

of the males of the children of Israel from a month old and upward from the number of their names.¹¹ So we have the firstborn of all the others numbered, and the Levites were numbered, and a comparison is made of the two, and the Levites are taken by the Lord to redeem the firstborn of the children of Israel. So here is a definite purpose for which they were numbered in a different way. Those from among those, not simply those from 20 years old.

And then in chapter 4, we read, in the first three verses, another command to number the Levites. Here he says in vs. 2, "Take the sum of the sons of Kohath from among the sons of Levi, from 30 years old and upward until 50 years ~~old~~ old to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation. And he gave this command for each of the groups of the Levites, and numbered each group, and then in vs. 46-48 he tells how many there were between the years of 30 and 50 of the Levites, which were the years designated to do the work in the sanctuary. So that we have the clear evidence here that the appraisal should be related to God's purposes for us. And at this point then, I ~~g~~ feel that it would be well for us to examine what are God's purposes for us? What sort of an appraisal is it that we are going to make?

Somebody wrote a statement in a letter not long ago in which he made a derogatory reference to me, and referred to my physical weakness. I do not know what he was referring to. I told someone that I would be glad to challenge him to a foot race any time. I think I could easily beat that particular man in a foot-race, or in seeing who could walk the farthest, and carry the biggest load in a day. But I don't think the results of such a combat would prove anything whatever as to his worthiness or mine in the Lord's work. Our appraisal is for a purpose, for certain definite purposes. And so it is well for us to have in mind, What are God's specific purposes for us? And so I'd like to make a small a, under 5

a. God's First Purpose for our Lives is our Growth in Grace. I think that is very important for us to remember. His first purpose for our lives is our growth in grace. There is a statement in Eph. 5 which I think gives us a very interesting idea