

BETWEEN GOD AND OTHERS

Numbers 3-4

Introduction

1 The Lord is holy!

2 A ministry of life and death!

3 Distinctives roles and functions

Priests: to “minister at the tabernacle” & to lead the Levites

Levites: to guard (Num 3) & to transport (Num 4)

Determined by the Lord

Reflections

Levite Clans, Numbers, Placement in the Inner Camp, and Tabernacle Duties (Num 3–4)

Families	Gershon (3:21–26; 4:28, 39–40)	Kohath (3:27–32; 4:16, 35–36)	Merari (3:33–37; 4:33, 43–44)
Clans	Libnites, Shimeites	Amramites, Izharites, Hebronites, Uzzielites	Mahlites, Mushites
Males = > 1 mth	7,500	8,300 (see NIV footnote on 3:28)	6,200
Males 30–50	2,630	2,750	3,200
Placement in Camp	Tabernacle's west side	Tabernacle's south side	Tabernacle's north side
Levitical Leader	Eliasaph	Elizaphan	Zuriel
Priestly Leader	Ithamar	Eleazar	Ithamar
Tabernacle Items Carried	Mostly fabrics	Mostly furniture and utensils	Mostly structural elements
How	With two carts and four oxen (Num 7:7)	By carrying them on their shoulders (Num 7:9)	With four carts and eight oxen (Num 7:8)

Kohathites' Duties

Item	Location in the Tabernacle	Coverings	Method of Carrying
Ark of the covenant law (4:5–6)	Most Holy Place	Shielding curtain, durable leather, blue cloth	Poles
Table of the presence and related items (4:7–8)	Holy Place	Blue cloth, scarlet cloth, durable leather	Poles
Lampstand and related items (4:9–10)	Holy Place	Blue cloth, durable leather	Carrying frame/Pole
Golden incense altar (4:11)	Holy Place	Blue cloth, durable leather	Poles
Other items used in the tabernacle (4:12)	Holy Place	Blue cloth, durable leather	Carrying frame/Pole
Bronze altar and related items (4:13–14)	Courtyard	Purple cloth, durable leather	Poles

Gershonites' Duties

Item	Measurement (square meters)
Tabernacle curtains	234
Tent	276
Tent covering	276
Tent outer covering	276
Tent entrance curtain	Unknown
Courtyard curtains, including entrance curtain	313
Total	1,375 (+ tent entrance curtain)

Merarites' Duties

Item	Weight (kgs)
Gold	995
Silver	3,422
Bronze	2,409

The above charts are taken with some adaptation from Sklar, J. (2023). [Numbers](#) (T. Longman III & S. McKnight, Eds.; Vol. 4, p. 83). Zondervan Academic.