

“Taking Care of the Holy Things”

Numbers 4:1-20

Introduction

Have you ever thought of moving someone as a “holy thing”?

What does it mean to be, in a realistic way, a part of being God's people?

- **The Kohathites were charged with taking care of the holy things.**

vv. 1-4 “The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: ²“Take a census of the Kohathite branch of the Levites by their clans and families. ³Count all the men from thirty to fifty years of age who come to serve in the work at the tent of meeting.

⁴“This is the work of the Kohathites at the tent of meeting: the care of the most holy things.”

Moses, Aaron, and Miriam were from the Kohathite clan, the great grandchildren of Levi (Kohath-Amram—Aaron, Moses and Miriam)

The phrase “holy things” is used 4 times exactly, and another 3 times in reference to specific holy furnishings and articles.

v. 16 “Eleazar son of Aaron, the priest, is to have charge of the oil for the light, the fragrant incense, the regular grain offering and the anointing oil. He is to be in charge of the entire tabernacle and everything in it, including its holy furnishings and articles.”

vv. 5a, 15 “When the camp is to move....After Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy furnishings and all the holy articles, and when the camp is ready to move, only then are the Kohathites to come and **do the carrying**. But they must not touch the holy things or they will die. The Kohathites are to carry those things that are in the tent of meeting.”

Numbers 7:9 “But Moses did not give any to the Kohathites, because they were to carry on their shoulders the holy things, for which they were responsible.

- **The ‘holy things’ here in Numbers were earthly things that were representative of things in heaven.**

Hebrews 8:5 “They serve at a sanctuary that is a **copy and shadow** of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”

Hebrews 9:1-5a

What might these “holy things” represent to us today?

The “holy things of Numbers 4 all relate to the tabernacle for which the purpose was to worship the LORD. Worship is the foundational “holy thing” to take care of!

“The ark of the Covenant.” It represents God’s new Covenant; redemption through His blood—forgiveness of sin, deliverance, salvation. This is the heart of the gospel!

Hebrews 9:11-14

Hebrews 9:24, 27-28

“Table of the Presence” (vv.7-8)—Presence of and fellowship w/ God and others.

“Lampstand” with its lamps, wick trimmers and trays, and all its jars for the olive oil used to supply it. (vv. 9-10)—Light in the darkness-- reveals, exposes, enlightens.

Psalms 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet; a light on my path.”

1 John 1:5b-7

“Gold altar” (v.11)—where incense was burned. It represents prayers of people.

Rev 8:3-5

“Articles used for **ministering/serving** in the sanctuary” (v. 12)—serving .

“Bronze altar” (vv. 13-14)—used to burn the **sacrifices** that were **offered**.

Romans 12:1-2” Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a **living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Hebrews 13:15-16 “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a **sacrifice of praise**—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. ¹⁶And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

Conclusion

vv. 17-20

Hebrews 4:14-16