

INTRODUCTION: NUMBERS 7**Numbers 7:1–3 (NKJV)**

7 Now it came to pass, when Moses had finished setting up the tabernacle, that he anointed it and consecrated it and all its furnishings, and the altar and all its utensils; so he anointed them and consecrated them. ² Then the leaders of Israel, the heads of their fathers' houses, who were the leaders of the tribes and over those who were numbered, made an offering. ³ And they brought their offering before the LORD, six covered carts and twelve oxen, a cart for every two of the leaders, and for each one an ox; and they presented them before the tabernacle.

- In Chapter 7 we learn that the 12 leaders of Israel are the ones through which the Tabernacle is funded by their offerings (gifts)
- This is above and beyond the tithe... this is an additional offering
- We learn in vs. 3 that the 12 leaders of Israel make an offering of equipment for the Levites to transport the Tabernacle
- They give 6 covered carts and 12 oxen and they split the cost between the 12 of them
- This brings up an interesting point... there had to be some discussion and some organization going on behind the scene
- When the 12 leaders of Israel saw the need of the Levites, they stepped forward to meet the need
- No where do we read that Moses met with the leaders of Israel and had a fundraising dinner with power points, spread sheets and photos of little Jewish kids playing around the Tabernacle
- The people were in tune with the work of the LORD (paying attention)

Numbers 7:4–9 (NKJV)

⁴ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ⁵ “Accept *these* from them, that they may be used in doing the work of the tabernacle of meeting; and you shall give them to the Levites, *to every man according to his service.*” ⁶ So Moses took the carts and the oxen, and gave them to the Levites. ⁷ Two carts and four oxen he gave to the sons of Gershon, according to their service; ⁸ and four carts and eight oxen he gave to the sons of Merari, according to their service, under the authority of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. ⁹ But to the sons of Kohath he gave none, because theirs was the service of the holy things, *which* they carried on their shoulders.

- Thus God distributed gifts to each one according to their service

- What a beautiful picture of God distributing the charismas of the Spirit
- He always empowers you to do what He commands you to do
- He doesn't command you to do something and leave you to work it out in your own power... He equips who He calls
- Vs. 10-83 describes the dedication offering they brought to dedicate the Tabernacle...
- Remember... when you read the word "offering" you should automatically think... "drawing near" to God

Numbers 7:10–83 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Now the leaders offered the dedication *offering* for the altar when it was anointed; so the leaders offered their offering before the altar. ¹¹ For the LORD said to Moses, "They shall offer their offering, one leader each day, for the dedication of the altar."

¹² And the one who offered his offering on the first day was Nahshon the son of Amminadab, from the tribe of Judah. ¹³ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty *shekels*, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering; ¹⁴ one gold pan of ten *shekels*, full of incense; ¹⁵ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering; ¹⁶ one kid of the goats as a sin offering; ¹⁷ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

¹⁸ On the second day Nethanel the son of Zuar, leader of Issachar, presented *an offering*. ¹⁹ For his offering he offered one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty *shekels*, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering; ²⁰ one gold pan of ten *shekels*, full of incense; ²¹ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering; ²² one kid of the goats as a sin offering; ²³ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Nethanel the son of Zuar.

²⁴ On the third day Eliab the son of Helon, leader of the children of Zebulun, presented *an offering*. ²⁵ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty *shekels*, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering; ²⁶ one gold pan of ten *shekels*, full of

incense; ²⁷ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering; ²⁸ one kid of the goats as a sin offering; ²⁹ and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Eliab the son of Helon.

³⁰ On the fourth day Elizur the son of Shedeur, leader of the children of Reuben, *presented an offering*. ³¹ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty *shekels*, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering; ³² one gold pan of ten *shekels*, full of incense; ³³ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering; ³⁴ one kid of the goats as a sin offering; ³⁵ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Elizur the son of Shedeur.

³⁶ On the fifth day Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai, leader of the children of Simeon, *presented an offering*. ³⁷ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty *shekels*, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering; ³⁸ one gold pan of ten *shekels*, full of incense; ³⁹ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering; ⁴⁰ one kid of the goats as a sin offering; ⁴¹ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai.

⁴² On the sixth day Eliasaph the son of Deuel, leader of the children of Gad, *presented an offering*. ⁴³ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty *shekels*, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering; ⁴⁴ one gold pan of ten *shekels*, full of incense; ⁴⁵ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering; ⁴⁶ one kid of the goats as a sin offering; ⁴⁷ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Eliasaph the son of Deuel.

⁴⁸ On the seventh day Elishama the son of Ammihud, leader of the children of Ephraim, *presented an offering*. ⁴⁹ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty *shekels*, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering; ⁵⁰ one gold pan of ten

shekels, full of incense; ⁵¹ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering; ⁵² one kid of the goats as a sin offering; ⁵³ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Elishama the son of Ammihud.

⁵⁴ On the eighth day Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur, leader of the children of Manasseh, *presented an offering*. ⁵⁵ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty *shekels*, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering; ⁵⁶ one gold pan of ten *shekels*, full of incense; ⁵⁷ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering; ⁵⁸ one kid of the goats as a sin offering; ⁵⁹ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

⁶⁰ On the ninth day Abidan the son of Gideoni, leader of the children of Benjamin, *presented an offering*. ⁶¹ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty *shekels*, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering; ⁶² one gold pan of ten *shekels*, full of incense; ⁶³ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering; ⁶⁴ one kid of the goats as a sin offering; ⁶⁵ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Abidan the son of Gideoni.

⁶⁶ On the tenth day Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai, leader of the children of Dan, *presented an offering*. ⁶⁷ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty *shekels*, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering; ⁶⁸ one gold pan of ten *shekels*, full of incense; ⁶⁹ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering; ⁷⁰ one kid of the goats as a sin offering; ⁷¹ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

⁷² On the eleventh day Pagiel the son of Ocran, leader of the children of Asher, *presented an offering*. ⁷³ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty *shekels*, and one silver bowl of seventy shekels, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering; ⁷⁴ one gold pan of ten

shekels, full of incense; ⁷⁵ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering; ⁷⁶ one kid of the goats as a sin offering; ⁷⁷ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Pagiel the son of Ocran.

⁷⁸ On the twelfth day Ahira the son of Enan, leader of the children of Naphtali, *presented an offering*. ⁷⁹ His offering was one silver platter, the weight of which was one hundred and thirty *shekels*, and one silver bowl of seventy *shekels*, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, both of them full of fine flour mixed with oil as a grain offering; ⁸⁰ one gold pan of ten *shekels*, full of incense; ⁸¹ one young bull, one ram, and one male lamb in its first year, as a burnt offering; ⁸² one kid of the goats as a sin offering; ⁸³ and as the sacrifice of peace offerings: two oxen, five rams, five male goats, and five male lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Ahira the son of Enan.

- The gifts were given over 12 days and there is some controversy because the timelines suggest if sacrifices were made on each day it would overlap with Passover
- Thus, the consensus is that the offerings were not made on each day, but the gifts were simply given and received
- Notice, they each brought the same offering and what is amazing to me is the accuracy with which God records history
- He could had said... ditto... after the first person... but each person is unique and each gift is unique because it comes from that person... even if it appears to be the same gift
- God honors it as if it was the only gift given
- It also emphasizes that each tribe had an equal stake in the worship of God by supporting the Tabernacle and the Priesthood

Numbers 7:84–88 (NKJV)

⁸⁴ This was the dedication *offering* for the altar from the leaders of Israel, when it was anointed: twelve silver platters, twelve silver bowls, and twelve gold pans. ⁸⁵ Each silver platter *weighed* one hundred and thirty *shekels* and each bowl seventy *shekels*. All the silver of the vessels *weighed* two thousand four hundred *shekels*, according to the shekel of the sanctuary. ⁸⁶ The twelve gold pans full of incense *weighed* ten *shekels* apiece, according to the shekel of the sanctuary; all the gold of the pans *weighed* one hundred and twenty *shekels*. ⁸⁷ All the oxen for the burnt offering were

twelve young bulls, the rams twelve, the male lambs in their first year twelve, with their grain offering, and the kids of the goats as a sin offering twelve. ⁸⁸ And all the oxen for the sacrifice of peace offerings were twenty-four bulls, the rams sixty, the male goats sixty, and the lambs in their first year sixty. This was the dedication *offering* for the altar after it was anointed.

- Clearly the combined size of the gifts given demonstrated the generosity of God's people
- It is estimated that each tribe gave between \$ 20,000.00 – \$30,000.00
- That's a total of \$240,000.00 - \$360,000.00
- Truly one of the best measures of one who has moved from a slave mentality or a poverty mentality is the level of their generosity
- God's people are generous because they trust God to meet their needs

Numbers 7:89 (NKJV)

⁸⁹ Now when Moses went into the tabernacle of meeting to speak with Him, he heard the voice of One speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was on the ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim; thus He spoke to him.

- God promised to speak to Moses from between the 2 Cherubim in Exodus 25:22 but this is the first recorded instance of this
- Only upon the conclusion of the first public service after the 7 day consecration of the Tabernacle in Leviticus 9 is Moses and Aaron permitted to enter
- The conclusion of the 7 day consecration is signaled by the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6
- Thus God summons Moses to enter into the Holy of Holies and speaks to Him... Moses hears the "chat kol" (heavenly voice)
- Paul heard a "heavenly voice" saying... I am Jesus whom you are persecuting... others have heard a "heavenly voice" at salvation
- What does God speak to Moses about? The Menorah in the Tabernacle
- This begins a new Parshah (section of scripture) called "Beha' alotecha" and it means "The Setting Up" or "The Preparation"
- This section goes from Numbers 8:1 – 10:16

- The first half of this parshah completes the first section of Numbers, which describes the people's formation as an army on the eve of their journey through the wilderness.
- The 2nd half of this parshah begins the 2nd part of Numbers in which the people begin their journey to the land of Promise
- Thus the people are "PREPARED" by God and "SET UP" OR "POSITIONED" to meet the tests of faith that await them in the desert

Numbers 8:1–4 (NKJV)

8 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²“Speak to Aaron, and say to him, ‘When you arrange the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light in front of the lampstand.’ ” ³And Aaron did so; he arranged the lamps to face toward the front of the lampstand, as the LORD commanded Moses. ⁴Now this workmanship of the lampstand was hammered gold; from its shaft to its flowers it was hammered work. According to the pattern which the LORD had shown Moses, so he made the lampstand.

- In the passages dealing with the construction of the furnishings in the Tabernacle, the menorah is mentioned most often
- God is concerned on how the Menorah is made, where it is placed, how it is cared for... especially the oil in the lamps
- Thus, there must be a message for us in the Menorah
- There are two things we must observe
- The presence of the Menorah in Revelation 1 signifying the Menorah represents the 7 churches
- Light always represents illumination (revelation) and oil represents the Spirit
- THUS God is interested in how His Church is cared for by His servants
- God is interested that His Church has the correct position, correct understanding of God and that the light, the revelation comes from the Holy Spirit... not a philosophy or a person's opinion
- One of the dangers I see in many pastors today is the marriage of the pulpit and politics... pastors who promote political candidates and invite government leaders to preach in their pulpits... it's just public opinion
- Preachers who preach causes and not Christ... it's dangerous
- As a teacher, my job is to give you God's Word and it's your job to apply it to your life and make decisions that in line with the scriptures
- If you don't know God's Word, you won't have a Biblical worldview

- If you don't have a Biblical worldview, you will support ungodly men who will lead you and your children into bondage and not freedom
- The Bible supports Christians exercising their right to vote... so vote
- When you vote... pray, seek the LORD and vote your Bible
- I would also encourage you to get on our mailing list... we just sent out an email with resources to help you get informed on the issues and candidates from a Biblical perspective... I'll be sending that out again

Numbers 8:5–22 (NKJV)

⁵ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ⁶ “Take the Levites from among the children of Israel and cleanse them *ceremonially*. ⁷ Thus you shall do to them to cleanse them: Sprinkle water of purification on them, and let them shave all their body, and let them wash their clothes, and so make themselves clean. ⁸ Then let them take a young bull with its grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, and you shall take another young bull as a sin offering. ⁹ And you shall bring the Levites before the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall gather together the whole congregation of the children of Israel. ¹⁰ So you shall bring the Levites before the LORD and the children of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites; ¹¹ and Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD, *like* a wave offering from the children of Israel, that they may perform the work of the LORD. ¹² Then the Levites shall lay their hands on the heads of the young bulls, and you shall offer one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering to the LORD, to make atonement for the Levites.

¹³ “And you shall stand the Levites before Aaron and his sons, and then offer them *like* a wave offering to the LORD. ¹⁴ Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the children of Israel, and the Levites shall be Mine. ¹⁵ After that the Levites shall go in to service the tabernacle of meeting. So you shall cleanse them and offer them *like* a wave offering. ¹⁶ For they *are* wholly given to Me from among the children of Israel; I have taken them for Myself instead of all who open the womb, the firstborn of all the children of Israel. ¹⁷ For all the firstborn among the children of Israel *are* Mine, *both* man and beast; on the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified them to Myself. ¹⁸ I have taken the Levites instead of all the firstborn of the children of Israel. ¹⁹ And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the work for the children of Israel in the tabernacle of meeting, and to make atonement for the children of Israel, that there be no plague among the children of Israel when the children of Israel come near the sanctuary.”

²⁰ Thus Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel did to the Levites; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so the children of Israel did to them. ²¹ And the Levites purified themselves and washed their clothes; then Aaron presented them *like* a wave offering before the LORD, and Aaron made atonement for them to cleanse them. ²² After that the Levites went in to do their work in the tabernacle of meeting before Aaron and his sons; as the LORD commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so they did to them.

- The Levites have replaced Israel's firstborn and thus, they represent the nation of Israel before God
- Before they can be activated for service, they must be purified
- They are to shave their body (i.e. like a newborn baby), wash their clothes and be sprinkled with water mixed with the ashes of a red heifer
- This symbolized the removal of sin and thus they were cleansed
- Then they were to draw near to God through the offerings listed in Leviticus 1-5 followed by the leaders laying hands on them... why?
- By the laying on of hands, the 12 leaders designated the Levites as Israel's sacrifice, representing Israel in the Sanctuary
- This is key... because we see here the idea of one man representing a nation... which prophetically represents Messiah or Jesus
- Thus, as the Levites serve the LORD by serving Aaron and his sons, it is as if all of Israel were serving the LORD
- Now it's important to note, this is different than anointing (empowered by the Spirit) and consecration (set apart for God's special purposes)
- They were not given access into the holy of holies... that is only for Aaron and his sons
- They are only purified to transport the Tabernacle
- This gives us a distinction between the Old Testament believer and the New Testament believer
- In the New Testament... all believers are anointed and consecrated... not just a few because in the Hebrew Scriptures the Holy Spirit was not given as it was in the New Testament
- But we do see the principles, the examples of the Promise of the Spirit in the life of the Prophets, Priests and Kings who were anointed by the Spirit and consecrated for God's specific purposes

Numbers 8:23–26 (NKJV)

²³ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁴ “This *is* what *pertains* to the Levites: From twenty-five years old and above one may enter to perform service in the work of the tabernacle of meeting; ²⁵ and at the age of fifty years they must cease performing this work, and shall work no more. ²⁶ They may minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of meeting, to attend to needs, but they *themselves* shall do no work. Thus you shall do to the Levites regarding their duties.”

- So we see the years of serving in the work of the Tabernacle for the Levites... from 20 to 50 years
- This limitation is not put on the priests, but only on the Levites (those who serve the priests)
- Here’s the point... if you knew you only had 30 years to build your career, you would be much more focused on the important
- I would transfer that to all of life... if you knew you only had 30 years to live... how would you live differently? What choices would you make? How much would you cut out of your life because it didn’t matter?
- Israel is now on the eve of her departure from Mount Sinai... they have been one year in the wilderness
- God instructs them to celebrate the 2nd Passover, the 1st Passover outside of Egypt

Numbers 9:1–14 (NKJV)

9 Now the LORD spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying: ² “Let the children of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time. ³ On the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you shall keep it at its appointed time. According to all its rites and ceremonies you shall keep it.” ⁴ So Moses told the children of Israel that they should keep the Passover. ⁵ And they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month, at twilight, in the Wilderness of Sinai; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so the children of Israel did.

⁶ Now there were *certain* men who were defiled by a human corpse, so that they could not keep the Passover on that day; and they came before Moses and Aaron that day. ⁷ And those men said to him, “We *became* defiled by a human corpse. Why are we kept from presenting the offering of the LORD at its appointed time among the children of Israel?”

⁸ And Moses said to them, “Stand still, that I may hear what the LORD will command concerning you.”

⁹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁰ “Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘If anyone of you or your posterity is unclean because of a corpse, or *is* far away on a journey, he may still keep the LORD’s Passover. ¹¹ On the fourteenth day of the second month, at twilight, they may keep it. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ¹² They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones. According to all the ordinances of the Passover they shall keep it. ¹³ But the man who *is* clean and is not on a journey, and ceases to keep the Passover, that same person shall be cut off from among his people, because he did not bring the offering of the LORD at its appointed time; that man shall bear his sin. ¹⁴ ‘And if a stranger dwells among you, and would keep the LORD’s Passover, he must do so according to the rite of the Passover and according to its ceremony; you shall have one ordinance, both for the stranger and the native of the land.’ ”

This section is divided into 3 parts

- Vs. 1-5 record the observance of the 2nd Passover (Redemption)
- Vs. 6-8 records the first complaint against God’s law because there were men who were defiled by a human corpse
- Vs. 9-14 records the first demonstration of God’s mercy over the law
- God said they could observe Passover
- Notice... they haven’t left Mount Sinai and they are already having problems with God’s “Ketubah” or requirements for their relationship
- There were some men who did not keep themselves from defilement
- So they bring their complaint to Moses... what do we do?
- Moses asks God... what do they do?
- God speaks to Moses... If they were unclean or if they were on a long trip... they could observe Passover the 1st of the 2nd month instead of the 14th of the 1st month
- But if a man could observe Passover at the appointed time and he neglected Passover, God said that man would be cut off from the people
- Not only that... but if there is a stranger living in the land... they are to observe Passover as well
- Thus... Passover is for both the Jew and the Gentile
- Now what is being communicated here?
- First of all... God is flexible... He’s not rigid... He’s not unreasonable
- Thus God makes an allowance for those who want to observe the Passover, but can’t

- Second... God is faithful... He does what He says and keeps His plans and His promises and He expects faithfulness of His people
- This... God is gracious... everyone is welcome... Jew and Gentile

Numbers 9:15–23 (NKJV)

¹⁵ Now on the day that the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the Testimony; from evening until morning it was above the tabernacle like the appearance of fire. ¹⁶ So it was always: the cloud covered it *by day*, and the appearance of fire by night. ¹⁷ Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel would journey; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents. ¹⁸ At the command of the LORD the children of Israel would journey, and at the command of the LORD they would camp; as long as the cloud stayed above the tabernacle they remained encamped. ¹⁹ Even when the cloud continued long, many days above the tabernacle, the children of Israel kept the charge of the LORD and did not journey. ²⁰ So it was, when the cloud was above the tabernacle a few days: according to the command of the LORD they would remain encamped, and according to the command of the LORD they would journey. ²¹ So it was, when the cloud remained only from evening until morning: when the cloud was taken up in the morning, then they would journey; whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud was taken up, they would journey. ²² Whether it was two days, a month, or a year that the cloud remained above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would remain encamped and not journey; but when it was taken up, they would journey. ²³ At the command of the LORD they remained encamped, and at the command of the LORD they journeyed; they kept the charge of the LORD, at the command of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

- I don't wish I lived in the time of Moses because I'm not really a desert person... especially if there are no quads or motorcycles
- But I do wish I could have seen the cloud by day and the fire by night
- In the section Moses describes how the LORD led them in the wilderness
- The cloud would ascend and as it ascended, it would spread across the camp of Israel
- Then the cloud moved and Israel would remain "under the cloud" or "under her husband"

- When they arrived at their destination, the cloud would form an arch over Judah in the form of a hut and the cloud would form a pillar over the Tabernacle
- Thus they camped where God commanded and they journeyed when God commanded... they were led by God and it says they kept the charge of God meaning they responded to God's command
- That's what we are to do... that's what the life of the Spirit is
- It is simply learning to respond to the Spirit's leading
- It's being open, not being rigid, not being legalistic or complaining
- But being open to the Spirit leading... being attentive, having the expectation that He will lead and then responding when He does