

OTHERS MAY, YOU MAY NOT

¹⁵ *“After Aaron and his sons have finished covering the holy furnishings and all the holy articles, and when the camp is ready to move, only then are the Kohathites to come and do the carrying. But they must not touch the holy things or they will die. The Kohathites are to carry those things that are in the tent of meeting.”*

Numbers 4:15

I. Where is my wagon? (Numbers 7:9)

⁹ *But Moses did not give any to the Kohathites, because they were to carry on their shoulders the holy things, for which they were responsible.*

A. We live in a season where it is very important not to misjudge other people's privileges.

B. Two carts and four oxen. The Gershonites were responsible to transport the coverings, hangings, and framework of the tabernacle, and all the equipment that pertained to them. 2,630 served. (Numbers 4:21-28)

C. Four wagons and two oxen. The Merarites were responsible to carry the heavy boards of the tabernacle, the bars, the pillars, and the silver sockets into which the pillars fit. About 12,000 pounds of foundational rigging. 3,300 served. (Numbers 4:29-33,42-45) (These were allowed to pack and unpack their parts of the tabernacle themselves but did not carry these parts. They were transported on ox carts.)

- D. The Kohathites carried on their shoulders the furniture of the tabernacle such as the Ark, lampstand, golden incense, altar, and table of the shewbread. But they were not allowed to pack and unpack these items. Aaron and his sons, i.e. the priests, had to do this, because if a Kohathite looked at these holy things uncovered, or touched them, they would die. (Numbers 4:1-20)
 - E. The Kohathites were denied carts and oxen, because their call was superior to the other clans. The greater the burden the greater the blessing.
 - F. God is more directly present to the Kohathites. There was more risk of death serving as a Kohathite than there was laboring in the military.
- II. Gradations of holiness / Some things are holier than others.
- A. The holy Ark was first covered by the veil that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies, then a covering of goat skin and finally in a blue cloth.
 - B. The Table of the Shewbread, the Altar of Incense and the golden candelabra were all wrapped in a blue covering and then an outer goat skin cover.
 - C. The Brazen Altar was first wrapped in a purple cloth, and then in a goatskin covering. When the camp was on the move, (in a straight line) the Ark was distinguished from all other pieces of furniture by its outer blue cover.
 - D. God is refining our abilities to see, hear, and to perceive his holiness.
 - E. The Philistines were allowed liberties with the Ark, because of their ignorance. (I Samuel 5:6-8)

III. Our current category mistake

- A. Many in the church are asking for carts and oxen (ease) plus the highest anointings on earth (the shoulder borne Ark). Never the twain shall meet! Category mistake!!
- B. God has a special aversion to man-made carts trying to carry His Ark. (II Samuel 6:6-8)
- C. God is now visiting misappropriations of His Glory. (Acts 5:1-20)