

## Numbers 4

<sup>1</sup> Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: <sup>2</sup> “Take a census of the sons of Kohath from among the children of Levi, by their families, by their fathers’ house, <sup>3</sup> from thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, all who enter the service to do the work in the tabernacle of meeting.

<sup>4</sup> “This is the service of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of meeting, relating to the most holy things: <sup>5</sup> When the camp prepares to journey, Aaron and his sons shall come, and they shall take down the covering veil and cover the ark of the Testimony with it.

<sup>6</sup> Then they shall put on it a covering of badger skins, and spread over that a cloth entirely of blue; and they shall insert its poles.

<sup>7</sup> “On the table of showbread they shall spread a blue cloth, and put on it the dishes, the pans, the bowls, and the pitchers for pouring; and the showbread shall be on it. <sup>8</sup> They shall spread over them a scarlet cloth, and cover the same with a covering of badger skins; and they shall insert its poles. <sup>9</sup> And they shall take a blue cloth and cover the lampstand of the light, with its lamps, its wick-trimmers, its trays, and all its oil vessels, with which they service it. <sup>10</sup> Then they shall put it with all its utensils in a covering of badger skins, and put it on a carrying beam.

<sup>11</sup> “Over the golden altar they shall spread a blue cloth, and cover it with a covering of badger skins; and they shall insert its poles. <sup>12</sup> Then they shall take all the utensils of service with which they minister in the sanctuary, put them in a blue cloth, cover them with a covering of badger skins, and put them on a carrying beam. <sup>13</sup> Also they shall take away the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth over it. <sup>14</sup> They shall put on it all its implements with which they minister there—the firepans, the forks, the shovels, the basins, and all the utensils of the altar—and they shall spread on it a covering of badger skins, and insert its poles. <sup>15</sup> And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die.

“These are the things in the tabernacle of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry. <sup>16</sup> “The appointed duty of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest is the oil for the light, the sweet incense, the daily grain offering, the anointing oil, the oversight of all the tabernacle, of all that is in it, with the sanctuary and its furnishings.”

<sup>17</sup> Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: <sup>18</sup> “Do not cut off the tribe of the families of the Kohathites from among the Levites; <sup>19</sup> but do this in regard to them, that they may live and not die when they approach the most holy things: Aaron and his sons shall go in and appoint each of them to his service and his task. <sup>20</sup> But they shall not go in to watch while the holy things are being covered, lest they die.”

<sup>21</sup> Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>22</sup> “Also take a census of the sons of Gershon, by their fathers’ house, by their families. <sup>23</sup> From thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, you shall number them, all who enter to perform the service, to do the work in the tabernacle of meeting. <sup>24</sup> This is the service of the families of the Gershonites, in serving and carrying: <sup>25</sup> They shall carry the curtains of the tabernacle and the tabernacle of meeting with its covering, the covering of badger skins that is on it, the screen for the door of the tabernacle of meeting, <sup>26</sup> the screen for the door of the gate of the court, the hangings of the court which are around the tabernacle and altar, and their cords, all the furnishings for their service and all that is made for these things: so shall they serve.

<sup>27</sup>“Aaron and his sons shall assign all the service of the sons of the Gershonites, all their tasks and all their service. And you shall appoint to them all their tasks as their duty.

<sup>28</sup>This is the service of the families of the sons of Gershon in the tabernacle of meeting. And their duties shall be under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

<sup>29</sup>“As for the sons of Merari, you shall number them by their families and by their fathers’ house. <sup>30</sup>From thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, you shall number them, everyone who enters the service to do the work of the tabernacle of meeting. <sup>31</sup>And this is what they must carry as all their service for the tabernacle of meeting: the boards of the tabernacle, its bars, its pillars, its sockets, <sup>32</sup>and the pillars around the court with their sockets, pegs, and cords, with all their furnishings and all their service; and you shall assign to each man by name the items he must carry. <sup>33</sup>This is the service of the families of the sons of Merari, as all their service for the tabernacle of meeting, under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.”

<sup>34</sup>And Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of the congregation numbered the sons of the Kohathites by their families and by their fathers’ house, <sup>35</sup>from thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, everyone who entered the service for work in the tabernacle of meeting; <sup>36</sup>and those who were numbered by their families were two thousand seven hundred and fifty. <sup>37</sup>These were the ones who were numbered of the families of the Kohathites, all who might serve in the tabernacle of meeting, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the commandment of the Lord by the hand of Moses.

<sup>38</sup>And those who were numbered of the sons of Gershon, by their families and by their fathers’ house, <sup>39</sup>from thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, everyone who entered the service for work in the tabernacle of meeting—<sup>40</sup>those who were numbered by their families, by their fathers’ house, were two thousand six hundred and thirty.

<sup>41</sup>These are the ones who were numbered of the families of the sons of Gershon, of all who might serve in the tabernacle of meeting, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the commandment of the Lord.

<sup>42</sup>Those of the families of the sons of Merari who were numbered, by their families, by their fathers’ house, <sup>43</sup>from thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, everyone who entered the service for work in the tabernacle of meeting—<sup>44</sup>those who were numbered by their families were three thousand two hundred. <sup>45</sup>These are the ones who 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.

<sup>46</sup>All who were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses, Aaron, and the leaders of Israel numbered, by their families and by their fathers’ houses, <sup>47</sup>from thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, everyone who came to do the work of service and the work of bearing burdens in the tabernacle of meeting—<sup>48</sup>those who were numbered were eight thousand five hundred and eighty. <sup>49</sup>According to the commandment of the Lord they were numbered by the hand of Moses, each according to his service and according to his task; thus were they numbered by him, as the Lord commanded Moses.

### ***The Greatness of the Priestly Work***

**Main idea:** The Levites had a great priestly work to do, which points us to the greater-ness of Christ’s priestly work, and even a greater-ness in our own priesthood.

**Introduction:** Preparation for war, for a great military work, and this preparation for tabernacle service, for a great priestly work.

1. **Demanding Work**
  1. 30–50 year olds
  2. Strength
  3. Wisdom
2. **Deadly Work**
  1. Lest they die
  2. “Do not cut off their families”
  3. How privileged they would know themselves to be; how carefully they would do their work
3. **Diverse Work**
  1. List of things to attend to
  2. Total number of 8,580
4. **Directed Work**
  1. God’s own directions
  2. God’s appointed directors
  3. Not a place for creative thinking or ambition for advancement but for diligent faithfulness and cheerful submission
5. **Decommissioned Work**
  1. “Torah observant” is not to keep doing this, but to recognize its time, its place, and its inadequacy...
  2. “Christ observant” reading of the priesthood (the greatness of this work is meant especially to bring home to us the greater-ness of His priestly work)
    1. Christ’s time: both eternity, and the fullness of time
    2. Christ’s place: the first place in all things, now in glory
    3. Christ’s efficacy: incarnation (we beheld His glory), once-for-all sacrifice, resurrection, ascension/consecration, session/intercession
  3. Priesthood of all believers. The principles in points 1–4 apply all the more to us, now, who do our work in union with Christ (as new temple) and who enter into the fullness/perfection in our worship (through the veil in heaven)

**Conclusion:** live in thankful, confident awe of Christ’s priesthood, and cheerful and diligent exercise of your own!

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))

Numbers chapter 4. These are God's words. Then you always spoke to Moses. And Aaron saying, take a census of the sons of kohact, from among the children of Levi.

By their families, by their father's house from 30 years old, and above even to 50 years old. All who went to the service to do the work in the Tabernacle of meeting. This is the service of the sons of kohat, and the Tabernacle of meeting relating to the Most Holy things.

When the camp prepares to Journey Aaron and his sons shall come and they shall take down the covering Veil, then uncover the Ark of the testimony with it and they shall put on it a covering a badger skins and spread over that a cloth entirely of blue. And they shall insert its pulse.

On the table of showbread, they shall spread a blue cloth and put on it. The dishes, the pans, the bowls, and the pictures for pouring, and the show bread shall be on it. That shall spread over them a Scarlet, cloth and cover the same with a covering of badger skins.

And they shall insert its poles. And they shall take a blue cloth and cover the lamp stand of the light with its lamps its Wick trimmers its trays and all its oil vessels with which they service it. Then they shall put it with all its utensils in a covering of Badger skins and put it on a carrying beam, over the golden altar, they shall spread a blue cloth.

And cover it with a covering of Badger skins. And they shall insert its pulse. Then they shall take all the utensils of service with which they minister in the sanctuary, put them in a blue cloth. Cover them with a covering of badger skins and put them on a carrying beam.

Also, they shall take away. The ashes from the altar and spread a purple cloth over it. This will put on it all its implements with which they minister there, the fire pans the forks, the shovels, the basins, and all the utensils of the altar and they shall spread on it a covering of Badger skins and inserts, its poles.

And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the Furnishings of the sanctuary. When the campus set to go, Then the sons of cohort, shall come to carry them. But they shall not touch any. Holy thing. Lest they die. These are the things in the Tabernacle of meeting which the sons of cohather to carry.

The appointed duty of Elliott's, our son of Aaron. The priest is the oil for the light, The Sweet incense. The Daily Grain offering the anointing oil. The oversight of all the Tabernacle of all that is in it. With the sanctuary and its Furnishings. Then you always spoke to Moses and Aaron saying, do not cut off the tribe of the families of the coatites from among the Levites.

But do this in regard to them that they may live and not die. When they approach the most holy things. Aaron and his sons shall go in and appoint each of them to his service and his task. But they shall not go in to watch while the holy things are being covered.

Lest they die. Then he always spoke to Moses saying, also take a census of the sons of kershon by their father's house by their families from 30 years old. And above even to 50 years old, you shall number them. All who enter to perform the service to do the work in the Tabernacle of meeting.

This is the service of the families of the garrisonites and serving and carrying they shall carry the curtains of the Tabernacle. And the Tabernacle of meeting with its covering, the covering of Badger skins, that is on it. The screen for the door, the Tabernacle of meeting the screen for the door of the gate to the court, the hangings of the Court, which are around the Tabernacle, and altar and their courts, all the Furnishings for their service, and all that is made for these things.

So they serve Aaron and his son, so assign all the service of the sons of the gershonites, all their tasks, and all their service. And you shall appoint to them all their tasks as their duty. This is the service of the families of the sons of Gershon, and the Tabernacle of meeting and their duties shall be under the authority of Ithamar, the son of Aaron, the priest, As for the sons of Morari.

You shall number them by their families and by their father's house. From 30 years old, and above even to 50 years old. You shall number them. Everyone who enters the service, to do the work of the Tabernacle of meeting And this is what they must carry as all their service for the Tabernacle of meeting.

The boards of the Tabernacle its bars, its pillars, its sockets and the pillars around the court with their sockets, pegs and cords with old air Furnishings and all their service. Usual assigned to each man. By name the items he must carry. This is the service of the families of the sons of Morari is all their service for the Tabernacle of meeting under the authority of Ithamar, the son of Aaron, the priest, And Moses Aaron and the leaders of the congregation numbered, the sons of the coatites by their families and by their father's house from 30 years old, and above even to 50 years old, everyone who entered the service for work in the Tabernacle of meeting and those who were numbered by their families were 2750.

These were the ones we're numbered of all the families of the coatites. All who might serve in the Tabernacle of meeting Him, Moses. And Aaron numbered. According to the Commandment of Yahweh by the hand of Moses. And those were a numbered of the sons of Gershon by their families and by their father's house from 30 years old, and above even to 50 years old.

Everyone who entered the service for work in the Tabernacle of meeting. Those who were numbered by their families, by their father's house were 2630 These are the ones who are numbered of the families of the sons, of Gershon, of all who might serve in the Tabernacle of meeting. Who Moses and Aaron numbered, according to the Commandment of Yahweh.

Those are the families of the sons of Morari who are numbered by their families, by their father's house from 30 years old, and above. And even to 50 years old, everyone entered the service for work in the Tabernacle of meeting. Those who were numbered by their families were 3200.

These are the ones who are numbered of the families of the sons of Morari, whom Moses. And Aaron numbered, according to the word of Yahweh, by the hand of Moses. All who are numbered of the Levites whom Moses Aaron, and the leaders of Israel numbered by their families and by their father's houses from 30 years old.

And above even to 50 years old, everyone who came to do the work of service and the work of bearing burdens in the Tabernacle meeting, those were numbered were Eight thousand, five, hundred and eighty. According to the Commandment of Yahweh, they were numbered by the hand of Moses. Each according to his service and according to his task.

Thus were they numbered by him? As Yahweh commanded. Moses. So far, the reading of gods, inspire and inerrant word. We look to him to add his Blessing to the preaching and the hearing. Of that word preached. The Israelites were preparing for war. They were preparing for a great military work.

They were going to have to come in and take the land of Canaan. They had God fighting for them and delivering their enemies into their hands. But as we concluded a couple chapters

ago, when we had the military census of the other, Tribes of Israel, his numbering. Those from age, 20 to 60 and they're numbering over 600.

000 was an indication to them of the greatness and the difficulty of the military and Enterprise, Uh, that was before them and we noted at the time that God in his Mercy to us teaches us. Also to count the cost just like a king who doesn't go to war without counting his people and counting his armaments and making sure that he is able to wage his war against the other King.

Just as like a man should not build a house until he has in hand the resources by which he is able to build that house. So also the Lord has told us much about our life in this world, especially following the Lord Jesus, that it will include trouble and difficulty in being persecuted and maybe even killed for his sake.

That it will be hard that we will need discipline and many other such things. He teaches us to count the costs so that we come to Jesus, not in a way that will be surprised that there was trouble when we come to him, but saying he is worth every trouble and he will carry me through.

My resources for the cost of coming to him and following him. And so we have seen already a preparation for a great military work. But now this preparation for the Tabernacle service and this second census of the Levi's not. Now from one month old and upward reminding us that the Lord has purchased us and we are his purchased possession.

Our Lives belong to him. We literally have a blood debt to God. Redeeming us, but this census from 30 to 50 years old is a census in preparation for the Tabernacle service and it's connected to the different duties of each of the tribes. In other words, God is preparing the Levites not for a great military work, but for something even more important, For a great Priestly work, this is why the Levites weren't included in the military census.

Because their work in the priesthood, a priesthood, which was in Shadows and copies. Not even the real thing. That Christ came and did not with 8 000 plus others, assisting him, but all by himself. And yet the shadow priesthood. The shadow Priestly work. Was a great Priestly work. And so in the course of taking the census and recounting to us the taking of the census, the Holy Spirit, shows us a great Priestly work, that is a demanding work, a deadly work, a diverse work, it directed work, and to decommission, Work.

And under those heads, we'll think about it before God for a few moments. First, it is a demanding work. This is not a census from the age of 20 to 60. The 20 year olds, the 20 to 30s and the prime of their strength may have strength but they don't have the wisdom yet of being 30.

And the 50 to 60 year olds who still and that was in that culture where they worked hard. They were not sedentary, like we were and certainly these who are assigned, all of this work, it would still be a fairly strong man between 50 and 60. You would be numbered if you were in a military tribe for going to war But you would not be strong enough, you'd have more wisdom.

Then the 30 to 50 year olds, but your strength would be waning and we could not We would not risk the mishandling the dropping. The decreased motor skill. In the handling. Of the Furnishings of the Tabernacle. It's wonderful here, that God shows how demanding the work is in both strength and wisdom.

It's actually an indication of how small The people. Of Israel had become that. Uh, Cyrus sends them back and when Nehemiah is getting ready to build the temple, the age for entering on to the Priestly work is lowered to 25. They'll accept some of those 25 to 30 year old fools.

And if you are 25 to 30 years old, I make no apology. And if you are younger than that, you are more foolish still. And we need to, we need to accept those things about ourselves, and not live with these Illusions of coming from the womb with wonderful wisdom.

Uh no we are finite just as the Widow had to be 60 in order to be a widow indeed. So the Lord teaches us our limitations and he teaches us how demanding the work is. Yeah probably one of the reasons for them being 30 is so that they would walk long enough on this Earth to know that it wasn't their 30 year old wisdom or their 30 year old strength but the grace of God.

Who had given them, whatever wisdom, and strength they had. That would sustain them. It was the grace of God upon which the demanding work rested. And so, if you are one of those 25 to 30 year, old fools, or younger than 25 year old fools, you can sing and pray with Psalm 119 that you have wisdom greater than the Aged in.

Dependence upon God in humility in humility. That knows that it is not in you or from you but it is in him. And may God, the spirit shall give you. Wisdom that is beyond your years. May he give you the strength of a confidence in. The Lord God. For the demanding work of being a Christian.

But he was showing these Levites that it was going to be a demanding work. How important it would have been then to a levite who understood? Rightly why the ages of the census if you were a coetite or a gershonite, or a merit, how important it would be for you in those 30 years, not just to build strength, but to build wisdom, and if you are more inclined to wisdom, not just to build wisdom, but to build strength, Knowing what was going to be required of you and knowing The importance of it.

You would prepare for the work. When we come to that importance now, under the heading, the deadly work. Lest they die? Now, the coatites most of all knew that it was deadly because the garrisonites and the marites, you know, they could go ahead and start on their curtains and clasps and boards and and sockets and and those things.

But the covetites had to wait, why? Because if they saw any of the things that they had to carry, they would die. Now on the one hand, you would make sure to wait you would uh you would make sure for Ellie Azar. You don't go until as Eleazar comes out and he says, okay go now The pure blue cloth is on the Ark of the Covenant.

The blue cloth is on the table of the show bread that communicates God's fellowship and the, uh, and the menorah Uh, the lamp. Uh, lamp stand, that communicates God's favor and on the incense altar, there's The all of the porpoise skins or dolphin skins, it's not Badger skins, but dolphin skin is not.

Not that common a word. In the ancient near East. It reminds us that these are not Treasures that materialize out of thin air in the wilderness. God had allowed his people to be enslaved in the Great and Powerful and Wealthy nation of Egypt. So that even an abundance of dolphin skins would be available because he was going to make have his people build him a tent in which he would dwell among them and they would want it to be waterproof.

And so you have the beautiful wealthy covering in in the pure blue or the blue, or the Scarlet, or the purple. As you have the, the decreasing Value indicated by the colors, but then you would

also have the waterproof coverings and Leads are would make sure that he and Aaron his dad and ithamar would get all of those things completely covered the polls inserted.

So the only thing they would see is the poles. And if you are waiting while that happened and you knew you were waiting, cuz they were saving your life. Then with what dignity and intentionality and carefulness, would you put your shoulder? As a son of kohat, to one of those poles for one of those items.

That was so precious. That it was deadly. That was so attached to the presence of God and the favor of God, and The Fellowship of God, and the dwelling of God and the glory of God, in the midst of his people. It was deadly work and indeed when Elliotts are Was being instructed.

And Moses. And Aaron and actually, in verse 17 and 18 are being instructed to make sure they follow this procedure, he gives them a second reminder to do it. He says, do not cut off the tribe of the families of the coatites. From among the Levites. Because an entire family, line of God's people would be destroyed.

Who fellow answer came out and. And gave the go ahead and something was not sufficiently covered. Indeed, Aza was cut off, wasn't he? Because things were not decently covered. And poles were not inserted, instead it was put on a card behind an ox. To be transported the way Bell.

And Nebo are being transported in Isaiah, 46 of this morning into Aza. Well-Intentioned as far as we can tell from the text. When he reaches out to stabilize, The cart doesn't realize. That it is much worse for the ark to touch a dirty Center. Than it would have been for the ark to fall into the dirt.

And God strikes him. And he dies. How privileged then would they know themselves to be how carefully they would do their work? How wonderful that you under no such threat. But coming through the Lord Jesus Christ who has not now. Covered the Tabernacle, he's covered you. His atone for you.

So that you may come even into the holy of holies. Eyes wide open Faith wide open as it were. And the Lord Jesus Christ. But you know, That it's deadly. It's great work. And how you should put your shoulder as it were. To reading and singing and praying and hearing preaching and taking the supper, to all of the the Priestly work of this priesthood of all believers that you participate in.

The greatness. Of Drawing Near to God in Jesus Christ. It wasn't just a demanding work in the deadly work. It was a diverse work. There are a lot of things that had to be done. In fact, the total number that the Lord had set apart and you know a few moments ago we were saying for the campaign against the Canaanites.

You know, there were some 600 000 plus Well, now, for the campaign of carrying the Furnishings of the Tabernacle, the Lord designates, 8580. There were a lot of things to do. There are differing gifts, if Uh, if God gave you to be a Gersh Knight or a marorite, you wouldn't wish that you were a coatite.

You had your particular assignment. There are many things that had to be done. When these many things. Primarily. Instruct us in comparison to the one Christ. Who does everything? All of these different Shadow things that had to be done all the different sacrifices that we heard about all the different aspects of the Tabernacle Furnishings.



And as we were going through those and their design and exodus and learning so many different things, and all of them fulfilled by the one work of the one man, Your Redeemer, God, the son, born of the, the son of the son of David, according to the Flesh, and he has done them all.

Bless God for his son, our Lord, Jesus, our great, high priest. There's also a directed work. God himself has chosen, who would be a levite? You didn't choose what family you were born into. They didn't choose what levitical family. They, they were born into And so, Well, whatever family they were in and whatever, father's house they were in.

And the Lord had not just directed. The different Clans for the, the three different sets of jobs that we heard about in this chapter. He also gave them a foreman from the sons of Aaron. Eliotts are for the coatites and dithamar for the Garrisonites and the mayorites And whatever eliads are put your family and your father's house.

In charge of that was your assignment. And you could not say, because I am an ear, they are, I am not a part of the body. And you could not say because they are not like me they are not A part of the body. The Lord still does. This doesn't he?

He has signs to each one in his church, the only difference being that we're all priests now, We're all a royal priesthood, we're all joined to Christ, the great high priest. He has redeemed Us by his blood and made us Kings and Priests to our God. And so shall we praise him Forever.

Endeavor. So not only God's Own directions for the process as a whole, but God's appointed directors. And so this isn't a place, the church is not a place. It wasn't, then it isn't now. For creative thinking, or ambition for advancement. But rather for diligent faithfulness and cheerful submission, For understanding from God's word, whom he puts over his church.

And then not not bristling against the leadership of our elders, or the leadership of our deacons or in the home, the leadership of the husband, or the leadership of the wife, or sorry, the leadership of the husband, or the leadership of the father, not that kind of Presbyterian. But we don't bristle.

You know, if you were a coat, I thought you shouldn't you wouldn't bristle against eliadsar's instructions for your family. God had named him You wouldn't bristle if you were you shouldn't if you're a mara right. Over what ithamar said. Household should do. The church is not a place for creativity, but obedience and faithfulness.

It's not a place for ambition for advancement. A cheerful submission. And if God puts you in a place of working working not as someone who Lords it over others. But who's carrying out God's appointed directed way? Of carrying out his work in the visible. One in the last place.

All of this levitical service is a decommissioned work. You know, I've never had to actually figure out whether it's a badger skin or a dolphin skin. Because we're not trying to procure a waterproof Covenant. Coverings for Tabernacle furnishings, we don't have a physical Tabernacle No one has to. You know, get the secret Tabernacle only recipes for the incense and for the anointing oil.

There's no show bred to be baked. There's There's none of that, why? Because this whole priesthood has been dismantled. There's been a change in priesthood, there's been a change in law. The forever priesthood of Christ, which preceded that of Levi and of course as long obsolete at that of Levi has come and where there's a change of priesthood, there's a change of law.

Lord says in Hebrews. And so to be Torah, observant. Or for this particular. A week to be numbers 4, observant. Does not mean to hunt down the descendants of these tribes and figure out who's got to do what tasks from here. No. It is to recognize that this had its time, and this had its place.

But it had its an inadequacy. It could not take away sins, it could not bring men to God. And so, there had to come the priesthood of Christ. And the sacrifice of Christ that would be once for all and actually take away sins and actually bring us in him all the way to God.

So that we observe numbers 4. We observe the ceremonial law by saying bless the Lord. Jesus Christ, who is greater by himself than all of these other things put together for all of those centuries put together. If they had continued for 10 million years, The sum total of all of them couldn't hold a candle.

To a few hours of Priestly work. One afternoon outside Jerusalem. By Jesus Christ, Our great high priest. After the order of Melchizedek, no, we must have a Christ, observant, reading of numbers 4, And of the priesthood of the Torah, this was a great work. That's been one of our main points but the greatness of this work is meant especially to bring home to us the greatness of Christ and his priesthood and his Priestly work that we would Marvel.

We would Marvel at his once offering of himself on the cross that we would Marvel that he has taken his blood, not into the copy, but into the real thing, the blood of the Lord Jesus courses through him in glory where he is still in his exaltation as the god man.

For us, mediating for us. Pleading the merits of what he has done to bring us all the way home. This is his preparing a place for us. He doesn't prepare a place for us in our own houses. He goes into the house of God. He goes into the Tabernacle of God, with his blood, that consecrates it for us, that we may have a home with the God who dwells in throne.

Upon the mercy seat. And Christ is our mercy seat. And so we recognized Christ's time from all eternity, but in the fullness of time when he came and now in his Priestly work and glory and then when he returns and the Tabernacling of God is with men, Because Christ, Our Tabernacle.

Has bodily returned, Christ's place. He has the first place in all things play on words. But right now in glory acting as priest. And his efficacy. The efficacy of his Incarnation. God. The son really became a man so that those who beheld him, rightly by the help of the spirit of God beheld Glory, although there was nothing in his appearance that he should be desired.

Yet, there is that in his person. That he should be infinitely desired. We did not Ascend into heaven. That is to bring Christ down. No he effectually. In his Priestly work. Took to himself. A true body and a reasonable Soul by the work of his spirit. The effectual work of our priest.

Of course, not just in his incarnation but in his whole life of obedience, keeping himself clean, keeping himself holy because he would offer himself. The one who knew no sin In order to be our substitute in order at the cross, to be sin for us. And all of that, maintaining the distinction between clean and unclean and wholly Unholy and Unholy comes to its fruition comes to its consummation.

In the Lord, Jesus is perfect obedient life. So that he could come and offer his fully atoning death. The efficacy of that. The efficacy of his resurrection and his Ascension and consecration. Where we did not descend and we did not descend into the abyss that is to bring Christ up from the grave nor by his own power.

The father raised him from the dead, the spirit raised him from the dead, then he raised himself from the dead, he had authority to lay down his life, he had authority to take it up again. And so in everything, that where there is power or wisdom necessary, The Lord Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature And perhaps you hear those words differently?

Now Because even in his sinlessness, God, the son in his Humanity in the finitude of that Humanity. Took 30 years. To build the strength and the wisdom. To do that. Priestly work at the cross. We must not say. Who will Ascend into heaven? That is to bring Christ down or who will descend into the abyss that will that is to bring Christ up, no?

Jesus Christ, our effective wise, powerful priest, he is the one who has brought his word, his salvation near, and he takes us by that faith, that comes by hearing in Romans chapter 10. He joins us to himself in that faith and he brings us into Glory where we are seated with him.

Heavenly places the efficacy of the work of Christ's priesthood. And how could anyone ever Want to go back to the shadow. No, we read numbers 4 with great appreciation. For the greatness of the Priestly work. That was given. The sons of Levi. In their service, on behalf of the sons of Israel.

But with a greater appreciation that they're decommissioned now, Their priesthood is over. Now is the time. Of the priesthood. Of the Lord Jesus Christ and in him. The priesthood of all believers. As we made those applications in the first four points. They all apply all the more to us because we do our work in drawing near to God in Union with Christ.

And so, when you come and you offer not bowls and goats Certainly not. Your blood or effort as an atoning sacrifice, but you come and offer spiritual sacrifice. You offer your soul unto God? A tone for consecrated by the blood of Jesus Christ. But when you come and you read during the worship services and you sing and you and you agree in your heart and the prayer, and you listen, even as you are now in the preaching and you're offering your soul to God.

You are doing a Priestly work that has been assigned to you in Jesus Christ because in Jesus Christ in his church, Every single one on earth draws as near to God in Christ. As those perfected Saints who are gathered in heaven, We are not second-class citizens in the assembly.

In Hebrews chapter 12. Because we come not only to God the Father. We come through Christ, the mediator, whose blood speaks better than Abel. And they are more happy. And they are more Godly. But they are not more secure. And they are not more consecrated. Those Souls of the just made perfect.

How should you then? Lord's Day by Lord's day in the public assembly. Understanding what God teaches us about Priestly work here. In Numbers Chapter 4, In what manner then ought you to come into the congregation and worship God through Jesus Christ. In that worship that really fundamentally. Takes place.

In heaven. And so let us live and thankful confident. Awe? At Christ's priesthood. Being stirred up by him, and his Spirit applying to us is his word. To live in cheerful and diligent exercise. Of our own. Priesthood. Amen, let's pray. Our gracious. God and our heavenly Father. We bless your name for this wonderful passage.

And all the more for your wonderful plan to give. Your glorious son, God himself. As our great high priest forever. According to the order of Melchizedek, thank you for redeeming Us by his

blood. Thank you for making us Kings and Priests unto you o God and Grant the help of your spirit that we would remember what we have learned from your word and meditating upon it.

That we would be changed by your word conformed to Christ. And then all in which we draw near to you through him, that we would come with maturity and that we would come with strength and Zeal and joy and confidence. Until at last O. Lord, you have brought us into that assembly of the souls of the just made perfect where we shall be as happy as they.

And as Godly as, For we ask it in the name of their mediator and our mediator, the only mediator between God and man. The man Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord.