

Ezra 6:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which is at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses.

Analysis

The organizational statement—'they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which is at Jerusalem'—restored Davidic worship structure. The phrase 'as it is written in the book of Moses' demonstrates submission to biblical authority. This balance of Davidic innovation (divisions and courses) grounded in Mosaic authorization shows that legitimate development must accord with Scripture. The restored order enabled regular worship according to divine prescription.

Historical Context

David organized priests into twenty-four divisions and Levites into courses for rotating temple service (1 Chronicles 24-25). This maintained continuous worship without exhausting any group. The system balanced orderly structure with personal participation. 'As it is written in the book of Moses' refers to Levitical service regulations (Numbers 3-4, 8), showing Davidic organization implemented rather than contradicted Torah. Maintaining this structure through exile required oral tradition and committed teaching.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does implementing Davidic organizational structures under Mosaic authority demonstrate proper relationship between biblical command and wise application?
2. What does careful organization for worship demonstrate about honoring God through excellence and order rather than mere spontaneity?

Interlinear Text

עַל בְּמַחְלָקָתָה וְלִפְנֵי יְמִינָה כְּבָנֵי אַיִלְנִיא בְּפָלָגָתָה וְלִפְנֵי יְמִינָה
And they set the priests in their divisions and the Levites in their courses for
H6966 H3549 H6392 H3879 H4255 H5922

סְפִר בְּכֹתֶב בַּיְרֹשֶׁלָּם אֲלֹהֶם אֲלֹהֶם הַזֶּה
the service of God which is at Jerusalem as it is written in the book
H5673 H426 H1768 H3390 H3792 H5609

מְשֹׁה:
of Moses
H4873

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 3:6 (Parallel theme): Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister unto him.

1 Chronicles 24:1 (Parallel theme): Now these are the divisions of the sons of Aaron. The sons of Aaron; Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.