

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** (חָשַׁב 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 מִגֶּרֶן dagan migoren) and **fulness of the winepress** (מֵלֶאֱ מִיֵּיקֵב 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

וְנִחַשׁ ב	לְךָ ׀	תְּרוֹמַתְךָ ׀		
shall be reckoned	H0	And this your heave offering		
H2803		H8641		
כִּדְגָן	מִן	הַגֶּרֶן	וְכִמְלֵאָה	
unto you as though it were the corn	H4480	of the threshingfloor	and as the fulness	
H1715		H1637	H4395	
מִן	תְּקֵב:			
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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