

Deuteronomy 10:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore Levi hath no part nor inheritance with his brethren; the LORD is his inheritance, according as the LORD thy God promised him.

Analysis

At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi unto himself, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD. God's setting apart of Levi demonstrates divine prerogative in choosing servants for sacred ministry. This was not Levi's achievement but God's sovereign election to special service.

The phrase separated...unto himself indicates consecration - taken from common use for holy purpose. The Levites belonged peculiarly to God, devoted exclusively to His service. This foreshadows believers' call to be holy, separated from the world unto God.

Bearing the ark of the covenant was sacred trust, as the ark represented God's throne and presence. This duty required holiness, as those who approach God must be ceremonially and morally clean. The Levites' role pictured the privilege and responsibility of those who minister in God's presence.

Reformed theology sees priestly separation as type of believer-priests under the New Covenant. All Christians are separated unto God's service, though we serve through different callings and gifts.

Historical Context

The Levitical consecration occurred after the golden calf incident when the Levites demonstrated loyalty to God by executing judgment on idolaters (Exodus 32:25-29). Their faithfulness resulted in their selection for permanent sacred service.

The Levites received no territorial inheritance in Canaan; instead, the Lord Himself was their inheritance, and they received support through tithes from the other tribes.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does God's sovereign choice of Levi teach about divine election to service?
2. How does Levitical separation unto God foreshadow all believers' consecration?
3. What privileges and responsibilities come with being set apart for God's service?
4. Why was holiness required for those who bore the ark and ministered in God's presence?
5. In what sense is the Lord the inheritance of those devoted to His service?

Interlinear Text

עַל	כִּן	לֹא	הִנֵּה	לְלֵוִי	חֵלֶק	נַחֲלָתוֹ	עִם
H5921	H3651	H3808	H1961	Wherefore Levi	hath no part	is his inheritance	H5973
				H3878	H2506	H5159	
	אֶחָד		יְהוָה	וְהָ	נַחֲלָתוֹ	כְּאִשׁוֹ	
with his brethren		according as the LORD	H1931	is his inheritance		H834	
	H251	H3068		H5159			
	דָּבָר	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ	לִי			
promised	according as the LORD	thy God	H0				
H1696	H3068	H430					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 44:28 (Parallel theme): And it shall be unto them for an inheritance: I am their inheritance: and ye shall give them no possession in Israel: I am their possession.