

# 2 Chronicles 29:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My sons, be not now negligent: for the LORD hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.

## Analysis

Hezekiah's charge to the Levites 'My sons, be not now negligent: for the LORD hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense' recalls priests to their covenant calling. After Ahaz's apostasy, the temple was defiled and worship ceased. Hezekiah's reforms begin with restoring proper worship and reminding Levites of their divine election ('the LORD hath chosen you'). The threefold description of priestly duty - stand before, serve, minister - emphasizes worship's sacred privilege and responsibility. This points to New Testament believers who are chosen as royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9) to offer spiritual sacrifices.

## Historical Context

Hezekiah's reforms (c. 715 BCE) reversed his father Ahaz's wickedness, which included closing the temple and promoting idolatry. The Levites' response (29:12-19) demonstrated that even after apostasy, faithful remnants remain who respond to calls for renewal.

## Related Passages

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How might you be 'negligent' in your calling as part of God's chosen priesthood of believers?
2. What does it mean practically to 'stand before God' and 'serve Him' in your daily life?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּנֵי רָבֶּךָ מִצְרָיִם תִּשְׁלַח אֶל עַתָּה הַבָּנִים  
My sons H6258 H408 be not now negligent H3588 H0 hath chosen H977  
H1121 H7952

וְלֹא תִּשְׁתַּחַת בְּנֵי יְהוָה לְעַמְּדֵךְ בְּפָנָיו מִשְׁרָתָת יְמֵינוּ  
for the LORD H3068 you to stand H5975 before H6440 him and that ye should minister H8334 H1961  
H0 H8334

לְבָנָיו תְּמִשְׁרָתָת יְמֵינוּ וְלֹא תְּמִקְטֵרִים:  
him and that ye should minister unto him and burn incense H6999

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 10:8** (References Lord): At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day.