

Numbers 18:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Analysis

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying—This divine speech formula (וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה) (vayedaber YHWH el-Moshe lemor) introduces regulations governing Levitical tithes from the tithe, establishing multi-layered stewardship in Israel's economic system. The placement after priestly portion regulations (18:8-24) shows God's concern for comprehensive provision across all ministry levels—priests, Levites, and their families.

This verse begins the principle that even those who receive tithes (Levites) must tithe from what they receive, supporting higher-order priests (Aaron's line). The pattern establishes that all believers are simultaneously recipients of God's grace and stewards obligated to pass blessing forward, anticipating New Testament teaching on generous giving (2 Corinthians 9:6-11).

Historical Context

Levites received tithes from Israel's other eleven tribes (18:21-24) as compensation for tabernacle service since they inherited no land. This passage (18:25-32) required Levites to tithe from their tithe-income to support Aaronic priests, ensuring the priestly line received adequate provision.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the tithe-from-tithe principle challenge assumptions that ministry leaders should be exempt from generous giving?
2. What does multi-layered stewardship (people tithe to Levites, Levites tithe to priests) teach about comprehensive kingdom economics?
3. How can churches structure giving to ensure adequate provision for multiple ministry levels without creating privileged classes?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּדְבַּר	יְהוָה	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	לֵאמֹר:
spake	And the LORD	^{H413}	unto Moses	saying
^{H1696}	^{H3068}		^{H4872}	^{H559}

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