

Numbers 18:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

While Aaron's sons served as priests, the Levites were 'joined' (Hebrew word-play on 'Levi') to assist them. God established a hierarchical service structure—all sacred but with different functions. This demonstrates that God's economy involves diverse roles, each vital but not interchangeable. Rebellion like Korah's arose from refusing divinely appointed distinctions.

Historical Context

The Levites' service included carrying tabernacle components (chapter 4), guarding the sanctuary (3:7-8), and teaching the law (Deuteronomy 33:10). Their role, though distinct from priesthood, was essential to Israel's worship. This division of labor maximized effectiveness while maintaining order.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you embrace your God-given role without coveting others' assignments?
2. What happens when we blur distinctions God has established between different callings?

Interlinear Text

אֶת וְגַם	אֶחָיֶיךָ	מִטֵּה	לְוִי	שֵׁבֶט	אָבִיךָ	
H1571	H853	And thy brethren	also of the tribe	of Levi	the tribe	of thy father
		H251	H4294	H3878	H7626	H1
בְּהִבֵּאתְךָ	אִתְּךָ	וְיָלְדוּ		עַל יָדְךָ		
bring	H854	thou with thee that they may be joined		H5921		
H7126		H3867				
וְיָשַׁרְתָּ	אִתְּךָ	וְבָנֶיךָ	אִתְּךָ			
unto thee and minister	H859	unto thee but thou and thy sons	H854			
H8334		H1121				
לְפָנַי	אֶת הָאֹהֶל	הָעֵדוּת:				
with thee shall minister before	the tabernacle	of witness				
H6440	H168	H5715				

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 29:34 (Parallel theme): And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi.