

Numbers 18:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest.

Analysis

Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel—The emphatic **thus ye also** (תְּמֻמָּן ... קָנָה ken... gam-atem) stresses that Levites participated in the same stewardship obligations as all Israel—receiving tithes didn't exempt them from giving. The phrase **of all your tithes** (מִכָּל מַעֲשֵׂתֵיכֶם mikol ma'asroteikhem) established comprehensive giving, not selective contributions based on personal preference.

And ye shall give thereof the LORD's heave offering to Aaron the priest—Directing the tithe-of-tithe specifically to Aaron's line maintained priesthood's distinct role and adequate support. This multi-tier system (people → Levites → priests) prevented both poverty and privilege, ensuring balanced provision across all ministry levels while maintaining clear functional distinctions.

Historical Context

The Levitical tithe-to-priests created a three-tier economic flow:

1. Israelites gave 10% to Levites
2. Levites gave 10% of that (1% of Israel's production) to priests
3. Priests served at the altar with no other income.

This system sustained 23,000+ Levites and Aaron's family throughout Israel's history.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the requirement that even tithe-recipients must tithe challenge entitlement mentalities in ministry?
2. What 'heave offering to the LORD' (giving to spiritual leaders) might God be calling you to prioritize in your budget?
3. How can churches structure support to maintain both adequate provision and prevention of ministerial privilege?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה תְּרֻוםָתָה מִן אֶת־עַמּוֹתֶךָ תְּרֻוםָתָה מִן אֶת־עַמּוֹתֶךָ
H3651 **Thus ye also shall offer** H1571 **an heave offering** H8641 **thereof the LORD'S**
H7311 H859 H3068

מִן־עַל־מָעָשֶׂךָ תְּרֻוםָתָה מִן־עַל־מָעָשֶׂךָ
H3605 **of all your tithes** H834 **which ye receive** H3947 **of the children**
H4643 H853 H1121

וְעַתָּה תְּרֻוםָתָה מִן־עַל־מָעָשֶׂךָ תְּרֻוםָתָה מִן־עַל־מָעָשֶׂךָ
of Israel **and ye shall give** H4480 **an heave offering** H8641 **thereof the LORD'S**
H3478 H5414 H853 H3068

לְאַבְרָהָם בְּפֶתַח־
to Aaron **the priest** H175 H3548

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 14:18 (Parallel theme): And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

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