### Numbers

## Chapter 4

1Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron and said:  
  
 2‘Take a census of the children of CaAth separate from the sons of Levi, by family lines. 3Count those from 25 to 50 years old that work at and serve inside the Tent of Proofs.  
  
 4‘For, these are the very holy things that the sons of CaAth must do at the Tent of Proofs:  
  
 5‘Whenever the camp is about to move, Aaron and his sons must enter and take down the [inner] veil, then use it to cover the Chest of Proofs... 6It must be covered with a blue skin and a blue [cloth] over that, and then they must put the carrying poles through [the rings on the Chest].  
  
 7‘They must also put a purple cloth over the Table that holds the showbread, along with its dishes, incense holders, cups, pitchers for drink offerings, and the loaves (which must always be left on the table)... 8Then they must cover it with a scarlet cloth and cover that with a blue skin, and mount [the table] on its staves.  
  
 9‘They must cover the Sacred Lamp that provides the light, along with its lanterns, snuffers, funnels, and all the oil jars, with a blue cloth, 10and put it and all its utensils inside a blue skin bag, and mount it on its staves.  
  
 11‘Also, the gold [Incense] Altar must be wrapped in blue cloth, then covered with blue skins and mounted on its staves.  
  
 12‘Thereafter, they must take all the rest of the things that are used in the services at the Holy Place and put them in a blue cloth [bag], then cover them with blue skins and mount them on staves.  
  
 13‘They must cover the Altar with purple cloth, 14along with all the utensils that are used with it (the fire pans, flesh-hooks, cups, covers, and all the utensils), wrap it all in a blue covering of skins and mount it all on the staves.  
  
 ‘They must also cover the Basin and its base with blue cloth, then wrap it in blue skins and mount it on staves.  
  
 15‘Aaron and his sons must finish covering the holy things and all the holy utensils before the camp can move... Thereafter, the sons of CaAth must bear all [the Tent’s] furnishings… But they must not [actually] touch the holy things, or they’ll die. These [are the things] that just the sons of CaAth are to carry from the Tent of Proofs.  
  
 16‘EliEzer, the son of Aaron the Priest, is to be their overseer... He is to give instructions concerning the oil for the lamp, the incense, the daily food offerings, and the anointing oil. He is to be in charge of the whole Tent, everything that’s in it, and everything that’s done there.’  
  
  
17Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron and said:  
  
 18‘You must protect the family of CaAth (this tribe among the Levites) from being destroyed, 19and this is what you must do for them so they can live and not die:  
  
 ‘Whenever they approach the Holy of Holies, Aaron and his sons must take the lead... They’re the ones who must mount the [sacred items] to be carried on the staves. 20That way, [the family of CaAth] won’t [be tempted to] rush in to look at the holy things and die.’  
  
  
21Then the Lord spoke to Moses and said:  
  
 22‘Now, take a census of the children of GedSon by family lines... 23Count all those between the ages of 25 and 50 years old that go in to serve and work in the Tent of Proofs, 24because the public service of the family of GedSon is that of serving and carrying.  
  
 25‘They must carry and attend to the skins for the Tent, the Tent of Proofs itself, its veil, the blue covering that goes over its top, the cover for the entrance to the Tent of Proofs, 26all the curtains for the courtyard, the mountings, and all the other utensils of service.  
  
 27‘The sons of GedSon must take their direction from Aaron and his sons in everything that they do in their assignments and jobs.  
  
 ‘You must count them by names and [show them] all the things that they must carry… 28This is the job of the sons of GedSon in the Tent of Proofs, and IthaMar, the son of Aaron the Priest, is to give them their instructions.  
  
  
 29‘Also, take a census of the sons of MeraRi by family lines. 30Count all those between the ages of 25 and 50 years old that enter to serve and work inside the Tent of Proofs.  
  
 31‘These are the things you are to tell them about and what they must carry as their job at the Tent of Proofs... They must carry the Tent’s caps, rafters, poles, and sockets, as well as the sockets and poles for the veil and the curtain at the entrance to the Tent.  
  
 32‘They must also carry the poles for the surrounding courtyard and for the veil at the entrance to the courtyard, along with their sockets, pins, ropes, furnishings, and things for service.  
  
 ‘Count them by name, and show what each man is to carry.  
  
 33‘This is the assignment for the family of the sons of MeraRi… It’s their job at the Tent of Proofs, under the direction of IthaMar, the son of Aaron the Priest.’  
  
  
34So Moses, Aaron, and the rulers of IsraEl took a census of the sons of CaAth by family lines, 35[counting] all those between the ages of 25 and 50 years old that went in to serve and work inside the Tent of Proofs. 36And their numbers, by family lines, came to 2,750.  
  
37This is how many there were of the family of CaAth that served inside the Tent of Proofs, as Moses and Aaron counted them, following Jehovah’s instructions to Moses.  
  
  
38Then they counted the sons of GedSon by family lines that were 39between 25 and 50 years old that enter to serve at the Tent of Proofs. 40And their number by family lines came to 2,630.  
  
41This is how many there were of the family of GedSon that served in the Tent of Proofs, as Moses and Aaron counted them, following Jehovah’s instructions to Moses.  
  
  
42Then they counted the sons of MeraRi by family lines that were 43between 25 and 50 years old that enter to serve inside the Tent of Proofs. 44And their numbers by family lines came to 3,200.  
  
45This is how many there were of the family of MeraRi, as Moses and Aaron counted them, following Jehovah’s instructions to Moses.  
  
  
46So Moses, Aaron, and the rulers of IsraEl counted all these Levites by family lines 47that were between 25 and 50 years old, and that serve, work at, and carry the things for the Tent of Proofs. 48Altogether, there were [a total of] 8,580 who were counted.  
  
49Then, after they were counted (following the words of Jehovah through Moses), they appointed each man to his job, reviewing his duties and discussing what each man was to carry.