

Number 7-9 – Tribal Offerings & God's Guidance.

I. Tribal Offerings.

- i. Six carts and twelve oxen offered at the conclusion of the building of the tabernacle.

The leaders of each tribe bring a total of six carts (**a cart for every two of the leaders**) and twelve oxen (**each one an ox**), given to transport the tabernacle through the wilderness.

The family of Gershon received two carts with their four oxen; they had the responsibility of transporting the fabrics of the tabernacle.

The family of Merari received four carts with their eight oxen; they had the job of transporting the boards and pillars of the tabernacle.

The family of Kohath received no carts, and no oxen; they were to carry the holy furniture of the tabernacle, and were to carry all things on their shoulders - so, to remove the temptation to disobey, Moses gave them no carts!

- ii. (10-89) Twelve leaders of the twelve tribes to bring dedication gifts to the tabernacle, one on each day for twelve days.

On the first day Nahshon the son of Amminadab, from the tribe of Judah brought an offering.

On the second day Nethanel the son of Zuar, leader of Issachar, presented *an offering*.

On the third day Eliab the son of Helon, leader of the children of Zebulun, *presented an offering*.

On the fourth day Elizur the son of Shedeur, leader of the children of Reuben, *presented an offering*.

On the fifth day Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai, leader of the children of Simeon, *presented an offering*.

On the sixth day Eliasaph the son of Deuel, leader of the children of Gad, *presented an offering*.

On the seventh day Elishama the son of Ammihud, leader of the children of Ephraim, *presented an offering*.

On the eighth day Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur, leader of the children of Manasseh, *presented an offering.*

On the ninth day Abidan the son of Gideoni, leader of the children of Benjamin, *presented an offering.*

On the tenth day Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai, leader of the children of Dan, *presented an offering.*

On the eleventh day Pagiel the son of Ocran, leader of the children of Asher, *presented an offering.*

On the twelfth day Ahira the son of Enan, leader of the children of Naphtali, *presented an offering.*

Each tribal leader brought exactly the same offering over the twelve days; a silver platter and a silver bowl, each full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering; a gold pan with incense, a bull, a ram, a male lamb, a young goat, two oxen, five rams, five adult goats, and five more lambs.

After the offerings, Moses went into the Tabernacle, spoke and heard from God.

1 Chronicles 16:29 - *Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!*

Psalms 51:17 - *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a **contrite** heart—These, O God, You will not despise.*

Romans 12:1-2 - *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

iii. (8:1-4) The lighting of the lamps

The lamps were fueled by oil; and would need to be continually filled with oil to provide constant light.

iv. (8:5-26) Dedication of the Levites.

The priests had their dedication back in Leviticus 8 and 9. The Levites are cleansed, sprinkled, shaved and through sacrifices.

II. (9:15-23) - Guidance by the Cloud and Fire.

This cloud of God's *presence* was guides and comforts to Israel. The fire at night was obviously a comfort to Israel in the midst of a dark wilderness, and the cloud by day would be a shade from the hot wilderness sun.

Psalm 121:5 - *The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day.*

Though Israel had been organized and ordered by God; though they had been cleansed, and set apart, and blessed, and giving, and walking in their priesthood, they still had to be guided by God each step of the way to make it to the Promised Land. God had not done all those previous things to make them able to start towards the Promised Land on their own, but to make every step in constant dependence on Him.

So, when the cloud moved, Israel moved; when the cloud stayed, Israel stayed. They only went where the presence of God led them, and they only stayed where the presence of God stayed.

Exodus 33:13-15 – *“Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation is Your people.” And He said, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here. Then he said to Him, “If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.*

Psalm 25:5 - *Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.*

John 10:27-30 - *“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. “I and My Father are one.”*

John 16:13 - *“However, when He, the Spirit of **truth**, has come, He will guide you into **all truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*