

Now we move on to No. 7 today. §. 7. The appraisal must be objective not subjective. The census was not <sup>made</sup> on the basis of whether Moses liked one particular tribe or ~~disliked~~ disliked another, the general impression he had of them. It was a definite count of the number in each tribe. And we noticed how objective it is. And we must make an objective appraisal of ourselves. How can you make this objective appraisal? All of us are constantly making subjective appraisals of ourselves and these are quite generally wrong. I remember some years ago I was giving a course in Church History. And there was a paper which I studied very carefully, a test paper. a final exam it was, because as I looked at it my first inclination was to give it a failure. My next inclination was to think that the paper did have some excellent things in it, I thought I could pass it and I finally convinced myself I could give it a 70 which I did. And then the following day I received a request to see the student who had written this paper after the mark had been given out. And he told he he was sure he had done 95 work on the paper or at least 90 and there wasn't much blessing in trying to study if you were going to get marks like that, and he really had completely misinterpreted his own understanding of church history. Now in that case I am glad to say I went over the paper with him. We took considerable time. I pointed out where his misunderstandings were, where he had used the wrong approach in getting an idea of what was important and how to express it, and after the hour spent with him I wondered if that time had been worth while, but the next semester he gave me a 90 paper and showed that he had profited fully by the suggestions that I had made to him. But his appraisal was so very different from his actual accomplishment that I thought it was an excellent illustration of the fact that in so many regards we need to learn to make an objective appraisal of ourselves, and how are we going to do it? Well we cannot do it fully It isn't a simple matter like taking a census. Census isn't such a simple matter. There are many real problems in it, but it is much simpler than getting a real appraisal of what your particular abilities and qualifications are. But we need to work in this direction. And of course that which is most useful is getting the judgment of other people, but you have to get the judgment of more than one. Anyone can be very very mistaken.