

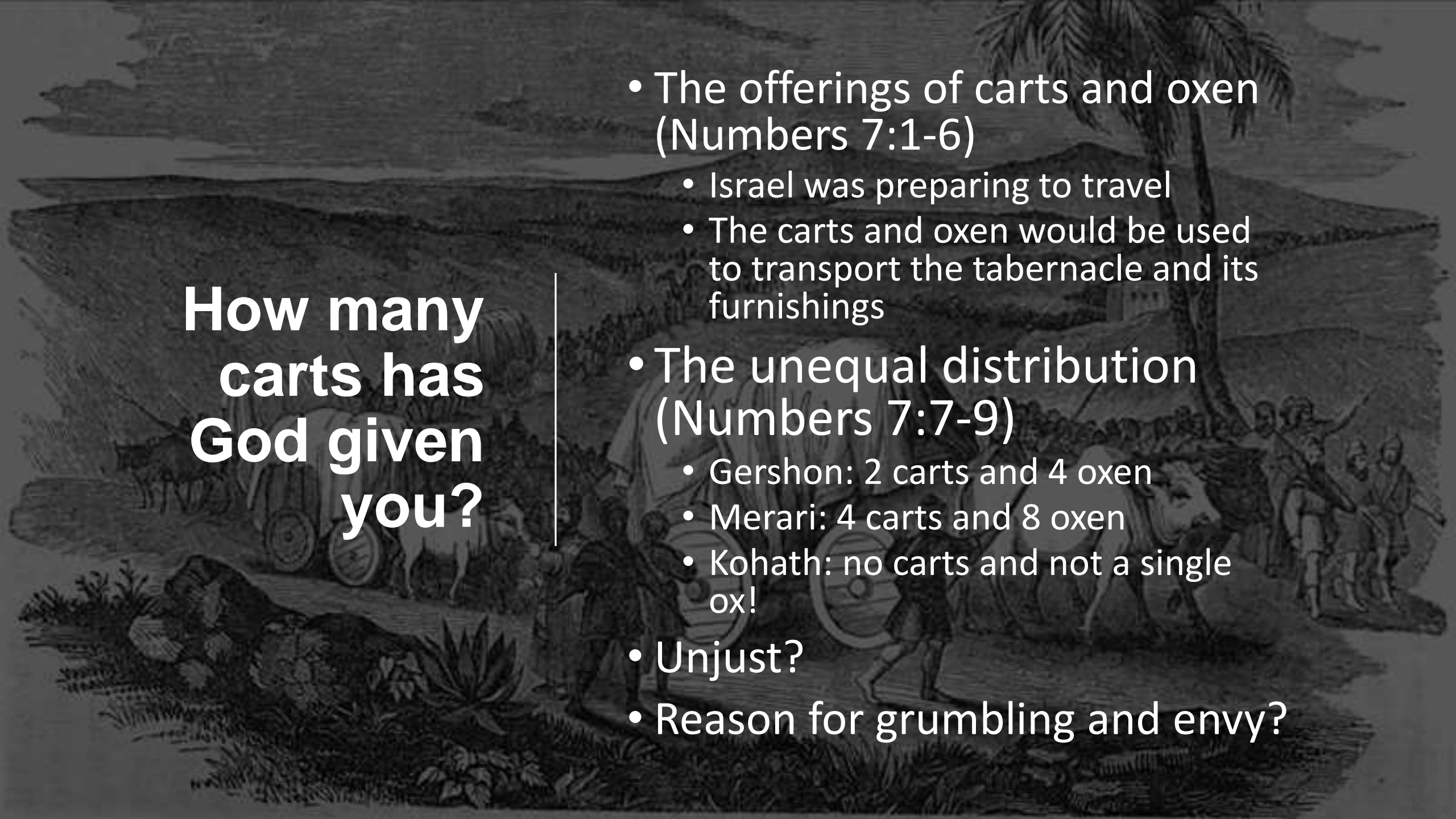
How many
carts did
God give
you?



The things we ask for in prayer

- We see the spiritual emphasis in Jesus' prayers
 - The model in Matthew 6:9-14 – just one line about material necessities
 - His prayer in John 17 – all about the fulfillment of the Father's will in the disciples
- How do our prayers compare?
 - Is our focus spiritual or material?
 - How many of our prayers are devoted to asking for things, even unnecessary things?
- **Did you ever ask God to give you a car?**



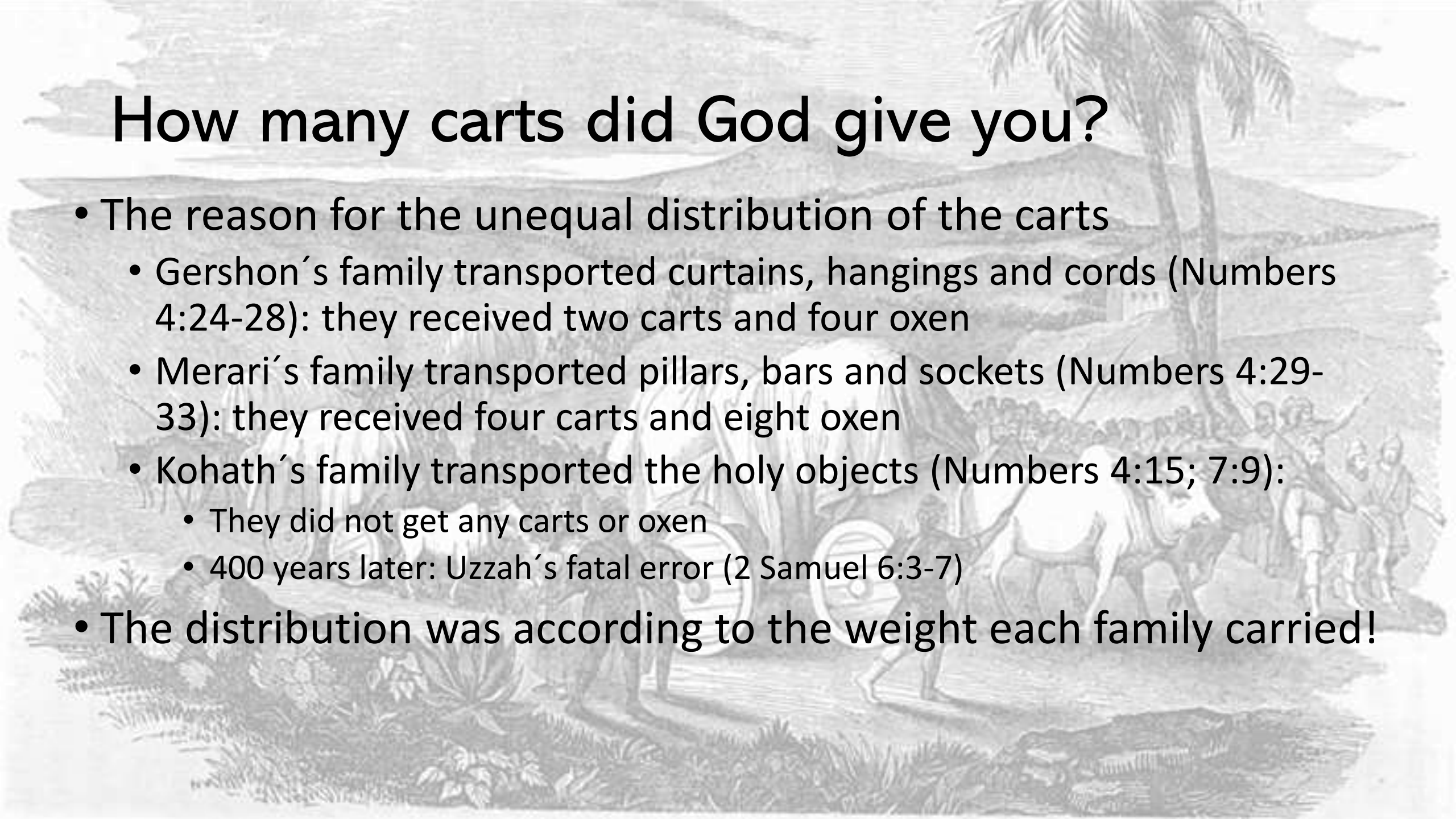


How many carts has God given you?

- The offerings of carts and oxen (Numbers 7:1-6)
 - Israel was preparing to travel
 - The carts and oxen would be used to transport the tabernacle and its furnishings
- The unequal distribution (Numbers 7:7-9)
 - Gershon: 2 carts and 4 oxen
 - Merari: 4 carts and 8 oxen
 - Kohath: no carts and not a single ox!
- Unjust?
- Reason for grumbling and envy?

How many carts did God give you?

- The reason for the unequal distribution of the carts
 - Gershon's family transported curtains, hangings and cords (Numbers 4:24-28): they received two carts and four oxen
 - Merari's family transported pillars, bars and sockets (Numbers 4:29-33): they received four carts and eight oxen
 - Kohath's family transported the holy objects (Numbers 4:15; 7:9):
 - They did not get any carts or oxen
 - 400 years later: Uzzah's fatal error (2 Samuel 6:3-7)
- The distribution was according to the weight each family carried!



We have different roles and responsibilities

- In the home (1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22)
- In relation to the government (1 Peter 2:13-17)
- In the church (Hebrews 13:17)



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God did not give us all the same abilities or resources (Romans 12:3-8)

- Not a reason for envy or grumbling
- We should use what we have:
abilities, resources, opportunities


God has equipped us according to the weight of our responsibility

- No reason for despair or discouragement when we face great challenges or temptations
- God has given us what we need to overcome obstacles (1 Corinthians 10:13)



How many
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How many
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It doesn't matter
how heavy your
load may be

God will provide
enough carts and
oxen!

2 Corinthians 12:7-10