

# Scripture\_background

## Background Notes on Numbers 4

### Historical Context:

- The Book of Numbers is part of the first five books of the Bible, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch.
- This passage occurs during the time the Israelites were traveling in the wilderness after escaping from slavery in Egypt.
- The Israelites are preparing to enter the Promised Land, which God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

### Cultural Context:

- The Israelites were divided into twelve tribes. Three of these tribes, Levi, Kohath, Gershon, and Merari, were given special duties related to the Tabernacle, which was a sacred tent where God's presence would stay with them.
- The Levites were set apart for religious duties. They didn't receive land like the other tribes but were given responsibilities to serve God and His people.
- The Tabernacle was central in their community, and it was where sacrifices and worship took place.

### Theological Insights:

- Numbers 4 details the specific roles of the Levite clans in transporting the Tabernacle and its furnishings safely.
- The Kohathites were responsible for the most sacred items, like the Ark of the Covenant. They had to follow strict guidelines to ensure they showed respect for God's holiness.
- The Gershonites and Merarites had responsibilities for the fabric and structure of the Tabernacle, showing that every role was important in the service of God.
- This organization shows God's order and care in how His people worshipped Him, teaching respect, reverence, and teamwork.

### Teaching Points for Elementary Students:

- Talk about the importance of each person's role and how working together is important, just like in the community.
- Discuss how the Israelites showed respect for God through their careful handling of the holy objects.
- Emphasize that God had a special plan for each tribe, and everyone had a part to play, teaching us that everyone is valued by God.