

# Numbers 18

Chapter 18 of 36 · 32 Verses · Authorized King James Version

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## Duties of Priests and Levites

<sup>1</sup> And the LORD said unto Aaron, Thou and thy sons and thy father's house with thee shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary: and thou and thy sons with thee shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood.

<sup>2</sup> And thy brethren also of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of thy father, bring thou with thee, that they may be joined unto thee, and minister unto thee: but thou and thy sons with thee shall minister before the tabernacle of witness.

<sup>3</sup> And they shall keep thy charge, and the charge of all the tabernacle: only they shall not come nigh the vessels of the sanctuary and the altar, that neither they, nor ye also, die.

<sup>4</sup> And they shall be joined unto thee, and keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, for all the service of the tabernacle: and a stranger shall not come nigh unto you.

<sup>5</sup> And ye shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar: that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel.

<sup>6</sup> And I, behold, I have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel: to you they are given as a gift for the LORD, to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for every thing of the altar, and within the vail; and ye shall serve: I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

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## Offerings for Priests and Levites

**8** And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Behold, I also have given thee the charge of mine heave offerings of all the hallowed things of the children of Israel; unto thee have I given them by reason of the anointing, and to thy sons, by an ordinance for ever.

**9** This shall be thine of the most holy things, reserved from the fire: every oblation of their's, every meat offering of their's, and every sin offering of their's, and every trespass offering of their's, which they shall render unto me, shall be most holy for thee and for thy sons.

**10** In the most holy place shalt thou eat it; every male shall eat it: it shall be holy unto thee.

**11** And this is thine; the heave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings of the children of Israel: I have given them unto thee, and to thy sons and to thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: every one that is clean in thy house shall eat of it.

**12** All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the firstfruits of them which they shall offer unto the LORD, them have I given thee.

**13** And whatsoever is first ripe in the land, which they shall bring unto the LORD, shall be thine; every one that is clean in thine house shall eat of it.

**14** Every thing devoted in Israel shall be thine.

**15** Every thing that openeth the matrix in all flesh, which they bring unto the LORD, whether it be of men or beasts, shall be thine: nevertheless the firstborn of man shalt thou surely redeem, and the firstling of unclean beasts shalt thou redeem.

**16** And those that are to be redeemed from a month old shalt thou redeem, according to thine estimation, for the money of five shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs.

**17** But the firstling of a cow, or the firstling of a sheep, or the firstling of a goat, thou shalt not redeem; they are holy: thou shalt sprinkle their blood upon the altar, and shalt burn their fat for an offering made by fire, for a sweet savour unto the LORD.

18 And the flesh of them shall be thine, as the wave breast and as the right shoulder are thine.

19 All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer unto the LORD, have I given thee, and thy sons and thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: it is a covenant of salt for ever before the LORD unto thee and to thy seed with thee.

20 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel.

21 And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

22 Neither must the children of Israel henceforth come nigh the tabernacle of the congregation, lest they bear sin, and die.

23 But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they have no inheritance.

24 But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.

25 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

26 Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe.

27 And this your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress.

28 Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest.

**29** Out of all your gifts ye shall offer every heave offering of the LORD, of all the best thereof, even the hallowed part thereof out of it.

**30** Therefore thou shalt say unto them, When ye have heaved the best thereof from it, then it shall be counted unto the Levites as the increase of the threshingfloor, and as the increase of the winepress.

**31** And ye shall eat it in every place, ye and your households: for it is your reward for your service in the tabernacle of the congregation.

**32** And ye shall bear no sin by reason of it, when ye have heaved from it the best of it: neither shall ye pollute the holy things of the children of Israel, lest ye die.

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## HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

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### **Altar** — מִזְבֵּחַ (Mizbeach)

Altar, place of sacrifice

The Hebrew **mizbeach** (מִזְבֵּחַ) means altar—from the root 'to slaughter.' Altars were places where sacrifices were offered to God, pointing forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

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### **Holy** — קָדוֹשׁ (Qadosh)

Holy, set apart

The Hebrew **qadosh** (קָדוֹשׁ) means holy or set apart—separated from common use for God's purposes. God is 'the Holy One of Israel,' utterly distinct from creation in moral perfection.

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### **Iniquity** — אָוֶן (Avon)

Iniquity, guilt, punishment

The Hebrew **avon** (אָוֶן) encompasses iniquity, guilt, and its punishment—the twisted nature of sin. 'The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all' (Isaiah 53:6), Christ bearing our guilt and penalty.

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### **Lord** — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

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### **Priest** — כֹּהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹּהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

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### **Redeem** — גָּאַל (Gaal)

To redeem, act as kinsman-redeemer

The Hebrew **gaal** (גָּאַל) means to redeem or act as kinsman-redeemer (go'el)—buying back family property or relatives. It foreshadows Christ redeeming His people through His blood.

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**Sin** — חטאת (Chatta'ah)

Sin, missing the mark

The Hebrew **chatta'ah** (חטאת) means sin—missing the mark of God's standard. It encompasses rebellion, transgression, and falling short of divine holiness.

**Word** — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

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**CROSS REFERENCES**


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**Numbers 18:1**    **Sin:** Exodus 28:38; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:24. **Parallel theme:** Hebrews 13:17

**Numbers 18:2**    **Parallel theme:** Genesis 29:34

**Numbers 18:3**    **Temple:** Numbers 3:25; 3:36; 4:15. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 16:40.  
**Sacrifice:** Numbers 3:31

**Numbers 18:5**    **Temple:** Exodus 27:21; Leviticus 24:3. **Judgment:** Numbers 16:46

**Numbers 18:6**    **References Israel:** Numbers 3:9; 3:12. **References Lord:** Numbers 3:45

**Numbers 18:7**    **Parallel theme:** Numbers 3:10; 16:40; 18:20; John 3:27

**Numbers 18:8**    **Parallel theme:** Exodus 29:29; 40:13; 40:15; Leviticus 6:16; 7:6. **Sacrifice:** Leviticus 6:18

**Numbers 18:9**    **Sin:** Leviticus 4:22; 4:27; 7:7. **Holy:** Leviticus 14:13

**Numbers 18:10**    **Holy:** Leviticus 6:16; 6:29; 7:6

**Numbers 18:11**    **Sacrifice:** Leviticus 10:14; Deuteronomy 18:3

**Numbers 18:12**

**References Lord:** Exodus 23:19; 34:26. **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 18:4

**Numbers 18:13**    **Parallel theme:** Exodus 22:29

**Numbers 18:14**    **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 27:28

- Numbers 18:15**    **Redemption:** Exodus 34:20. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 13:2
- Numbers 18:16**    **Temple:** Numbers 3:47; Exodus 30:13
- Numbers 18:19**    **Covenant:** Leviticus 2:13; 2 Chronicles 13:5. **Sacrifice:** Numbers 18:11
- Numbers 18:20**    **References Israel:** Ezekiel 44:28. **References Lord:** Deuteronomy 10:9; 12:12; Joshua 13:33; Psalms 16:5; 142:5; Lamentations 3:24. **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 14:27; Joshua 14:3; Revelation 21:3
- Numbers 18:21**    **Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 10:37; 12:44; Hebrews 7:5
- Numbers 18:22**    **Sin:** Leviticus 22:9
- Numbers 18:23**    **Temple:** Numbers 3:7
- Numbers 18:24**    **Sacrifice:** Numbers 18:26
- Numbers 18:26**    **Parallel theme:** Nehemiah 10:38. **References Israel:** Numbers 18:21
- Numbers 18:27**    **Parallel theme:** Numbers 18:30
- Numbers 18:28**    **Parallel theme:** Genesis 14:18
- Numbers 18:31**    **Parallel theme:** Matthew 10:10; Luke 10:7
- Numbers 18:32**    **Sin:** Leviticus 19:8. **Holy:** Leviticus 22:2

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