

ordinary Hebrew word for 'give'. Rather it means 'set', 'place', or 'establish'. 'May the Lord establish peace for you' would be a more exact rendering. The word translated 'peace' (Heb. shalom) does not mean simply 'cessation of hostility.' It indicates 'completeness', 'perfection,' or 'well-being.' This, of course, includes cessation of war as one of its factors, but only one. 'The Lord give you that complete harmonious development, that perfection in every direction, that you need.' It is a wonderful blessing, one which can well be taken by every believer, and applied as his prayer to God for blessing upon himself, and upon those to whom he may have the opportunity of presenting God's message.

b. The offerings of the princes (7:1-89)

On the day that Moses had fully set up the tabernacle (1). This chapter does not chronologically follow the preceding ones, since the military census (Num. 1:1) was taken at the beginning of the second month of the second year, and the tabernacle was set up at the beginning of the first month (Ex. 40:17). Exodus gives the divine instructions for building the tabernacle, and describes its erection in accordance with ~~the~~ these directions. Along with these directions, God also gave precise instructions for the priests, which are preserved in the book of Leviticus. Numbers continues the history, usually presenting it in chronological order, but sometimes arranging it logically instead of chronologically. Although the events of this chapter preceded those in the earlier chapters of the book, it is placed here because it includes the bringing of materials needed for transporting the tabernacle, and we are here concerned with preparations for journeying away from Sinai.

1. The wagons and the oxen (7:1-9). The twelve leaders of the tribes offered the six covered wagons and the twelve oxen needed for transporting the tabernacle. The cost was equally divided among them (3).