

This third verse has a specific individual reference: 'The Lord lift up His face upon you.' Not merely that the face of the Lord shine out upon all the world and show it favour, and that you be included in that upon which it shines, but that He very specifically lift up His face toward you, and give particular attention to your individual welfare. If there be question as to this interpretation of the first part of the verse, there can be no question as to the meaning of its latter half, and give thee peace. The word here translated 'give' is not the 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 'all-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 (vii.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 (Nu.i.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. xl.17). Exodus gives the divine instructions for building the tabernacle, and describes its erection in accordance with 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.