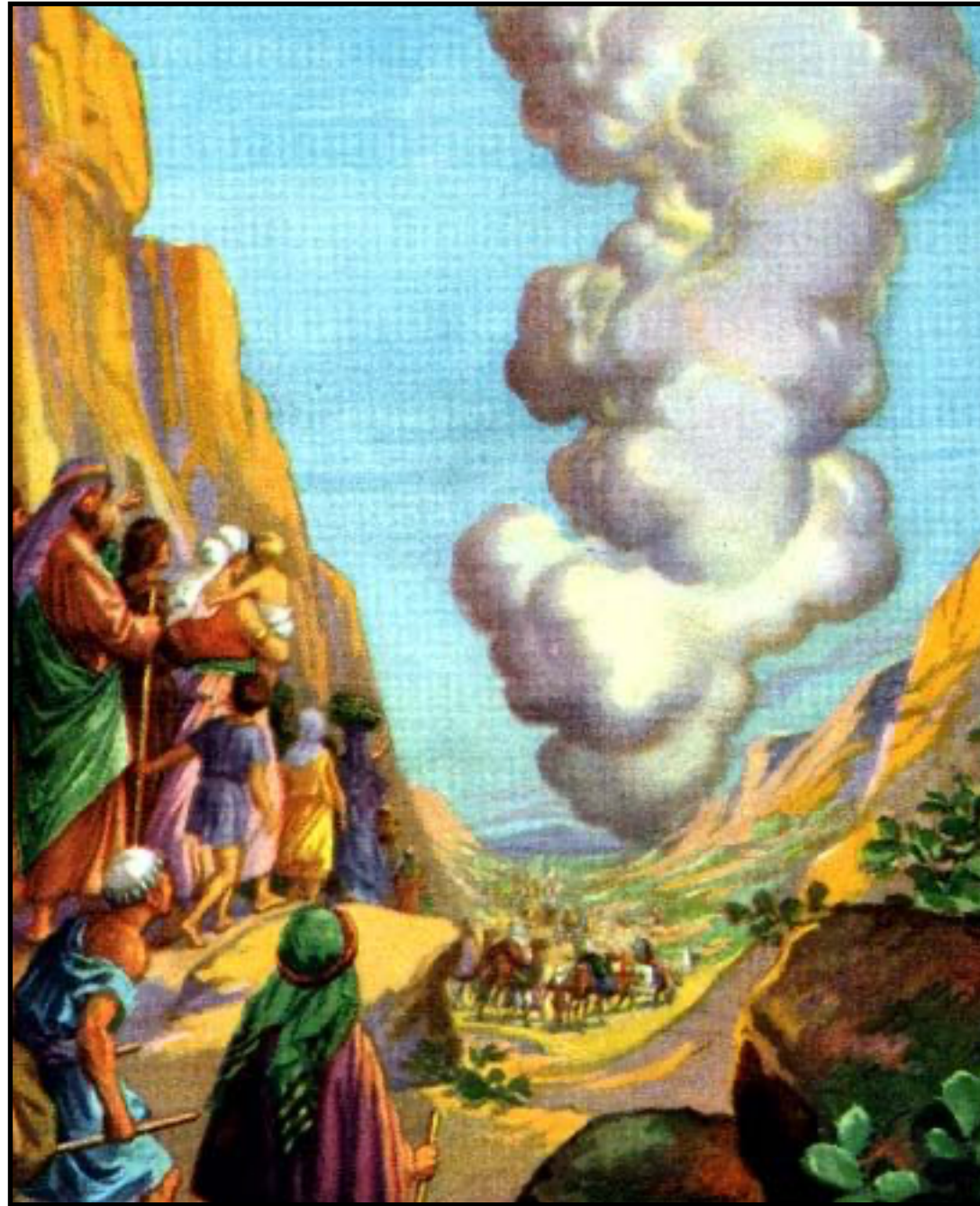


BEHA'ALOTEKHA - NUMBERS

- When You Set Up -

Dan Stolebarger - Holy Ground Explorations
Chapters 8-12

INTRODUCTION



PARASHAT BEHA'ALOTEKHA

INTRO

The Israelites had been at Sinai for nearly a year before God commanded them to begin their journey through the desert back to the Promised Land. It was at Sinai that Moses had first set up the Tabernacle, dedicated the priesthood, and taught the people the commandments of the Torah.

In the “second year, in the second month, on the 20th,” the Ark of the Covenant was lifted from over the Tabernacle and Moses dispatched the Ark of the Covenant to follow after it into the desert (Num. 10:33-6). Moses then directed the people to set out “by stages” toward the desert of Paran (in the Negev).

8

4 Now this workmanship of the lampstand was hammered gold; from its shaft to its flowers it was hammered work. According to the pattern which the Lord had shown Moses, so he made the lampstand.



8

¹³ "And you shall stand the Levites before Aaron and his sons, and then offer them *like* a wave offering to the Lord. ¹⁴ Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the children of Israel, and the Levites shall be Mine. ¹⁵ After that the Levites shall go in to service the tabernacle of meeting. So you shall cleanse them and offer them *like* a wave offering.

Were the Levites the priests? Not necessarily. There were three clans of the Levites (Gershonites, Merarites, and Kohathites), but only those Kohathites who descended from Aaron were qualified to be priests.

God gave the other Levites as a "gift" to Aaron and his sons for helping maintain the Tabernacle and to help offer sacrifices on behalf of the people. So, while all priests are Levites, not all Levites are priests.

8

²³ Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁴ "This *is* what *pertains* to the Levites: From twenty-five years old and above one may enter to perform service in the work of the tabernacle of meeting; ²⁵ and at the age of fifty years they must cease performing this work, and shall work no more. ²⁶ They may minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of meeting, to attend to needs, but they *themselves* shall do no work. Thus you shall do to the Levites regarding their duties."

I find it interesting that at the age of 50 the public aspect of the ministry of the Levite was over. It was now time for the 50 plus to mentor the younger priests. I think this would be a healthy practice in the Church today as well.

¹⁵ Now on the day that the tabernacle was raised up, the cloud covered the tabernacle, the tent of the Testimony; from evening until morning it was above the tabernacle like the appearance of fire. ¹⁶ So it was always: the cloud covered it *by day*, and the appearance of fire by night. ¹⁷ Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, after that the children of Israel would journey; and in the place where the cloud settled, there the children of Israel would pitch their tents.



10

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

2 "Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps.

- The priests, alone, were to blow the trumpets
- Blowing both trumpets was a call for all Israel to assemble
- Blowing one trumpet was a call for the princes of Israel (heads of the thousands) to assemble
- A specific alarm was to be blown as a call to war
- Other patterns of sounds on the trumpets were to be played on days of gladness, on solemn days, at the beginning of months, over burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of peace offerings, as a memorial before the LORD God



10

³³ So they departed from the mountain of the Lord on a journey of three days; and the ark of the covenant of the Lord went before them for the three days' journey, to search out a resting place for them. ³⁴ And the cloud of the Lord was above them by day when they went out from the camp.

³⁵ So it was, whenever the ark set out, that Moses said:

"Rise up, O Lord!

Let Your enemies be scattered,

And let those who hate You flee before You."

The phrase "went before them" (Num. 10:33) does not imply *locality* but *leadership*. Just as a general "went before" his army (that is, led them) and yet was surrounded by troops protecting them, even so the ark lead Israel, even though it was in the middle of them.

Finally, it is possible that the ark was only in the middle of the people while they were camped (Num. 2). But that as they broke camp, the ark then went out before them to lead them to their next destination.

The THREE DAYS is interesting

THREE DAYS

Jonah 1:17

And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

Matthew 12:40

for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Exodus 8:27

We must go a three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the Lord our God as He commands us."

Genesis 40:12

Then Joseph said to him, "This is the interpretation of it: the three branches are three days;

Joshua 2:16

She said to them, "Go to the hill country, so that the pursuers will not happen upon you, and hide yourselves there for three days until the pursuers return. Then afterward you may go on your way."



Now *when* the people complained, it displeased the Lord; for the Lord heard *it*, and His anger was aroused. So the fire of the Lord burned among them, and consumed *some* in the outskirts of the camp. ² Then the people cried out to Moses, and when Moses prayed to the Lord, the fire was quenched. ³ So he called the name of the place Taberah, because the fire of the Lord had burned among them.

Israel, having been ordered, organized, cleansed, separated, blessed, taught how to give, reminded of God's deliverance, given God's presence, and the tools to advance to the Promised Land, is now on the march to Canaan - and immediately, **the people complained.**

⁴ Now the mixed multitude who were among them yielded to intense craving; so the children of Israel also wept again and said: "Who will give us meat to eat? ⁵ We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶ but now our whole being *is* dried up; *there is* nothing at all except this manna *before* our eyes!"

SO YOU WANNA GO BACK TO EGYPT? KEITH GREEN

So you wanna go back to Egypt
Where it's warm and secure
Are sorry you bought the one way ticket
When you thought you were sure
You wanted to live in the land of promise
But now it's getting so hard
Are you sorry you're out here in the desert
Instead of your own back yard
Eating leaks and onions by the Nile
Ooh what breath for dining out in style
Ooh, my life's on the skids
Building the pyramids
Well there's nothing do but travel
And we sure travel a lot
'Cause it's hard to keep your feet from moving
When the sand gets so hot
And in the morning it's manna hotcakes
We snack on manna all day
And we sure had a winner last night for dinner
Flaming manna souffle

Well we once complained for something new to munch
The ground opened up and had some of us for lunch
Ooh, such fire and smoke
Can't God even take a joke? Huh? NO!
So you wanna to back to Egypt
Where your friends wait for you
You can throw a big party and tell the whole gang
Of what they said was all true
And this Moses acts like a big shot
Who does he think he is?
Well it's true that God works lots of miracles
But Moses thinks they're all his
Oh we're having so much trouble even now
Why'd he get so mad about that c-c-c-cow (that golded calf)
Moses seems rather idle
He just sits around, he just sits around and writes the Bible!
Oh, Moses, put down your pen!
What? Oh no, manna again?
Oh, manna waffles
Manna burgers / Manna bagels / Fillet of manna / Manna patty
BaManna bread!



7 Now the manna was like coriander seed, and its color like the color of bdellium.
8 The people went about and gathered *it*, ground *it* on millstones or beat *it* in the mortar, cooked *it* in pans, and made cakes of it; and its taste was like the taste of pastry prepared with oil. 9 And when the dew fell on the camp in the night, the manna fell on it.

MANNA - "Bread from heaven" that looked like coriander seed and tasted in proportion to the measure of one's faith.

12

6 "Hear now My words:

If there is a prophet among you,
I, the Lord, make Myself known to him in a vision;
I speak to him in a dream.

7 Not so with My servant Moses;
He *is* faithful in all My house.

8 I speak with him face to face,
Even plainly, and not in dark sayings;
And he sees the form of the Lord.
Why then were you not afraid
To speak against My servant Moses?"

God described Moses as being "faithful in all my house". The book of Hebrews elaborates that "Moses was faithful as a servant, to testify to the things that were to be spoken later, but Messiah is faithful over God's house as a Son (Hebrews 3:5-6). Think about the analogy that Yeshua is greater than Moses "as the builder for a house is greater than the house itself."