

idiomatic expression meaning 'beside whatever he otherwise is able to afford';'  
 i.e., in addition to the prescribed offering.

#### V. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE CAMP. vi. 22-ix. 14

In Exodus arrangements were made for the establishment of the tabernacle as the centre of the religious life of Israel. In Leviticus regulations were laid down for many different types of offerings and also for the special services of the priests and Levites. Our present section deals with particular aspects of the religious life of Israel during the long wilderness journey. It contains five sub-divisions. The first of these is a beautiful formula of blessing. Unfortunately, in our English Bible it is buried at the end of a long chapter of an entirely different nature. The second is an account of the offerings made by the leaders of the different tribes at the beginning of the journey. These included particular sacrifices ~~for~~ for the tribes, and also materials which were needed for the service of the tabernacle. The third is the account of the lighting of the lamps in the candlestick in the tabernacle, showing the beginning of its use to bring light to the minds and hearts of the people. The fourth is an account of the specific preparation of the Levites for their work in the service of the tabernacle. The fifth is an account of the first great memorial Passover, one year after the event which the Passover memorializes, and a statement of new regulations in connection with it.

##### a. The formula for blessing the congregation (vi.22-27)

This brief section presents a formula for the priests to use in blessing the congregation. Verses 22 and 23 introduce it, and verse 27 gives a concluding promise. The blessing itself consists of three verses, 24-26. It is one of the most beautiful and best-known sections of the book of Numbers.

Those who deny the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch generally divide these five books into documents, claiming that more primitive passages are found in the early documents, and that the later ones, which are supposed to be more spiritual and less