

Numbers 18:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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—The Levites' tithe-from-tithe was **reckoned** (שבָּךְ chashav, counted/credited) as equivalent to the agricultural produce (grain and wine) given by landed tribes. Though Levites owned no fields or vineyards, God credited their tithe as if they had harvested crops themselves, maintaining dignity and equality across all tribes.

The comparison to **corn of the threshingfloor** (דָּגָן מִגְּוֵן dagan migoren) and **fulness of the winepress** (מִלְאָה מִיְקֵב mele'ah miyekev) emphasizes that spiritual ministry was 'productive labor' deserving recognition equal to physical agriculture. Paul applies this principle: 'The laborer is worthy of his wages' (1 Timothy 5:18).

Historical Context

Ancient Israel's economy centered on agriculture—grain, wine, and oil were standard wealth measures. By crediting Levitical tithes 'as though' they were agricultural produce, God ensured that landless ministers had equal economic dignity with landowning farmers and shepherds.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 – God is love

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's crediting of ministry work 'as though' it were agricultural labor affirm the value of spiritual service?
2. What modern church practices might inadvertently communicate that spiritual ministry is less 'productive' than secular work?
3. How can believers practice economic equality that honors both material producers and spiritual servants?

Interlinear Text

בְּנָחָשׁ	לְכָמָה	תְּרוּמָתָךְ	וְנִנְחַשׁ
shall be reckoned	H0	And this your heave offering	
H2803		H8641	
unto you as though it were the corn	H1715	of the threshingfloor	and as the fulness
H4480		H1637	H4395
בְּקָבָה	מִן	מִן	בְּכָלָא
H4480	of the winepress	H3342	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 18:30 (Parallel theme): 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.

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