

- g. The Lord tells Moses, "Take those Levites and put them around the tabernacle."
- 1) Over to the south is to be the descendants of Kohath, except those that belong to Aaron and his family.
    - i) Kohath is between the tabernacle and the people of Reuben, Simeon and Gad.
    - ii) The Levites were there because those people were not to go to the tabernacle unless they were going to offer a sacrifice.
    - iii) If anybody tried to go into the tabernacle, he was going to be a dead man and judgment was going to come on the whole congregation.
    - iv) The Kohathites were to have a particular ministry - they were to take care of the furnishings (the ark, altar of incense, table of shewbread, lampstand, laver, altar of burnt offering) and carry them as they moved
  - 2) Over to the <sup>west</sup> north is Gershon
    - i) Notice it separates the tabernacle from Ephraim, Manasseh and Benjamin.
    - ii) The Gershonites were to have a particular ministry - they were to carry the tent and the curtains (the curtain at the entrance of the tabernacle, curtains around the courtyard).
  - 3) Over to the north you had Merari
    - i) They are in between the tabernacle and Dan, Asher and Naphtali
    - ii) The Merarites were to have a particular ministry - they were to carry the frame of the tabernacle, the posts, cross bars and framework for the tabernacle
- h. The Lord says, "I am going to give the Levites to Aaron and the sons to help them in the work of the ministry because they are going to need help in moving the tabernacle."
- i. At the front is going to be Moses and Aaron and his sons and the descendants of them.
  - j. The Levites are the ones who shield the rest of the Israelites from the tabernacle so as to prevent any of them from going to the tabernacle unless it is to offer a sacrifice.
  - k. After you have the Levites, the Lord says, "I want to do something. Remember that the firstborn belongs to me. I separated them to myself when I brought you out of Egypt. Every firstborn son is mine and every firstborn male animal is mine. Now I am going to take the Levites in place of the firstborn son of every Israelite. And I am going to take the animals of the Levites in place of the firstborn male animals of the