

Numbers 8-9

October 9, 2011

8:1-4 In chapter 8 verses 1 to 4 we are told about the golden Lampstand. Where was it kept and what was its significance?

- The Lampstand was kept in the Holy of Holies. It was the light in that place. It was a picture of the Word of God. Jesus is the living Word of God. See [John 1:1-5,14,18 and 3:19-21](#). The Bible is the written Word of God. See [Psalm 119:105 and 2 Corinthians 4:3-4](#).

What was the light in the Holy of Holies?

- God Himself was the light in the Holy of Holies. When God met Moses on the mountain, His glory appeared as “the appearance of fire” ([Exodus 24:17](#)). It was like a fire but it did not consume; the same thing occurred with the bush when God called Moses ([Exodus 3:2](#)). God led them with a cloud by day and the appearance of fire by night. Sometimes that cloud was on the Tabernacle ([Numbers 9:15](#)); that cloud filled the Tabernacle at its dedication ([Exodus 40:34](#)). Sometimes that cloud was in the Holy of Holies above the Mercy Seat ([Leviticus 16:2](#)). The appearance of fire was in the Tabernacle (Holy of Holies) during the night ([Exodus 40:38](#)). God would speak to Moses in that cloud or fire above the Mercy Seat ([Exodus 25:22](#)).

What kind of lights will there be in heaven?

- God Himself will be the light. See [Revelation 21:22-27](#).

8:5-26 In verses 5 to 26 we learn about the Levites. What are we told?

- They were set apart and dedicated (ordained) as a priestly tribe. Their dedication included a ceremonial cleansing (washing, shaving, and washing their clothes), the laying on of hands, and offerings. There were three offerings: the wave offering, the sin offering, and the burnt offering. The Levite tribe was given to the Lord rather than Him taking the firstborn of all of the sons of Israel. The men would enter the priestly service at 25 years of age and retire at 50 years old.

The Levites themselves were the wave offering (8:11). A wave offering was “waved” before the Lord and then the priests were given that offering (Exodus 29:24-26) for themselves.

Who can tell us what is pictured in the “sin” and “burnt” offerings?

- In the sin offering was to cover unintentional sin. Sin is “missing the mark”. We can miss God’s “mark” (His perfect will) while trying to hit it. See [1 John 1:7-2:2](#). The burnt offering was a substitute. The animal was judged and killed rather than the sinner who had offended God’s holiness. The burning is a picture of God’s fiery judgment. In [Matthew 5:22 and 18:9](#) Jesus spoke of the “fiery” hell. See [Hebrews 10:30-31](#).

9:1-14 What do we learn about the Passover in chapter 9 verses 1 to 14?

- Passover was to be observed at twilight (sunset) on the fourteenth day of the first month each year. If someone missed it because of being on a journey or being unclean for some reason, he could commemorate Passover one month later.

The Passover (our “Communion” or “Lord’s Supper”) was a picture of God passing over (not judging) the people’s sin. What is the significance of the following elements?

Twilight?

- Jesus died right at twilight and was removed from the cross before the Sabbath began at dusk ([John 19:30-33](#)).

Unleavened bread?

- Leaven is a picture of sin. They were to seek to get the sin out of their lives. God's forgiveness does not exempt us from seeking to be obedient to the Lord.

Bitter herbs?

- To the Jews the herbs were a reminder of the bitterness of slavery. To us it is a reminder of the bitter price that God had to pay to redeem us.

Nothing left till morning?

- The Jews were to roast the lamb and to burn with fire whatever they did not consume (**Exodus 12:9-10**). This fire was a picture of Jesus paying for the price of our sin (hell).

No broken bones?

- Like these lambs, no bone of Jesus was broken. He died from the trauma of the scourging, blood loss, and crucifixion, so the soldiers did not need to break His legs in order for him to die.

Numbers 9:15-16 What do we learn in verses 15 and 16 about God's presence in Israel?

- The cloud covered the Tabernacle by day and the appearance of fire by night.

Numbers 9:17-23 In verses 17 to 23, how did the children of Israel know when God wanted them to move?

- They moved when the cloud (or appearance of fire) moved.

What might we learn from how God led them?

- We need to move when God leads us to move.

Which of the following do you think that most Christians do?

- **Just move and act when we want to.**
- **Move and act and then ask God to bless what we do.**
- **Pray, but then move and act if we don't have clear direction soon (if not immediately).**
- **Actually wait on the Lord to tell us when to move and act.**

Explain your answer.

- See what you get. **See Isaiah 40:31.** [31 But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint. **NLT**]

Did Jesus every hurry or get ahead of the Father's directions for Him?

- **No.** He didn't even hurry when Lazarus was sick and Lazarus ended up dying.

Is it possible to live an unhurried life and to do everything God wants you to do?

- **Yes.** Jesus did. See **John 17:4.** [4 I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. **NLT**]

We never lose time waiting for God's direction. We waist and lose time when we move ahead and He has not led us.