
Pearl Seeking

TREASURING HIS WORD

Let's do a quick overview of the entire Torah portion:

Monday:	Num. 4	Census and duties of the sons of Qehath, Gershon, and Merari
Tuesday:	Num. 5	Torah regarding impurities and defilement
Wednesday:	Num. 6	Nazirite vow and Aharon's blessing upon Yisra'el
Thursday:	Num. 7:1-47	Offerings for the dedication of the Dwelling Place - Days 1-6
Friday:	Num. 7:48-89	Offerings for the dedication of the Dwelling Place - Days 7-12

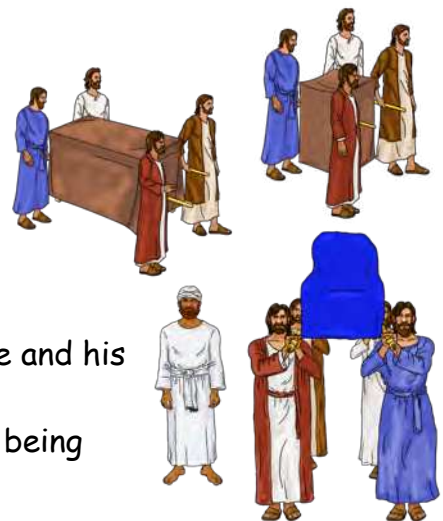
In this week's Parsha Pearls lesson, we will be backtracking a few verses to the previous parsha to get the full context for the census and duties of the sons of Qehath, Gershon, and Merari of the tribe of Lewi. Now, let's read Num. 4.

PARSHA POINTS

- Yahweh spoke to Mosheh and to Aharon to take a census of the sons of Qehath, Gershon, and Merari (4:1-3, 21-23, 29-30, 34-35):
 - by their clans
 - by their fathers' house
 - from 30 (**shalosh**) years old and above, up to 50 (**chamishim**) years old
- All those who entered the service to do the work (**melachah**) in the Tent of Meeting were counted - 4:3
- This is the service (**avodat**) of Aharon and his sons at the breaking of camp for the most set-apart items (4:4):
 - Take down the covering veil and cover the ark of the Witness with it - 4:5
 - Put on the ark of the Witness a covering of fine leather, and spread over that an all blue wrapper, and insert its poles - 4:6
 - Spread a blue wrapper on the table of showbread and put on it the dishes, the ladles, the bowls, the jars for pouring, and the showbread - 4:7
 - Spread over the table of showbread and its accessories a scarlet wrapper, and also cover it with fine leather and insert its poles - 4:8
 - Take a blue wrapper and cover the lampstand of the light, with its lamps and snuffers, its trays and all its oil vessels - 4:9



- Put the lampstand with all its utensils in a covering of fine leather and put it on a bar - 4:10
- Spread a blue wrapper over the golden altar (altar of incense) and cover it with fine leather, and shall insert its poles - 4:11
- Take all the utensils of service in the set-apart place and shall put them in a blue wrapper, cover that with fine leather, and put them on a bar - 4:12
- Remove the ashes from the bronze altar and spread a purple wrapper over it - 4:13
- Put on the golden altar (altar of incense) all its utensils: the fire holders, forks, shovels and basins, and shall spread on it a covering of fine leather and insert its poles - 4:14
- El'azar, the son of Aharon, shall have oversight (**pekuddah**) of the (4:16;3:32):
 - oil for the light
 - sweet incense
 - daily grain offering
 - anointing oil
 - Dwelling Place and all that is in it
 - Set-apart Place and its furnishings
- This is the service of the sons of Qeath in the Tent of Meeting, after Aharon and his sons have finished covering the set-apart objects (4:4):
 - Their duty was the ark, the table of showbread, the lampstand, the altars and the utensils of the Set-apart Place used in the service, and the covering, and all its service - 3:31
 - They shall come to lift the set-apart objects and all the furnishings of the Set-apart Place, but shall NOT touch that which is set-apart, so as to NOT die - 4:15
 - Aharon and his sons shall appoint each man to his service and his burden (**massa**) - 4:19
 - They are NOT to go in and watch the set-apart objects being covered, so as to NOT die - 4:20
 - They are under the supervision of El'azar, son of Aharon - 4:16



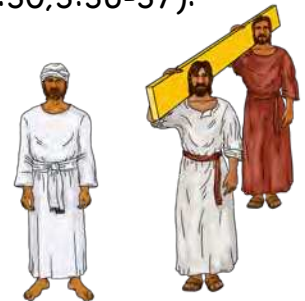
- This is the service of the sons of Gershon in the Tent of Meeting (4:24; 3:25-26):

- in serving and in bearing burdens - 4:24
- in bearing the curtain of the Dwelling Place - 4:25
- in bearing the curtain of the Tent of Meeting with its covering - 4:25
- in bearing the covering of fine leather that is on the Tent of Meeting - 4:25
- in bearing the covering for the door of the Tent of Meeting - 4:25
- in bearing the screens of the courtyard and the covering for the door of the gate of the courtyard which is around the Dwelling Place and altar/slaughter-place, along with their cords - 4:26
- in bearing all the equipment for the service of the Dwelling Place and Tent of Meeting - 4:26
 - They are under the supervision of Ithamar, son of Aharon - 4:28



- This is the service of the sons of Merari in the Tent of Meeting (4:30;3:36-37):

- the boards, bars, columns, and sockets of the Dwelling Place - 4:31
- the columns around the courtyard with their sockets, pegs, cords and with all their equipment and service - 4:32
 - They are under the supervision of Ithamar, son of Aharon - 4:33



- These are the numbers of the clans of Lewi, from 30 to 50 years old, who were registered to do their duties for the Tent of Meeting:

- Qehathithes: 2,750 - 4:36
- Gershonites: 2,630 - 4:40
- Merarites: 3,200 - 4:44



Qehathithes Gershonites Merarites

- These were the registered ones of the Levites whom Mosheh and Aharon registered at the command of Yahweh, by their clans, all the males from 30 years old to 50 years old, to do the work of service and the work of bearing burdens in the Tent of Meeting: 8,580 - 4:48-49

DIGGING DEEPER

Parents/Teachers may choose to use these prompts for further discussion of the Torah portion.

- In parsha Bemidbar, we read that Yisra'elite males could begin serving in the army at age 20, while the Lewite males were NOT to begin service in the Tent of Meeting until age 30. Discuss the reason(s) for this age difference.
- We also read in parsha Bemidbar that the Lewites were registered from one month and above. In this parsha the Lewites are registered from 30 to 50 years old. Why was this census age specific? Did it have to do with the 'job' these Lewite clans had to perform and the strength and maturity required to do the duty of the Dwelling Place?
- Research the word 'clan' and its meaning back then.
- Discuss the difference in the role of the priests of the line of Aharon and their duties for the Dwelling Place and the rest of the sons of Lewi and their duties.
- Research which son of Lewi is Mosheh and Aharon's grandfather.
- Yahweh is very specific in his assignments for the Dwelling Place. Read 1 Samuel 6:19 and 2 Samuel 6:2-7 and discuss what happened to those who did NOT follow proper protocol.

