

Numbers 18:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Out of all your gifts ye shall offer every heave offering of the LORD, of all the best thereof, even the hallowed part thereof out of it.

Analysis

Out of all your gifts ye shall offer every heave offering of the LORD, of all the best thereof, even the hallowed part thereof out of it—The triple emphasis—**all your gifts, all the best, the hallowed part**—establishes that Levites must give from the choicest portions (חֵלֶב *chelev*, fat/best), not leftover remnants. The phrase **hallowed part** (מִקְדָּשׁוֹ *miqdasho*, its sanctified portion) indicates that selecting the best for God sanctified the entire remainder for Levitical use.

This principle of firstfruits giving (Proverbs 3:9, 'Honor the LORD with... the firstfruits of all thine increase') required faith—giving the best first, trusting God would provide for remaining needs. Jesus commended the widow's sacrificial giving from poverty (Mark 12:41-44), demonstrating that percentage matters less than priority and proportion.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern cultures often gave inferior sacrifices (blemished animals, poorest grain) to deities while keeping the best for personal use. Israel's law reversed this pattern—God demanded the best, ensuring that worship cost something real, not merely religious tokenism.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the requirement to give 'all the best' challenge modern practices of giving God leftovers (time, money, energy)?
2. What does 'hallowing' your giving (setting apart the best for God) teach about faith and trust in provision?
3. How can you identify and offer the 'hallowed part' of your resources rather than convenient remainders?

Interlinear Text

מִכָּל

H3605

מִמֶּנֶּה תִּיכֶּם

Out of all your gifts

H4979

תָּרֹמֶת יְמֹ

ye shall offer

H7311

אֵת

H853

כָּל

H3605

תְּרוֹמַת

every heave offering

H8641

יְהוָה

of the LORD

H3068

מִכָּל

H3605

חֵלֶב ז'

of all the best

H2459

אֵת

H853

מִקְדָּשׁ ז'

thereof even the hallowed part

H4720

מִמֶּנֶּה

H4480