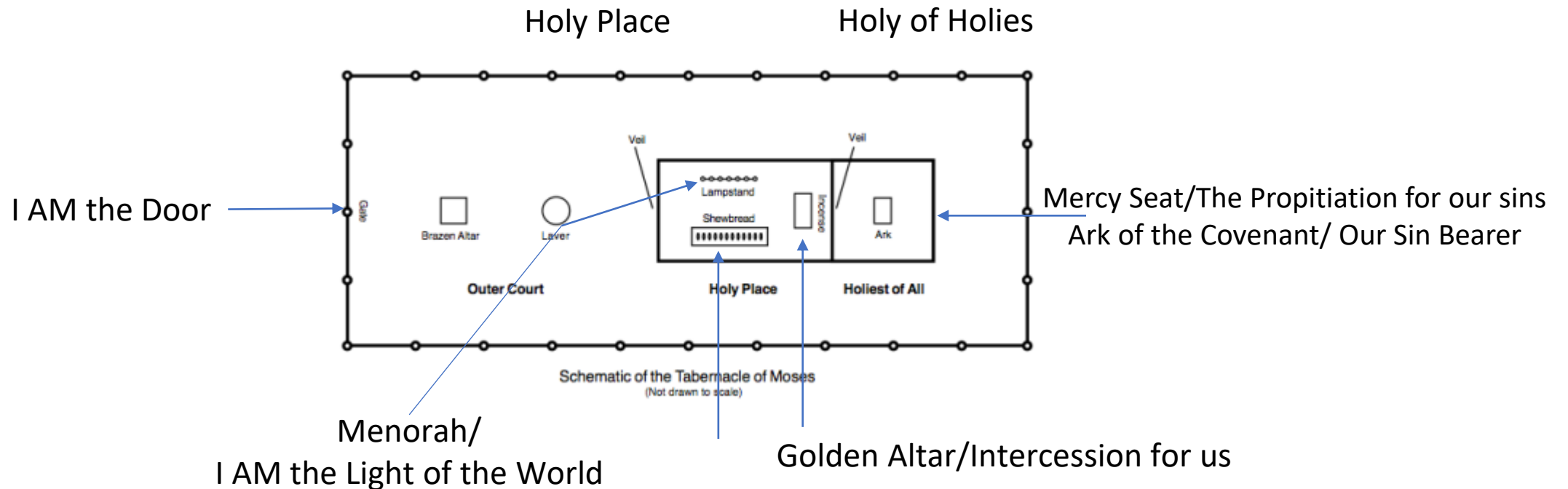
## THE TABERNACLE: "THE HOUSE OF BLOOD"

*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt [tabernacle] among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. - John 1:14*



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## THE TABERNACLE: “THE HOUSE OF BLOOD”

### Material Symbolism

- Brass Fire, Judgment
- Gold Deity
- Silver Blood
  - Silver Redemption Shekel
  - 30 pieces of betrayal silver

### The Coverings

- Porpoise Skins
- Ram’s Skins (dyed red)
- Goat’s Hair (Sin Bearer)
- Embroidered Linen – Cherubim (gold, purple, blue, scarlet)



Num 3:11 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 3:12 And I, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that openeth the matrix among the children of Israel: therefore the Levites shall be mine; (When God miraculously destroyed all the first-born of the Egyptians (Exo 12:29), he spared those of the Israelites; and, in commemoration of that event, he was pleased to appoint that all the first-born males "should be set apart unto himself" (Exo 13:12-16). God is here pleased to relinquish this claim, and to appoint the whole tribe of Levi to attend his immediate service in their stead. Num 3:41, Num 3:45, Num 8:16, Num 8:18, Num 18:6)

Num 3:13 Because (Num 8:16-17, Num 18:15; Exo 13:2, Exo 13:12, Exo 22:29, Exo 34:19; Lev 27:26; Eze 44:30; Luk 2:23; Heb 12:23) all the firstborn are mine; for on the day (Exo 12:29-30, Exo 13:15) that I smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hallowed unto me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast: mine shall they be: I am the LORD.

The reason for the selection of the tribe of Levi is reviewed here. Since the Lord had spared the firstborn of Israel's children and animals in the 10<sup>th</sup> plague. He now had claim on the firstborn as His own possession. In lieu of the firstborn, however, the tribe of Levi was substituted (see comments on Exodus 13:1-16). The implementation of this principle of substitution is described in Numbers 3:40-51.

Num 3:14 And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, saying,

Num 3:15 Number the children of Levi after the house of their fathers, by their families: every male from a month old and upward shalt thou number them. (Num 3:22, Num 3:28, Num 3:34, Num 3:39-40, Num 3:43, Num 18:15-16, Num 26:62; Pro 8:17; Jer 2:2, Jer 31:3; Mar 10:14; 2Ti 3:15)

Num 3:16 And Moses numbered them according to the word (Heb. mouth, Num 3:39, Num 3:51, Num 4:27, Num 4:37, Num 4:41, Num 4:45, Num 4:49; Gen 45:21; Deu 21:5) of the LORD, as he was commanded.

The Levites were also numbered in preparation for their order of encampment and service. All the males a month old or more must be tallied (v 15).

Num 3:17 And these were the sons of Levi by their names; Gershon (Num 15:5-23, Num 23:6-23, 24:1-26:65; Neh. 11:1-12:47), and Kohath, and Merari. (Num 26:57-58; Gen 46:11; Exo 6:16-19; Jos 21:1-45; 1Ch 6:1-2, 1Ch 6:16-19)

Num 3:18 And these are the names of the sons of Gershon by their families; Libni, and Shimei. (Num 3:21; Exo 6:17-19; 1Ch 6:17, 1Ch 6:20-21, 1Ch 23:7-11, 1Ch 25:4, 1Ch 26:1-32; Neh 12:1-26)

Num 3:19 And the sons of Kohath by their families; Amram, and Izehar, Hebron, and Uzziel. (Num 3:27; Exo 6:18, Exo 6:20; 1Ch 6:18, 1Ch 6:38, 1Ch 15:5, 1Ch 15:8-10, 1Ch 15:17-21, 1Ch 23:12-13, 1Ch 23:18-20; 1Ch 25:4, 1Ch 26:1-32; Neh 12:1-26)

Num 3:20 And the sons of Merari by their families; Mahli, and Mushi. These are the families of the Levites according to the house of their fathers. (Num 3:33; Exo 6:19; 1Ch 6:19, 1Ch 6:29, 1Ch 6:44-47, 1Ch 15:6, 1Ch 23:21-23, 1Ch 24:27-30, 1Ch 25:3)

They were divided into three clans according to their affiliation with the three sons of Levi – Gershon, Kohath, and Merari (v.17). The Gershonites were subdivided into the Libnites and Shimeites who together numbered 7,500 males (v. 21-22).

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 3:18)

Num 3:22 Those that were numbered of them, according to the number of all the males, from a month old (The males of all the other tribes were numbered from twenty years old and upwards; but, had the Levites been numbered in this way, they would not have been nearly equal in number to the first-born of the twelve tribes. Add to this, that as there must have been first-born of all ages in the other tribes, it was necessary that the Levites, who were to be their substitutes, should also be of all ages; and it appears to have been partly on this ground, that the Levites were numbered from a month old and upwards. Num 4:38-40) and upward, even those that were numbered of them were seven thousand and five hundred.

Num 3:23 The families of the Gershonites shall pitch behind the tabernacle westward. (Num 1:53, Num 2:17)

Num 3:24 And the chief of the house of the father of the Gershonites shall be Eliasaph the son of Lael (i.e. unto, by, because of God, [H3815]. Num3 :24).

Num 3:25 And the charge (From this and the next chapter, we see the very severe labour which the Levites were to perform, while the journeyings of the Israelites lasted. When we consider, that there was not less than 14 tons 266 lbs. of metal employed in the tabernacle (see note on Exo\_38:24), besides the immense weight of the skins, hangings, cords, boards, and posts, we shall find it was no easy matter to transport this moveable temple from place to place. The Gershonites, who were 7,500 in number had to carry the tent, coverings, vail, hangings of the court, cords, etc. (Num 3:25 and Num 3:26); the Kohathites, who were 8,600, the ark, table, candlestick, altars, and instruments of the sanctuary (Num 3:31); and the Merarites, who were 6,200, the boards, bars, sockets, and all matters connected with these belonging to the tabernacle, with the pillars of the court, their sockets, pins, and cords (Num 3:36 and Num 3:37). Num 3:7, Num 4:24-28, Num 7:7, Num 10:17; 1Ch 9:14-33, 1Ch 23:32, 1Ch 26:21-22; 2Ch 31:2, 2Ch 31:11-18; Ezr 8:28-30; Mar 13:34; Rom 12:6-8; Col 4:17; 1Ti 1:18) of the sons of Gershon in the tabernacle of the congregation shall be the tabernacle, and (Exo 25:9, Exo 26:1-14, Exo 36:8-19, Exo 40:19) the tent, the covering thereof, and the hanging (Exo 26:36-37, Exo 36:37-38, Exo 40:28) for the door of the tabernacle of the congregation,

Num 3:26 And the hangings (Exo 27:9-16, Exo 38:9-16) of the court, and the curtain for the door of the court, which is by the tabernacle, and by the altar round about, and the cords (Exo 35:18) of it for all the service thereof.

The Gershonites camped on the west and were responsible for the care of the tabernacle cloths, hides, and curtains including the curtain that surrounded the outer courtyard

Num 3:27 And of Kohath was the family of the Amramites, and the family of the Izeharites, and the family of the Hebronites, and the family of the Uzzielites: these are the families of the Kohathit. (Num 3:19; 1Ch 23:12, 1Ch 26:23)

Num 3:28 In the number of all the males, from a month old and upward, were eight thousand (Num 4:35-36) and six hundred, keeping (Num 3:7, Num 3:31) the charge of the sanctuary.

Num 3:29 The families of the sons of Kohath shall pitch on the side of the tabernacle southward. (Num 3:23, Num 1:53, Num 2:10)

Amram was the father of Aaron and Moses (26:58-59, Exodus 6:16-20)

Num 3:30 And the chief of the house of the father of the families of the Kohathites shall be Elizaphan the son of Uzziel.

Num 3:31 And their charge shall be the ark (Num 4:4-16; Exo 25:10-40, 31:1-35:29, Exo 37:1-24, Exo 39:33-42, Exo 40:2-16, Exo 40:30), and the table, and the candlestick, and the altars (Exo 27:1-8, Exo 30:1-10, Exo 37:25-29, Exo 38:1-7), and the vessels of the sanctuary wherewith they minister, and the hanging (Exo 26:31-33, Exo 36:35-36), and all the service thereof.

To the Kohathites, who camped on the south, fell the responsibility for the tabernacle's holy objects (Numbers 3:31). Their leader was Eleazar, son of Aaron, the high priest (v. 32).

Num 3:32 And Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest shall be chief over the chief of the Levites, and have the oversight of them that keep the charge of the sanctuary. (Num 4:16, Num 4:27, Num 20:25-28; 2Ki 25:18; 1Ch 9:14-20, 1Ch 26:20-24)

Num 3:33 Of Merari was the family of the Mahlites, and the family of the Mushites: these are the families of Merari. (Num 3:20; 1Ch 6:19, 1Ch 23:21)

Num 3:34 And those that were numbered of them, according to the number of all the males, from a month old and upward, were six thousand and two hundred. (Num 1:21, Num 2:9, Num 2:11)

Num 3:35 And the chief of the house of the father of the families of Merari was Zuriel the son of Abihail: these shall (Num 3:28-29, Num 1:53) pitch on the side of the tabernacle northward (Num 2:25).



Num 3:36 And under the custody and charge (Heb. the office of the charge, the boards. Num 4:29-33, Num 7:8; Exo 26:15-29, Exo 26:32, Exo 26:37, Exo 27:9-19, Exo 35:11, Exo 35:18, Exo 36:20-34, Exo 36:36; Exo 38:17-20, Exo 39:33) of the sons of Merari shall be the boards of the tabernacle, and the bars thereof, and the pillars thereof, and the sockets thereof, and all the vessels thereof, and all that serveth thereto,

Num 3:37 And the pillars of the court round about, and their sockets, and their pins, and their cords.

The Merarites camped on the north side. They were put in charge of the wooden framework of the tabernacle and all the fastenings and other gear related to the framework.

Num 3:38 But those that encamp before the tabernacle toward (Num 3:23, Num 3:29, Num 3:35, Num 1:53, Num 2:3) the east, even before the tabernacle of the congregation eastward, shall be Moses, and Aaron and his sons, keeping (Num 3:10, Num 18:1-5; 1Ch 6:48-49) the charge of the sanctuary for the charge (Num 3:7-8, Num 3:10) of the children of Israel; and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

Num 3:39 All that were numbered of the Levites, which Moses and Aaron numbered at the commandment of the LORD, throughout their families, all the males from a month old and upward, were twenty and two thousand.

(The word וְאֶהָרֹן, *weaharon*, "and Aaron," has a point over each of its letters, probably designed as a mark of spuriousness. The word is wanting in the Samaritan, Syriac, and Coptic, and also in eight of Dr. Kennicott's and in four of De Rossi's manuscripts. Moses alone, as Houbigant observes, was commanded to number the Levites (Num 3:5, Num 3:11, Num 3:40, Num 3:44, Num 3:51) for as the money with which the first-born were redeemed was to be paid to Aaron and his sons (Num 3:48), it was decent that he, whose advantage it was that the number of the first-born should exceed, should not be authorized to take that number himself. twenty and two thousand. This total does not agree with the particulars; for the Gershonites were 7,500, the Kohathites 8,600, and the Merarites 6,200, which make a total of 22,300. Several methods of solving this difficulty have been proposed by learned men. Houbigant supposes there is an error in the enumeration of the Kohathites in Num 3:28; the numeral shesh, "six," being written instead of shalosh, "three," before "hundred." Dr. Kennicott's mode of reconciling the discrepancy, however, is the most simple. He supposes that an error has crept into the number of the Gershonites in Num 3:22, where instead of 7,500 we should read 7,200, as כפ caph final, which stands for 500, might have been easily mistaken for רש resh, 200 (Dr. Kennicott on the Hebrew Text, vol. II. p. 212). Either of these modes will equally reconcile the difference. Num 4:47-48, Num 26:62; Mat 7:14).

The total number of Levites ... 22,000 whereas the total reached by adding up the figures in verses 22, 28, and 34 is 22,300. The 22,000 figure cannot be a rounded off number since the 22,273 firstborn of Israel outnumbered the Levites by 273 (v.46). The most satisfying solution is to suppose that the excess 300 view themselves the firstborn of the Levites who obviously could not serve to redeem the firstborn of Israel (comments on vv. 40, 51).

Num 3:40 And the LORD said unto Moses, Number all the firstborn of the males of the children of Israel from a month old and upward, and take the number of their names. (Num 3:12, Num 3:15, Num 3:45; Exo 32:26-29; Psa 87:6; Isa 4:3; Luk 10:20; Php 4:3; 2Ti 2:19; Heb 12:23; Rev 3:5, Rev 14:4)

Num 3:41 And thou shalt take the Levites for me (I am the LORD) instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel; and the cattle of the Levites instead of all the firstlings among the cattle of the children of Israel. (Num 3:12, Num 3:45, Num 8:16, Num 18:15; Exo 24:5-6, Exo 32:26-29; Mat 20:28; 1Ti 2:6)

In compensation for His having spared the firstborn ... Males of Israel at the time of the Exodus, the Lord declared that all the firstborn men and animals should belong to Him (see comments on vv. 11-13). This would not involve their deaths, but their lifetime service. A further development of this principle was the arrangement whereby the tribe of Levi would be given in service to the Lord as a substitution for all the firstborn of the other tribes.

Num 3:42 And Moses numbered, as the LORD commanded him, all the firstborn among the children of Israel.

Num 3:43 And all the firstborn males by the number of names, from a month old and upward, of those that were numbered of them, were twenty and two thousand two hundred and threescore and thirteen. (Num 3:39)

The number of Levites to offer this vicarious service was 22,000 (v. 39) whereas the firstborn males in all Israel amounted to 22,273 (v.43). This meant that there were insufficient Levites. Therefore, the 273 firstborn Israelites without Levite redemption had to be redeemed in another way. The solution was to exact five shekels for each of the 273 (v. 47), a total of 1,365 silver two-ounce shekels (more than 170 lbs., worth several thousand dollars in present-day currency).

#### FIRSTBORN MALES

Levites serving: 22,000 3:39

Firstborn males: 22,273 3:43

Redemption req'd: 273

@ 5 Shekels each = 1,365 @ 2 oz. = 170 lbs. of silver

Num 3:44 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 3:45 Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of their cattle; and the Levites shall be mine: I am the LORD. (Num 3:12, Num 3:40-41)

Num 3:46 And for those that are to be redeemed (Num 18:15; Exo 13:13) of the two hundred and threescore and thirteen of the firstborn of the children of Israel, which are (Num 3:39-43) more than the Levites;

**the two hundred:** As the number of the Levites was 22,000, and the first-born males of the Israelites were 22,273, there were therefore 372 more of the latter than of the former, which are here ordered to be redeemed. The price of redemption is fixed at five shekels, or about 15s. each, in Num\_3:47. This money, amounting to 1,365 shekels, equal to £204, 15s English, was taken of the first-born. There is some difficulty, however, in determining which of the first-born should be redeemed by paying this sum, and which should be exchanged for the Levites; for every Israelite, no doubt, would rather have his first-born redeemed by a Levite, than pay five shekels; and yet some of them must have incurred this expense. Rabbi Solomon Jarchi says, to prevent contention, Moses took 22,000 slips of parchment, and wrote on each a son of Levi, and 273 more, on which he wrote five shekels; then putting them in an urn, and shaking them together, he ordered every one of the first-born to draw out a slip. If he drew out one with the first inscription, he said to him, a Levite hath redeemed thee, but if he drew out one of the latter, he said, pay the price. This is pronounced by Dr. A. Clarke to be a stupid, silly tale; but when we know that the determination by lot was used among the Israelites, it does not seem improbable that it was now resorted to, though we cannot vouch for the accuracy of the detail. This species of redeeming men is referred to by St. Peter in his 1st Epistle 1Pe\_1:18-19.

The firstborn of Israel most likely refer's only to those who were born after the tribe of Levi was established as a sacerdotal unit. The original statement concerning the firstborn ( Exodus 13:11-13) clearly indicates that the implementation of the command was no retroactive to the Exodus but would come into effect in the future. Only the firstborn males who were born between the time of the Exodus and the setting apart of Levi about two years later (Numbers 1:1) could be counted. So, a total of 22,273 would be inline for that period of time since there could hardly be more than that number of families that would give birth to their first sons during that time.

Num 3:47 Thou shalt even take five shekels (Num 18:16; Lev 27:6) apiece by the poll, after the shekel (Num 3:50; Exo 30:13; Lev 27:25; Eze 45:12) of the sanctuary shalt thou take them: (the shekel is twenty gerahs:)

Num 3:48 And thou shalt give the money, wherewith the odd number of them is to be redeemed, unto Aaron and to his sons.

Num 3:49 And Moses took the redemption money of them that were over and above them that were redeemed by the Levites:

Num 3:50 Of the firstborn of the children of Israel took he the money; a thousand three hundred and threescore and five shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary: (Num 3:46-47; Mat 20:28; 1Ti 2:5-6; Tit 2:14; Heb 9:12; 1Pe 1:18, 1Pe 3:18)

Num 3:51 And Moses (Num 3:48, Num 16:15; 1Sa 12:3-4; Act 20:33; 1Co 9:12; 1Pe 5:2) gave the money of them that were redeemed unto Aaron and to his sons, according to the word of the LORD (Mal 4:4), as the LORD commanded Moses.



Num 4:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

Num 4:2 Take the sum of the sons of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, after their families, by the house of their fathers, (Num 3:19, Num 3:27)

Num 4:3 From thirty years (Num 8:24-26; Gen 41:46; 1Ch 23:3, 1Ch 23:24-27, 1Ch 28:12-13; Luk 3:23; 1Ti 3:6) old and upward even until fifty years old, all that enter (2Ki 11:4-12; 2Ch 23:1-11; 2Co 10:3-4; Eph 6:10-18; 1Ti 1:18) into the host, to do (Num 3:7-8, Num 16:9; 1Ch 6:48, 1Ch 23:4-5, 1Ch 23:28-32; 1Ti 3:1) the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.

For the Levitical ministry described here, a Levite was to be between 30 and 50 years of age. The purpose of counting Levite males from the age of one month and older (3:39-41), then, was purely for the sake of the redemption of the firstborn of Israel. The age of 30 for the minimum age of priestly services was still the custom later (the minimum age of a priest – Christ starting His ministry at the age of 30). However, the Levites could and did serve in various capacities at younger ages (Numbers 8:24)

Num 4:4 This shall be the service of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation, about the most holy things: (Num 4:15, Num 4:19, Num 4:24, Num 4:30, Num 3:30-31; Mar 13:34)

Num 4:5 And when (Num 2:16-17, Num 10:14) the camp setteth forward, Aaron shall come, and his sons, and they shall (Exo 26:31-33, Exo 36:35, Exo 40:3; Isa 25:7; Mat 27:51; Heb 9:3, Heb 10:20) take down the covering vail, and cover (Exo 25:10-22, Exo 37:1-9; 2Sa 6:2-9) the ark of testimony with it:

**Aaron shall come:** The law prohibiting any person, except the high priest on one day in the year, to enter into the most holy place, must have admitted an exception while the Israelites were in the wilderness. That exception, therefore, is here expressly made; and the directions given respecting it must be religiously observed, or the service could not be safely performed. While the cloud rested on the tabernacle, the general rule was in force; but when it was removed, then the priests might enter to prepare the sacred vessels for removal. Num\_4:15, Num\_3:27-32

Num 4:6 And shall put thereon the covering of badgers' skins, and shall spread over it a cloth (Num 4:7-8, Num 4:11-13; Exo 35:19, Exo 39:1, Exo 39:41) wholly of blue, and shall put in the staves (Exo 25:13-15; 1Ki 8:7-8) thereof.

**badgers' skins:** This was not the covering of badgers' skins made for the tabernacle, which was carried by the Gershonites (Num\_4:24 and Num\_4:25), but one made for the purpose of concealing and sheltering the ark when it was to be carried.

**and shall put:** Wesamoo baddaiv, rather, "and adjust the staves thereof;" i.e., dispose them rightly under the covering, that they might be laid on their shoulders. For the staves were never taken out of the rings.

First, the Kohathites were to be employed. To Aaron and his sons fell the awareness task of lowering the veil (the shielding curtain, v. 5) and placing it over the ark along with hides and cloths (vv. 5-6). The reasons were

- a. To guard the holy ark from the gaze of human eyes (v.26)
- b. To protect it from the elements.

The only ones who ever saw the articles were Aaron and his sons. Those articles were carefully covered by Aaron and his sons before the Kohathites came to carry them.

Num 4:7 And upon the table (Exo 25:23-30, Exo 37:10-16; Lev 24:5-8) of shewbread they shall spread a cloth of blue, and put thereon the dishes, and the spoons, and the bowls, and covers to cover withal: and the continual bread shall be thereon:

**cover withal:** or, pour out withal

**the continual:** The Israelites, without doubt, were able to procure corn enough from the adjacent countries, even when in the wilderness, to make the shewbread, and to present the daily meat offerings.

Num 4:8 And they shall spread upon them a cloth of scarlet, and cover the same with a covering of badgers' skins, and shall put in the staves thereof. (Num 4:6-7, Num 4:9, Num 4:11-13)

They were to do the same with the table of showbread (v. 7) with all its vessels the lampstand (v. 9) and all the other articles used in tabernacle worship (v. 12). They were to clean the great bronze altar of burnt offering of its ashes and cover it and its utensils with a cloth and hides (vv. 13-14). TO all these heavy objects Aaron and his sons were to attach the appropriate carrying poles (vv. 6, 8, 11, 14) or frames (vv.10, 12).

Num 4:9 And they shall take a cloth of blue, and cover the candlestick of the light, and his lamps, and his tongs, and his snuffdishes, and all the oil vessels thereof, wherewith they minister unto it: (Exo 25:31-39, Exo 37:17-24; Psa 119:105; Rev 1:20, Rev 2:1)

Num 4:10 And they shall put it and all the vessels thereof within a covering of badgers' skins, and shall put it upon a bar. (Num 4:6, Num 4:12)

Num 4:11 And upon the golden altar they shall spread a cloth of blue, and cover it with a covering of badgers' skins, and shall put to the staves thereof: (Exo 30:1-19, Exo 37:25-28, Exo 39:38, Exo 40:5, Exo 40:26-27)

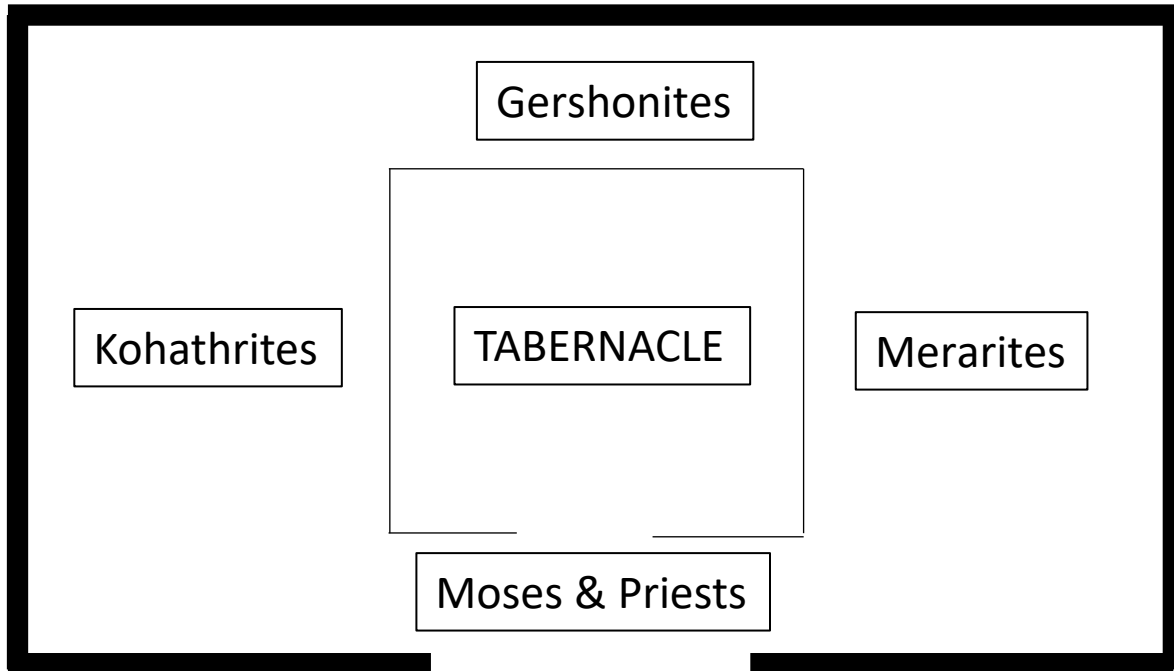
Num 4:12 And they shall take all the instruments of ministry, wherewith they minister in the sanctuary, and put them in a cloth of blue, and cover them with a covering of badgers' skins, and shall put them on a bar: (Num 4:7, Num 4:9, Num 3:8; Exo 25:9, Exo 31:10; 2Ki 25:14-15; 1Ch 9:29; 2Ch 4:11, 2Ch 4:16, 2Ch 4:19, 2Ch 4:22)

Num 4:13 And they shall take away the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth thereon: (Num 4:6-9, Num 4:11-12; Exo 27:3-5, Exo 39:1, Exo 39:41; Lev 6:12-13)

The embers of the sacred fire seem to have been removed in the grate, which was carried apart from the brazen altar; both being covered from view by purple cloths.

Num 4:14 And they shall put upon it all the vessels thereof (Exo 38:1-7; 2Ch 4:19), wherewith they minister about it, even the censers, the fleshhooks, and the shovels, and the basons (or bowls), all the vessels of the altar; and they shall spread upon it a covering of badgers' skins, and put to the staves of it.

Num 4:15 And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that (Num 7:9, Num 10:21; Deu 31:9; Jos 4:10; 2Sa 6:13; 1Ch 15:2, 1Ch 15:15 – what comes next), the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it: but they shall (Num 3:38; Exo 19:12; 1Sa 6:19; 2Sa 6:6-7; 1Ch 13:9-10; Heb 12:18-29) not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These things (Num 3:30-31) are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation.



When all had been prepared by the priests the remaining Levitical Kohathites were to transport the previous named furnishings, being extremely careful not to touch any of the objects lest they die (v. 15); (vv. 19-20).

## Let's Look at David's Error (1 Samuel 6:1-15)

1Sa 6:1 And the ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months.

1Sa 6:2 And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, What shall we do to the ark of the LORD? tell us wherewith we shall send it to his place.

1Sa 6:3 And they said, If ye send away the ark of the God of Israel, send it not empty; but in any wise return him a trespass offering: then ye shall be healed, and it shall be known to you why his hand is not removed from you.

1Sa 6:4 Then said they, What shall be the trespass offering which we shall return to him? They answered, Five golden emerods, and five golden mice, according to the number of the lords of the Philistines: for one plague was on you all, and on your lords.

1Sa 6:5 Wherefore ye shall make images of your emerods, and images of your mice that mar the land; and ye shall give glory unto the God of Israel: peradventure he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land.



## Let's Look at David's Error (1 Samuel 6:1-15)

1Sa 6:6 Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? when he had wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed?

1Sa 6:7 Now therefore make a new cart, and take two milch kine, on which there hath come no yoke, and tie the kine to the cart, and bring their calves home from them:

1Sa 6:8 And take the ark of the LORD, and lay it upon the cart; and put the jewels of gold, which ye return him for a trespass offering, in a coffer by the side thereof; and send it away, that it may go.

1Sa 6:9 And see, if it goeth up by the way of his own coast to Bethshemesh, then he hath done us this great evil: but if not, then we shall know that it is not his hand that smote us: it was a chance that happened to us.

1Sa 6:10 And the men did so; and took two milch kine, and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home:

## Let's Look at David's Error (1 Samuel 6:1-15)

1Sa 6:11 And they laid the ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the coffer with the mice of gold and the images of their emerods.

1Sa 6:12 And the kine took the straight way to the way of Bethshemesh, and went along the highway, lowing as they went, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left; and the lords of the Philistines went after them unto the border of Bethshemesh.

1Sa 6:13 And they of Bethshemesh were reaping their wheat harvest in the valley: and they lifted up their eyes, and saw the ark, and rejoiced to see it.

1Sa 6:14 And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Bethshemite, and stood there, where there was a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine a burnt offering unto the LORD.

1Sa 6:15 And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD, and the coffer that was with it, wherein the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone: and the men of Bethshemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto the LORD.

Num 4:16 And to the office of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest pertaineth the oil (Exo 25:6, Exo 27:20-21; Lev 24:2) for the light, and the sweet (Exo 30:34-38, Exo 37:29) incense, and the daily (Exo 29:39-41) meat offering, and the anointing (Exo 30:23-33) oil, and the oversight (Luk 4:18; Act 20:28; 1Co 4:1; 1Ti 2:5; Heb 3:1, Heb 3:6; 1Pe 2:25, 1Pe 5:2) of all the tabernacle, and of all that therein is, in the sanctuary, and in the vessels thereof.

**the office:** Eleazar himself, perhaps with the other priests, was required to carry the oil for the light, the incense, and the flour for the daily meat offering, and the holy ointment; besides superintending the Levites. It may be supposed, that he himself carried no more of the oil than for present use (see note on Num 4:9). Num 3:32

Num 4:17 And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

Num 4:18 Cut ye not off the tribe of the families of the Kohathites from among the Levites: (Num 16:32, Num 17:10, Num 18:5; Exo 19:21; Lev 10:1-2; 1Sa 6:19; 2Sa 6:6-7; Jer 38:23)

Eleazar and the priests would be chargeable with the death of the Kohathites, if they failed to give them proper cautions and directions; or permitted them to gaze with irreverence or curiosity upon the holy things, which they might carry, but not see (Num 4:20).

Num 4:19 But thus do unto them, that they may live, and not die, when they approach unto the most holy (Num 4:4) things: Aaron and his sons shall go in, and appoint them every one to his service and to his burden:

Num 4:20 But they shall (Num 4:15, Num 4:19; Exo 19:21; Lev 10:2; 1Sa 6:19; Heb 10:19-20; Rev 11:19) not go in to see when the holy things are covered, lest they die.

**the holy things:** Hakkodesh, "the holy," or "sanctuary," i.e., the ark, as the Jews generally understand it; and with good reason, as anyone may be convinced, who compares 1Ki\_8:8 with 2Ch\_5:9, where that which is called the holy in the former, is called the ark in the latter.

Num 4:21 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 4:22 Take also the sum of the sons of Gershon, throughout the houses of their fathers, by their families; (Num 3:18, Num 3:21, Num 3:24)

Num 4:23 From thirty years (Num 4:3) old and upward until fifty years old shalt thou number them; all that enter in to perform the service (Heb. to war the warfare, Num 4:3; Isa 63:1-4; Rom 7:14-24; 1Co 9:7; 2Co 6:7, 2Co 10:3-5; Eph 6:10-19; Gal 5:17, Gal 5:24; 1Ti 1:18; 2Ti 2:3-4, 2Ti 4:7), to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Num 4:24 This is the service of the families of the Gershonites, to serve, and for burdens (or, carriage, Num 4:15, Num 4:19, Num 4:27, Num 4:31-32, Num 4:47, Num 4:49):

Num 4:25 And they shall bear the curtains (Num 3:25-26, Num 7:5-7) of the tabernacle, and the tabernacle of the congregation, his covering, and the covering (Exo 26:14) of the badgers' skins that is above upon it, and the hanging for the door of the tabernacle of the congregation,

The Gershonites were charged with transporting the nonwooden parts of the tabernacle and outer court, including coverings, curtains, ropes, and other related equipment. This was under the supervision of Ithamar the priest (v. 28).

Num 4:26 And the hangings (Exo 27:9) of the court, and the hanging for the door of the gate of the court, which is by the tabernacle and by the altar round about, and their cords (Exo 35:18), and all the instruments of their service, and all that is made for them: so shall they serve.

Num 4:27 At the appointment of Aaron and his sons shall be all the service of the sons of the Gershonites, in all their burdens, and in all their service: and ye shall appoint unto them in charge all their burdens.

Heb. mouth, The Levites were under the command of the priests. Eleazar exercised this authority in general, as next in succession to Aaron, and he in particular was placed over the Kohathites; while Ithamar, his younger brother, commanded the Gershonites and Merarites (Num 4:33). Luk 1:70; 1Co 11:2

Num 4:28 This is the service of the families of the sons of Gershon in the tabernacle of the congregation: and their charge shall be under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. (Num 4:33; 1Co 12:5-6)

Num 4:29 As for the sons of Merari, thou shalt number them after their families, by the house of their fathers; (Num 3:33-35)

Num 4:30 From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old shalt thou number them, every one that entereth into the service (Heb. warfare, Num 4:3, Num 4:23; Psa 110:1-7; 1Ti 6:11-12; 2Ti 2:4, 2Ti 4:7-8), to do the work of the tabernacle of the congregation.

The wood and metal parts of the tabernacle complex were delegated to the Merarites. Ithamar was supervisor of this part of the tabernacle transportation as well as the nonwooden parts (v. 33).

Num 4:31 And this is the charge (Num 3:36-37, Num 7:8-9) of their burden, according to all their service in the tabernacle of the congregation; the boards (Exo 26:15) of the tabernacle, and the bars thereof, and the pillars thereof, and sockets thereof,

Num 4:32 And the pillars of the court round about, and their sockets, and their pins, and their cords, with all their instruments, and with all their service: and by name ye shall reckon the instruments (Num 3:8, Num 7:1; Exo\_25:9, Exo 38:17, Exo 38:21; 1Ch 9:29) of the charge of their burden.

**and by name:** An inventory was taken of every particular, even to the very pins belonging to each part, that nothing might be wanting when the tabernacle was set up.

Num 4:33 This is the service of the families of the sons of Merari, according to all their service, in the tabernacle of the congregation, under the hand (Num 4:28; Jos 3:6; Isa 3:6) of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

Num 4:34 And Moses and Aaron and the chief of the congregation numbered the sons of the Kohathites after their families, and after the house of their fathers, (Num 4:2)



Num 4:35 From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one that entereth into the service, for the work in the tabernacle of the congregation: (Num 4:3, Num 4:23, Num 4:30, Num 4:39, Num 4:43, Num 4:47, Num 8:24-26; 1Ch 23:3, 1Ch 23:24, 1Ch 23:26-27, 1Ch 28:13; Luk 3:23; 1Ti 3:6)

Num 4:36 And those that were numbered of them by their families were two thousand seven hundred and fifty.

In the third chapter we have an account of the whole number of the Levites; and here of those only who were able to serve the Lord in the sanctuary. By comparing the two places, we find the number of the effective and ineffective males. Thus we find that the whole number of the Levites amounted to 22,300; of whom 8,580 were fit for service and 13,720 unfit, being either too old or too young. What an astonishing number of men, all performing some service by which God was glorified, and the congregation at large benefited!

Num 4:37 These were they that were numbered of the families of the Kohathites, all that might do service in the tabernacle of the congregation, which Moses and Aaron did number according to the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

Num 4:38 And those that were numbered of the sons of Gershon, throughout their families, and by the house of their fathers,

Num 4:39 From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one that entereth into the service, for the work in the tabernacle of the congregation,

Num 4:40 Even those that were numbered of them, throughout their families, by the house of their fathers, were two thousand and six hundred and thirty. (Num\_ 3:32)

Num 4:41 These are they that were numbered of the families of the sons of Gershon, of all that might do service in the tabernacle of the congregation, whom Moses and Aaron did number according to the commandment of the LORD. (Num 4:22)

Num 4:42 And those that were numbered of the families of the sons of Merari, throughout their families, by the house of their fathers,

Num 4:43 From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one that entereth into the service, for the work in the tabernacle of the congregation,

Num 4:44 Even those that were numbered of them after their families, were three thousand and two hundred. (Num 3:34; Deu 33:25; 1Co 10:13, 1Co 12:8-12; 2Co 12:9-10)

The family of Merari, though smaller than either of the other families of Levi, yet had a greater number of able men than any of them; for out of 6,200 males of a month old and upwards, we find 3,200 who were neither too young nor too old for the service of the sanctuary; which was more than one-half of their whole number. In this the wisdom and providence of God appear most conspicuously; for the Merarites were charged with the heaviest part of the sanctuary, as the boards, bars, sockets, etc; and though waggons were afterwards provided for them, yet the loading and unloading of the sockets, and other things of great weight, would require much strength, both bodily and numerical. (Compare Num\_4:36 and Num\_4:40, with Num\_3:22, Num\_3:28, Num\_3:24.) Thus God ever manifests his wisdom, in fitting men for the work to which they are appointed, whether with respect to number or gifts: "For to one is given, by the Spirit, the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge, by the same Spirit; to another faith, by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing, by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues, but all these worketh that one and the self-same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

Num 4:45 These be those that were numbered of the families of the sons of Merari, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses. (Num 4:29)

Num 4:46 All those that were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron and the chief of Israel numbered, after their families, and after the house of their fathers,

Num 4:47 From thirty (Num 4:3, Num 4:23, Num 4:30; 1Ch 23:3, 1Ch 23:27) years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one (Num 4:15, Num 4:24, Num 4:37; Rom 12:6-8; 1Co 12:4-31) that came to do the service of the ministry, and the service of the burden in the tabernacle of the congregation,

Num 4:48 Even those that were numbered of them, were eight thousand and five hundred and fourscore. (Num 3:39; Mat 7:14, Mat 20:16, Mat 22:15)

Num 4:49 According to the (Num 4:37, Num 4:41, Num 4:45, Num 1:54, Num 2:33, Num 3:51) commandment of the LORD they were numbered by the hand of Moses, every one (Num 4:15, Num 4:24, Num 4:31; Isa 11:2-4, Isa 42:1-7, Isa 49:1-8; Rom 12:4-8) according to his service, and according to his burden: thus were they numbered of him, as the LORD (Num 4:1, Num 4:21) commanded Moses.

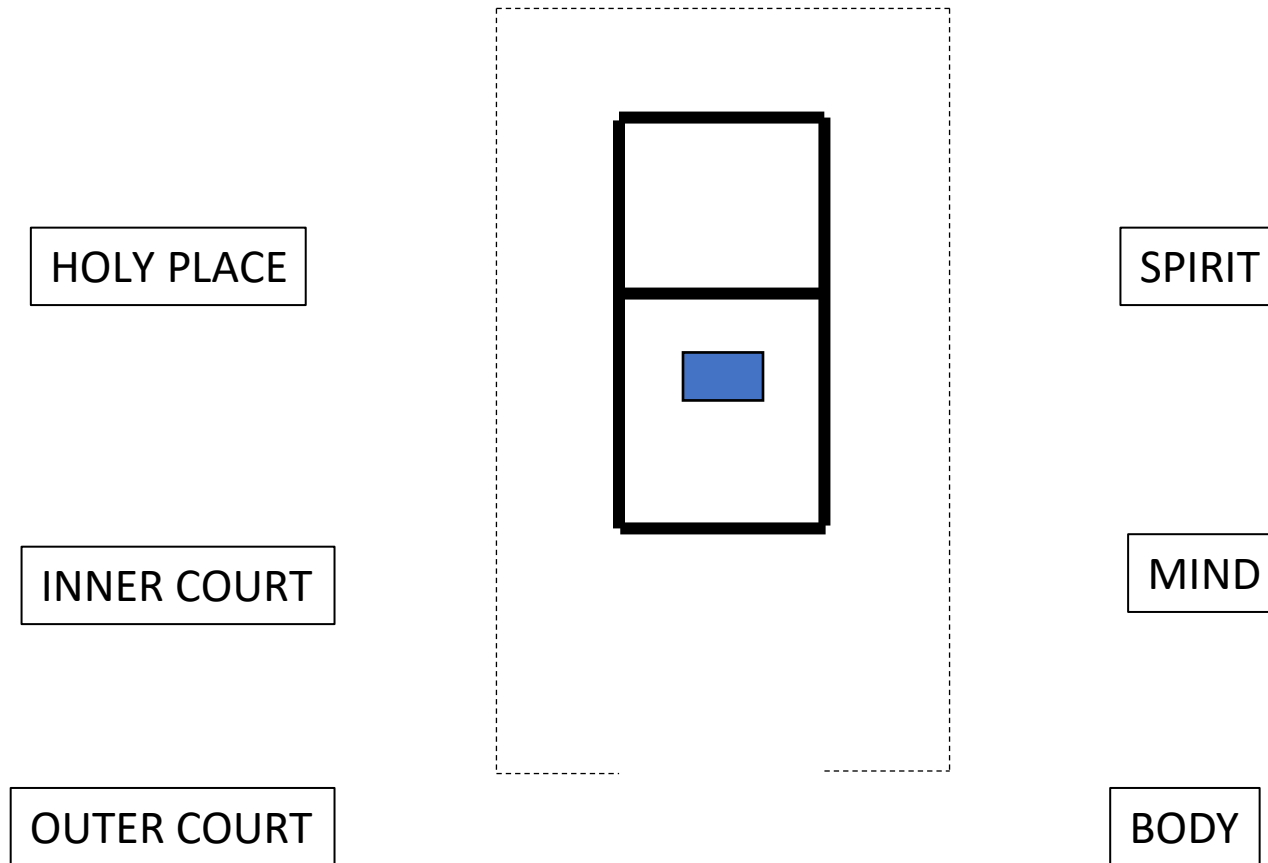
The wood and metal parts of the tabernacle complex were delegated to the Merarites. Ithamar was supervisor of this part of tabernacle transportation as well as the nonwooden parts (v. 33).

The total number of Levites involved in this work was 8,580, 2,750 Kohathites, 2,630 Gershonites, and 3,200 Merarites (v. 44).

#### LEVITES

Gershonites:	7,500	2,630
Kohathites:	8,600	2,750
Merarites:	<u>6,200</u>	<u>3,200</u>
	22,300	8,580

A STUDY OF ARCHITECTURE



## THE TEMPLE HAS FIVE GATES

- The Chief Gate (East)
- On the North Near the Altar
- The Higher Gate built by Jotham
- The Gate of Foundation
- Solomon's Ascent

Ezekiel 11:1

Ezekiel 8:5

2 Kings 15:35

2 Corinthians 23:5

1 Kings 10:5;

2 Corinthians 9:11;

2 Kings 16:18



## THE TEMPLE

- Preparations:
  - ❖ Cedars of Lebanon (vs. coarser sycamore)
  - ❖ Hiram's friendship with David (Hiram, king of Tyre: Phoenicians a guild of merchantman)
  - ❖ Design given to David by God
- 183,300 Workforce:
  - ❖ 30,000 men (10,00/monthly shift)
  - ❖ 70,000 carriers
  - ❖ 80,000 hewers in the mountain
  - ❖ 3,300 supervision
- Dimensions
  - ❖ Ten lampstands, ten lavers + "molten sea"
- Porch + Pillars:
  - ❖ Jachin ("In His Counsel")
  - ❖ Boaz ("In His Strength")
- "Heders"
  - ❖ Priest's personal storehouses (where they hid their personal idols.....)



## OUR PERSONAL ARCHITECTURE

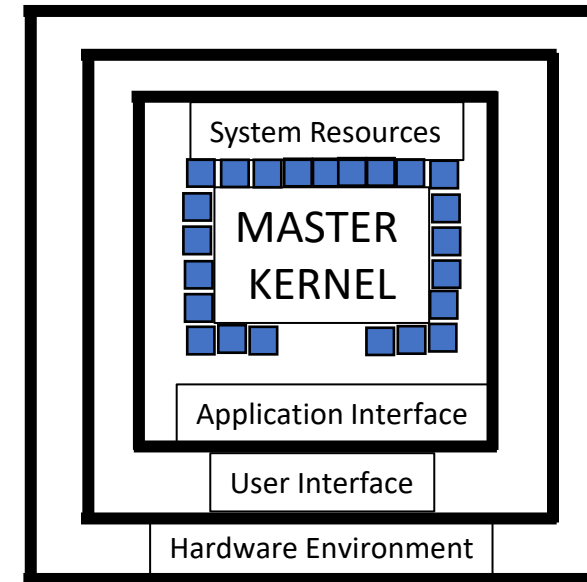
- 7 times declared “Ye are the Temple of God” – 1 Corinthians 3:9-17; 6:19; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 20:21; Hebrews 3:6; 1 Peter 2:5; 4:17
- Appears to hold the key to our “software --- OUR DNA” architecture
  - ❖ Heart
  - ❖ Soul
  - ❖ Spirit
  - ❖ Mind

The Greatest Commandment: We are instructed to “love God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind.”  
What does this mean? You can’t determine the architecture of software by external means; you need the SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE!

## SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

The architecture of “software” (of an infinite state machine) is impossible to infer from its external behavior. Thus, psychology is doomed to frustration to establish causes – or even deal with guilt. Only the Designer’s Manual can reveal the internal architecture!

*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. - Hebrews 4:12*



### Hardware

- Microcircuits
- Memory
- Wires, resistors, etc.

### Physical Body

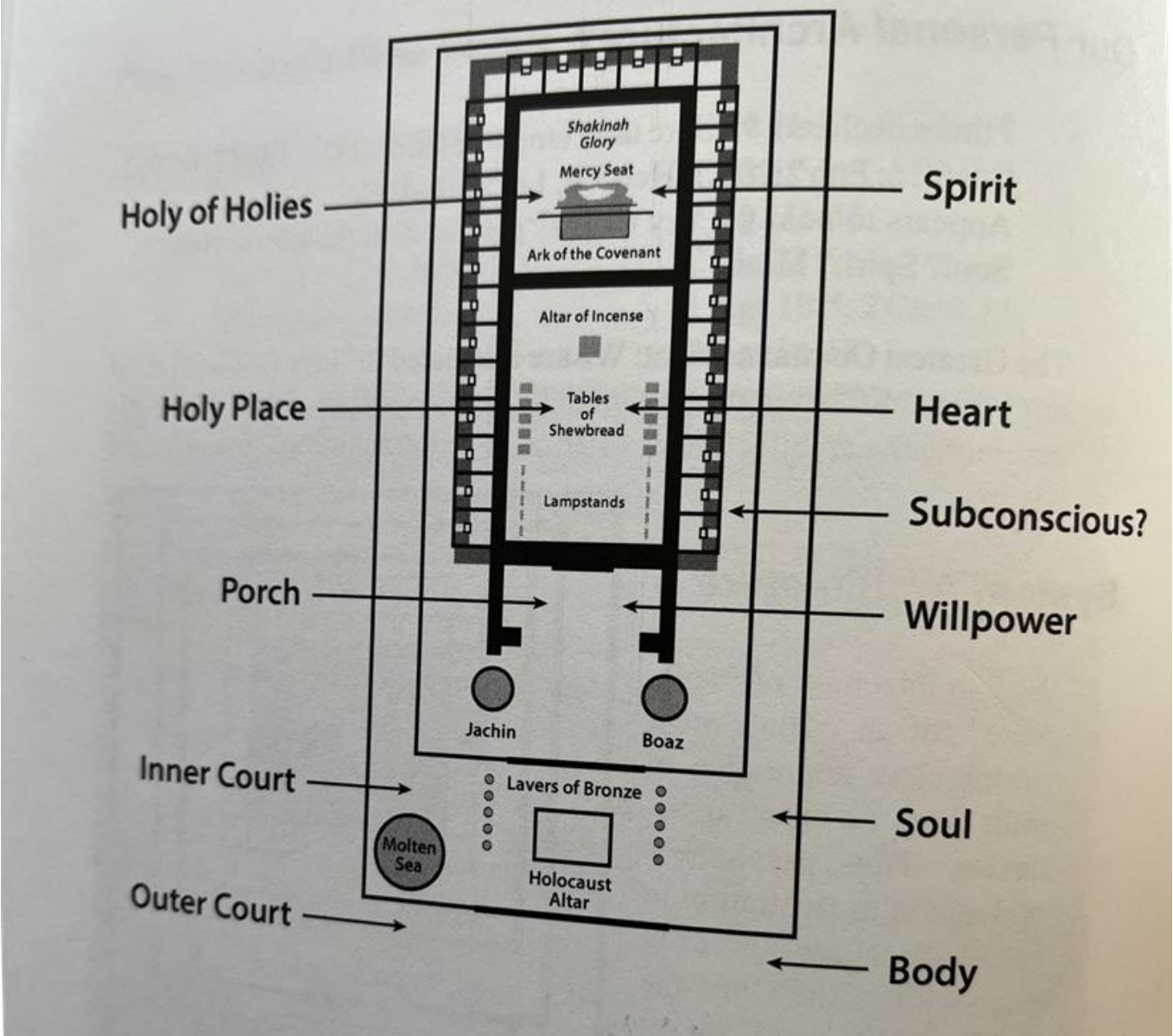
- Flesh
- Bones
- Circulatory System, etc.

### Software

- User Interface
- Internal Interfaces
- Machine Language
- Algorithms, etc.

### Our Selves

- “Soul”
- “Spirit”
- “Mind”
- Thoughts” etc.





*God Is Government*

*Isaiah 33:22*

*“For the LORD is our judge, the  
LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD  
is our king; he will save us.”*