

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS
NUMBERS 4 – GOD'S CARE FOR THE TABERNACLE AND HIS PEOPLE

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our study of the book of Numbers.

Say – In reading Numbers 4 you will see how God took care of the Tabernacle/tent which later became the Temple of God; you will realize God takes care of His people as well with utmost care. I want you to read John 10 and see how God cares for His people; you will see in John 10 they are comparing the real Shepherd, Christ, with the false shepherds.

John 10

¹Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

²But he that entereth in by the door (Christ is the door, see vs. 7, 9) is the shepherd of the sheep (Recognize who Christ is and follow Him only.).

³To him the porter (Christ) openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

And just as the Cloud went before God's people by day and a pillar of fire by night so God's leads His sheep today ⁴And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice (God's people know the voice of their Shepherd by studying to know His truths and they have His spirit.).

⁵And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers (God's people are not dumb sheep and cannot be deceived because Christ lives His life in them.).

⁶This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them (The Pharisees were not willing to understand.).

⁷Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. (Christ explains to them in plain words because they are His people.)

⁸All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them (Christ is not talking about the Prophets He sent but the ones not sent by Him).

⁹I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

(Christ is comparing the “Good Shepherd” to the thief.) ¹⁰The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy (All the false prophets and ministers but in contrast to the false prophets: I (Christ) am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

¹¹I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

In the future our “Good Shepherd” will

¹¹For thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.

¹²As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

¹³And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

¹⁴I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

¹⁵I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord GOD.

¹⁶I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick: but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.
Ezekiel 34:11-16

¹¹He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. Isaiah 40:11

²⁰Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

²¹Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen Hebrews 13:20-21.

And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a **shepherd**: and he began to teach them many things (Expounding the Law to them and they were thirsty and hungry for the Truth of God). Mark 6:34

¹²But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep (The false shepherd is not going to risk his life for the sheep; they take off and leave the sheep.).

¹³The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep (It is as simple as this; their mind and heart is being poisoned by false doctrine.).

¹⁴I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine (How does He know His sheep; if we keep His commandments. “If you love me, keep my commandments” John 14:15, Exodus 20:6, Deuteronomy 5:10.).

¹⁵As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father (an intimate relationship): and I lay down my life for the sheep.

¹⁶And other sheep I have, which are not of this (sheep) fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

¹⁷Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again (Christ’s death begins life.) John 10:1-17.

Numbers 4

Say - Here are the duties of Kohath for they had the most important position of the three brothers of the tribe of Levi. Wherever the camp of Israel went, the Tabernacle/tent went with them and care must be taken for the carrying of tent and the setting up of it in the new place. There was constant guidance and involvement with His people and there still is today as well ²⁰And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness. ²¹And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: ²²He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people” Exodus 13:20-22.

God’s people who He had delivered out of Egypt saw this miracle for the next 40 years; unfortunately they got used to it and began to sacrifice to false gods they brought from Egypt. As God’s people today we must not fall for false gods and their traditions. The Bible tells us through God’s prophet Isaiah ⁴⁹“O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! ¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. ¹¹He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. ¹²Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? ¹⁷All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity. ¹⁸To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him? ¹⁹The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains. ²⁰He that is so impoverished that

he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved. ²¹Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth. ²⁸Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. ²⁹He giveth power to the faint (by His spirit); and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. ³⁰Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: ³¹But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. (God constantly talks to His people and He wants to hear from His people.) Isaiah 40

More from God's Prophet, Isaiah ¹Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: ⁶Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. ⁸Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any. ⁹They that make a graven image are all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they are their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed. ¹⁰Who hath formed a god, or molten a graven image that is profitable for nothing? ¹¹Behold, all his fellows shall be ashamed: and the workmen, they are of men: let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; yet they shall fear, and they shall be ashamed together. ¹²The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint. ¹³The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house. ¹⁴He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it. ¹⁵Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto. ¹⁶He burneth part thereof in the fire; with part thereof he eateth flesh; he roasteth roast, and is satisfied: yea, he warmeth himself, and saith, Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire: ¹⁷And the residue thereof he maketh a god, even his graven image: he falleth down unto it, and worshippeth it, and prayeth unto it, and saith, Deliver me; for thou art my god. ¹⁸They have not known nor understood: for he (God) hath shut their eyes, that they cannot see; and their hearts, that they cannot understand. Isaiah 44

The Bible tells us more through God's prophet Isaiah "¹But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine (You are my wife.) ²When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not

be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. ³For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. ⁴Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. ⁵Fear not: for I am with thee...: ⁷Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him. ⁸Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears. ⁹Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth. ¹⁰Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. ¹¹I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour (one Jesus, one redeemer). ¹²I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God. ¹⁵I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.” Isaiah 43

NUMBERS 4

¹And the LORD (Jehovah) spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

²Take the sum of the sons of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, after their families, by the house of their fathers,

³From thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old (After 50 they retire and become teachers or judges.), all that enter into the host, to do the work (from this concept came “the work” of God) in the tabernacle of the congregation (tent of meeting).

⁴This shall be the service of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation, about the most holy things (the holiest): (This family had the highest level of work to do.)

⁵And when the camp setteth forward, Aaron shall come, and his sons, and they shall take down the covering vail, and cover the ark of testimony with it:

⁶And shall put thereon the covering of badgers' skins (seal skin), and shall spread over it a cloth wholly of blue, and shall put in the staves thereof.

⁷And upon the table of shewbread they shall spread a cloth of blue, and put thereon the dishes, and the spoons, and the bowls, and covers to cover withal: and the continual bread shall be thereon: (Everything had to come from instructions from God; they were learning how to fear God. This was done on a daily basis; God said “And thou shalt set upon the table showbread before me always” Exodus 25:30, also 23-30, Leviticus 24:5-6, the priest made the bread everyday and ate it everyday.)

⁸And they shall spread upon them a cloth of scarlet, and cover the same with a covering of badgers' skins (seal skin), and shall put in the staves thereof.

⁹And they shall take a cloth of blue, and cover the candlestick of the light, and his lamps, and his tongs, and his snuffdishes, and all the oil vessels thereof, wherewith they minister unto it:

¹⁰And they shall put it (the candlestick) and all the vessels thereof within a covering of badgers' skins (seal), and shall put it upon a bar ("bar" means poll) This is the way they carried it; no other way by instructions from God for in terms of a relationship with God for He teaches us in all things.).

¹¹And upon the golden altar they shall spread a cloth of blue, and cover it with a covering of badgers' skins (seal), and shall put to the staves thereof:

¹²And they shall take all the instruments of ministry, wherewith they minister in the sanctuary, and put them in a cloth of blue (God is in the heavens and it is blue so this was divine.), and cover them with a covering of badgers' skins, and shall put them on a bar:

¹³And they shall take away the ashes from the altar, and spread a purple cloth thereon (The alter had sacrifices done on it and so was purple which came from a vine of one yielding purple grapes, the richest variety.):

¹⁴And they shall put (the altar) upon it all the vessels thereof, wherewith they minister about it, even the censers, the fleshhooks, and the shovels, and the basons, all the vessels of the altar; and they shall spread upon it a covering of badgers' skins (seal), and put to the staves of it.

¹⁵And when Aaron and his sons have made an end of covering the (Holy) sanctuary, and all the vessels of the sanctuary, as the camp is to set forward; after that, the sons of Kohath shall come to bear it (carried it on their shoulders): but they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die. These things are the burden of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation.

¹⁶And to the office of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest pertaineth the oil for the light (the candlestick), and the sweet incense, and the daily meat offering, and the anointing oil, and the oversight of all the tabernacle, and of all that therein is, in the sanctuary, and in the vessels thereof (Eleazar had to make sure nothing was forgotten.).

¹⁷And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron saying,

¹⁸Cut ye not off the tribe of the families of the Kohathites from among the Levites: (Now we are encouraged to "Let us therefore **come boldly** unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" Hebrews 4:16.)

¹⁹But thus do unto them, that they may live, and not die, when they approach unto the most holy things: Aaron and his sons shall go in, and appoint them every one to his service and to his burden (each to his own work for there was no confusion of what they were to do):

²⁰But they shall not go in to see when the holy things are covered, lest they die.

Say – Duties of the Gershon division.

²¹And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

²²Take also the sum of the sons of Gershon, throughout the houses of their fathers, by their families;

²³From thirty years old and upward until fifty years old shalt thou number them; all that enter in to perform the service (do the importance of solemn service), to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation.

²⁴This is the service of the families of the Gershonites, to serve, and for burdens:

²⁵And they shall bear the curtains of the tabernacle, and the tabernacle of the congregation, his covering, and the covering of the badgers' skins that is above upon it, and the hanging for the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, (They were to take down the above when the cloud moved and the ark and the rest of the holy things and set them up again at the next resting spot.)

²⁶And the hangings of the court, and the hanging for the door of the gate of the court, which is by the tabernacle and by the altar round about, and their cords, and all the instruments of their service, and all that is made for them: so shall they serve.

²⁷At the appointment of Aaron and his sons shall be all the service of the sons of the Gershonites, in all their burdens, and in all their service: and ye shall appoint unto them in charge all their burdens.

²⁸This is the service of the families of the sons of Gershon in the tabernacle of the congregation: and their charge shall be under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

Say – Duties of the Merari division.

²⁹As for the sons of Merari, thou shalt number them after their families, by the house of their fathers;

³⁰From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old shalt thou number them, every one that entereth into the service, to do the work of the tabernacle of the congregation.

³¹And this is the charge of their burden, according to all their service in the tabernacle of the congregation; the boards of the tabernacle, and the bars thereof, and the pillars thereof, and sockets thereof,

³²And the pillars of the court round about, and their sockets, and their pins, and their cords, with all their instruments, and with all their service: and by name ye shall reckon the instruments of the charge of their burden.

³³This is the service of the families of the sons of Merari, according to all their service, in the tabernacle of the congregation, under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest.

³⁴And Moses and Aaron and the chief of the congregation numbered the sons of the Kohathites after their families, and after the house of their fathers,

³⁵From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one that entereth into the service, for the work in the tabernacle of the congregation:

³⁶And those that were numbered of them by their families were two thousand seven hundred and fifty.

³⁷These were they that were numbered of the families of the Kohathites, all that might do service in the tabernacle of the congregation, which Moses and Aaron did number according to the commandment of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

³⁸And those that were numbered of the sons of Gershon, throughout their families, and by the house of their fathers,

³⁹From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one that entereth into the service, for the work in the tabernacle of the congregation,

⁴⁰Even those that were numbered of them, throughout their families, by the house of their fathers, were two thousand and six hundred and thirty.

⁴¹These are they that were numbered of the families of the sons of Gershon, of all that might do service in the tabernacle of the congregation, whom Moses and Aaron did number according to the commandment of the LORD.

⁴²And those that were numbered of the families of the sons of Merari, throughout their families, by the house of their fathers,

⁴³From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one that entereth into the service, for the work in the tabernacle of the congregation,

⁴⁴Even those that were numbered of them after their families, were three thousand and two hundred.

⁴⁵These be those that were numbered of the families of the sons of Merari, whom Moses and Aaron numbered according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

⁴⁶All those that were numbered of the Levites, whom Moses and Aaron and the chief of Israel numbered, after their families, and after the house of their fathers,

⁴⁷From thirty years old and upward even unto fifty years old, every one that came to do the service of the ministry (do the solemn important service), and the service of the burden in the tabernacle of the congregation (There was a lot of work to do so at the age of 50 it was time to stop.).

⁴⁸Even those that were numbered of them, were eight thousand and five hundred and fourscore,

⁴⁹According to the commandment of the LORD they were numbered by the hand of Moses, every one according to his service, and according to his burden: thus were they numbered of him, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Say – All the care of the Tabernacle/tent shows how God takes care of His people in every detail is covered if His people are willing to listen and obey Him. “⁴And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” I Peter 5:4.

MEMORY VERSE

And when He putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.
John 10:4-5

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS

DEAR CHILDREN

IN READING NUMBERS 4 YOU WILL SEE HOW GOD TOOK GREAT CARE OF HIS TABERNACLE/TENT AND LATER IT BECAME THE TEMPLE OF GOD. EVERY DETAIL WAS IMPORTANT TO HIM.

GOD CARES FOR HIS PEOPLE THE VERY SAME WAY. IN JOHN 10 GOD IS COMPARING THE REAL SHEPHERD, CHRIST, TO THE FALSE SHEPHERDS.

JOHN 10

BUT HE THAT ENTERETH IN BY THE DOOR (Christ is the door.) IS THE SHEPHERD OF THE SHEEP. (Recognize who Christ is and follow Him only.)

TO HIM THE PORTER (Christ) OPENETH; AND THE SHEEP HEAR HIS VOICE: AND HE CALLETH HIS OWN SHEEP BY NAME, AND LEADETH THEM OUT.

(Just as the Cloud went before the people by day and a pillar of fire by night so God leads His sheep today "AND WHEN HE PUTTETH FORTH HIS OWN SHEEP, HE GOETH BEFORE THEM, AND THE SHEEP FOLLOW HIM: FOR THEY KNOW HIS VOICE. (God's people know their Shepherd by studying to know His truths.)

AND A STRANGER WILL THEY NOT FOLLOW, BUT WILL FLEE FOM HIM: FOR THEY KNOW NOT THE VOICE OF STRANGERS. (God's people are not dumb sheep for Christ lives His life in them.)

I (Christ) AM THE DOOR: BY ME IF ANY MAN ENTER IN, HE SHALL BE SAVED, AND SHALL GO IN AND OUT, AND FIND PASTURE.

...I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY.

I (Christ) AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD: THE GOOD SHEPHERD GIVETH HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP. JOHN 10:2-5, 9-11

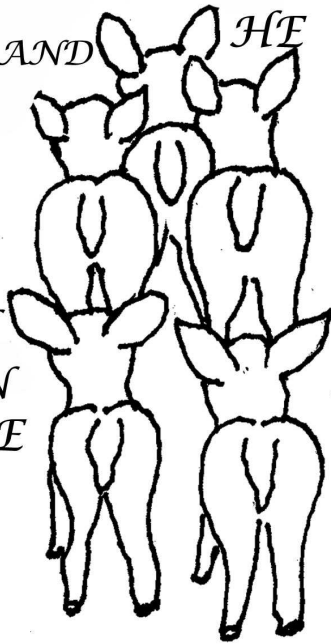
I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD:
THE GOOD SHEPHERD GIVETH HIS
LIFE FOR THE SHEEP.

JOHN 10:11

THE SHEEP HEAR
HIS VOICE
AND HE

CALLETH
HIS OWN
SHEEP BY NAME

AND HE LEADETH
THEM OUT
JOHN 10:3



I (CHRIST) AM THE DOOR: BY ME IF ANY MAN ENTER IN,
HE SHALL BE SAVED, AND SHALL GO IN AND OUT
AND FIND PASTURE. JOHN 10:9

BRB