

## NUMBERS CHAPTER 3

<sup>1</sup> And these *are* the generations of Aaron and Moses, in the day in which the Lord spoke to Moses in Mount Sinai. <sup>2</sup> And these *are* the names of the sons of Aaron: Nadab the firstborn; and Abiud, Eleazar and Ithamar. <sup>3</sup> These *are* the names of the sons of Aaron, the anointed priests whom they consecrated to the priesthood. <sup>4</sup> And Nadab and Abiud died before the Lord, when they offered strange fire before the Lord, in the Wilderness of Sinai; and they had no children; and Eleazar and Ithamar ministered in the priests' office with Aaron their father.

<sup>5</sup> And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>6</sup> "Take the tribe of Levi, and you shall set them before Aaron the priest, and they shall minister to him, <sup>7</sup> and shall keep his charges, and the charges of the children of Israel, before the tabernacle of witness, to do the works of the tabernacle. <sup>8</sup> And they shall keep all the furniture of the tabernacle of witness, and the charges of the children of Israel as to all the works of the tabernacle. <sup>9</sup> And you shall give the Levites to Aaron, and to his sons the priests; they are given for a gift to Me of the children of Israel. <sup>10</sup> And you shall appoint Aaron and his sons over the tabernacle of witness; and they shall keep their charge of priesthood, and all things belonging to the altar, and within the veil; and the stranger that touches them shall die."

<sup>11</sup> And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>12</sup> "Behold, I have taken the Levites from the midst of the children of Israel, instead of every male that opens the womb from among the children of Israel: they shall be their ransom, and the Levites shall be Mine. <sup>13</sup> For every firstborn *is* Mine; in the day in which I struck every firstborn in the land of Egypt, I sanctified to Myself every firstborn in Israel: both of man and beast, they shall be Mine: I *am* the Lord."

<sup>14</sup> And the Lord spoke to Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai, saying, <sup>15</sup> "Take the number of the sons of Levi, according to the houses of their families, according to their divisions; and number every male from a month old and upwards." <sup>16</sup> And Moses and Aaron numbered them by the word of the Lord, as the Lord commanded them. <sup>17</sup> And these were the sons of Levi by their names: Gershon, Kohath, and Merari; <sup>18</sup> and these *are* the names of the sons of Gershon according to their families: Libni and Shimei; <sup>19</sup> and the sons of Kohath according to their families: Amram and Izeah, Hebron and Uzziel; <sup>20</sup> and the sons of Merari according to their families: Mahli and Mushi; these are the families of the Levites according to the houses of their families. <sup>21</sup> To Gershon belongs the family of Libni, and the family of Shimei: these are the families of Gershon. <sup>22</sup> The numbering of them according to the number of every male from a month old and upwards, their numbering *was* seven thousand and five hundred. <sup>23</sup> And the sons of Gershon shall encamp westward behind the tabernacle. <sup>24</sup> And the ruler of the household of the family of Gershon *was* Eliasaph the son of Lael. <sup>25</sup> And the charge of the sons of Gershon in the tabernacle of witness *was* the tent and the veil, and the covering of the door of the tabernacle of witness, <sup>26</sup> and the curtains of the court, and the veil of the door of the court, which is by the tabernacle, and the remainder of all its works.

<sup>27</sup> To Kohath *belonged* one division, that of Amram, and another division, that of Izeah, and another division, that of Hebron, and another division, that of Uzziel: these are the divisions of Kohath, according to number. <sup>28</sup> Every male from

a month old and upward, eight thousand and six hundred, keeping the charges of the holy things. <sup>29</sup> The families of the sons of Kohath shall encamp beside the tabernacle toward the south. <sup>30</sup> And the chief of the house of the families of the divisions of Kohath *was* Elizaphan the son of Uzziel. <sup>31</sup> And their charge *was* the ark, and the table, and the lampstand, and the altars, and all the vessels of the sanctuary wherewith they do holy service, and the veil, and all their works. <sup>32</sup> And the chief over the chief of the Levites *was* Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, appointed to keep the charges of the holy things.

<sup>33</sup> To Merari *belonged* the family of Mahli, and the family of Mushi: these are the families of Merari. <sup>34</sup> The mustering of them according to their number, every male from a month old and upwards, *was* six thousand and fifty. <sup>35</sup> And the head of the house of the families of the division of Merari *was* Zuriel the son of Abihail. They shall encamp by the side of the tabernacle northwards. <sup>36</sup> The oversight of the charge of the sons of Merari *included* the boards of the tabernacle, and its bars, its pillars, its sockets and all their furniture, and their works, <sup>37</sup> and the pillars of the court round about, and their bases, their pins, and their cords.

<sup>38</sup> They that encamp before the tabernacle of witness on the east *shall be* Moses and Aaron and his sons, keeping the charges of the sanctuary according to the charges of the children of Israel; and the stranger that touches them shall die. <sup>39</sup> All the numbering of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron numbered by the word of the Lord, according to their families, every male from a month old and upwards, *were* twenty-two thousand.

<sup>40</sup> And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Count every firstborn male of the children of Israel from a month old and upwards, and take the number by name. <sup>41</sup> And you shall take the Levites for Me—I *am* the Lord—instead of all the firstborn of the sons of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the cattle of the children of Israel." <sup>42</sup> And Moses counted, as the Lord commanded him, every firstborn among the children of Israel. <sup>43</sup> And all the male firstborn in number by name, from a month old and upwards, were according to their numbering twenty-two thousand two hundred and seventy-three.

<sup>44</sup> And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>45</sup> "Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn of the sons of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of their cattle, and the Levites shall be Mine: I *am* the Lord. <sup>46</sup> And for the ransoms of the two hundred and seventy-three which exceed the Levites in number of the firstborn of the sons of Israel, <sup>47</sup> you shall even take five shekels a head; you shall take them according to the holy shekel, twenty gerahs to the shekel. <sup>48</sup> And you shall give the money to Aaron and to his sons, the ransom of those who exceed in number among them." <sup>49</sup> And Moses took the silver, the ransom of those that exceeded in number the redemption of the Levites. <sup>50</sup> He took the silver from the firstborn of the sons of Israel, a thousand three hundred and sixty-five shekels, according to the holy shekel. <sup>51</sup> And Moses gave the ransom of them that were over to Aaron and his sons, by the word of the Lord, as the Lord commanded Moses.