

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	יְגִיד	אֶחָיו	מִתְּנִסְתָּר	לְיִצְחָק	שֵׁבֶת	אֶבֶן
H1571	H853	And thy brethren	also of the tribe	of Levi	the tribe	of thy father
		H251	H4294	H3878	H7626	H1
בְּ	בְּ	אֶת	וְ	לְ	עַל	בְּ
bring	H854	thou with thee that they may be joined	H3867		H5921	
H7126						
וִישְׁרָת	וְ	וְאַתָּה	וְבָנֶיךָ	וְאֶת		
unto thee and minister	H859	unto thee but thou and thy sons	H1121	H854		
H8334						
לְפָנֶיךָ	אַתָּה	בְּעֵדָת				
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.