

Preparing the tabernacle

The priestly blessing of 6 v 22-27 reminded us that the purpose of all the details of Numbers is that Israel be able to enjoy God's presence and fight his battles.

Now we're back to those details...

Moving

Read Numbers 7 v 1-9

The tabernacle has been set up, anointed and consecrated. But it's a portable tent, and will need to be moved.

- ❓ *How is this need provided for in these verses?*
- ❓ *How and why are the donated supplies divided among the Levites?*

▼ Apply

Notice that the leaders of Israel lead by giving generously and serving. The nature of biblical leadership is sacrificial service (John 13 v 1-8).

- ❓ *What should we therefore be looking for, and praying for, in Christian leaders?*
- ❓ *Are you in a position of leadership, either in the home, the church, or the workplace? How does your leadership compare with that seen here?*

Dedicating

Skim read Numbers 7 v 10-88

Verse 1 mentioned the tabernacle, and verses 2-9 provided for its transportation. Verse 1 also mentioned the altar.

- ❓ *How do these verses provide for the altar?*

The leaders keep on giving—this time for the dedication of the altar. Note the highly repetitive description of the gifts of the leader of each tribe. The author of Numbers is not usually this repetitive. The repetition of this passage shows that every tribe is fully committed to the Lord and his tabernacle. They're all working together. It is a glimmer of the way in which the New Testament describes God's people today—committed to working together for the Lord. **Read 1 Corinthians 12 v 14-20.**

Read Numbers 7 v 89

- ❓ *How does this verse bring us back to the main point we saw in 6 v 22-27?*

All the detailed description and elaborate donations are ultimately for this purpose—for God to be present with his people, speaking to them through his chosen servant Moses.

^ Pray

Thank God for his presence with and in his body, the church, and for the unity and unique giftings and interconnectedness of that body. Pray for your own part in it—that you would be growing in love for and commitment to both your Lord and his people.