

Numbers 18:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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—The word **heaved** (בָּהַרְיָמְךָם baharimakhem, when you lift up) describes the physical gesture of lifting offerings toward heaven, symbolizing presentation to God. The verb **counted** (נְחַשֵּׁב nechshav, reckoned/credited) repeats from verse 27, emphasizing divine accounting that credited Levitical service equal to agricultural labor.

The phrase **increase of the threshingfloor** (תְּבוּאַת גָּרֶן tevu'at goren) and **increase of the winepress** (תְּבוּאַת יְקֵבָה tevu'at yekev) uses the word for 'produce/harvest,' affirming that ministry work yields genuine productivity deserving economic reward. This principle undergirds Paul's teaching that those who proclaim the gospel should receive their living from the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:14).

Historical Context

The heaving/lifting gesture in Israelite worship involved raising offerings with extended arms toward the tabernacle, symbolizing surrender to God before the gift

was given to priests or placed on the altar. This physical act reinforced the theology that all giving flows through God to its final human recipients.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the physical act of 'heaving' (lifting offerings toward God) embody theological truths about giving?
2. What does God's crediting of spiritual ministry as 'harvest increase' teach about kingdom productivity beyond material metrics?
3. How can you develop practices that acknowledge all giving passes through God's hands before reaching human recipients?

Interlinear Text

וְאָמַרְתָּ	מִלְּפָנֵיכֶם	בְּפָרִימְכֶם	אֶת	סָלְבוֹן
Therefore thou shalt say	H413	unto them When ye have heaved	H853	the best
H559		H7311		H2459
מִן־עַל	וְנִחְשַׁב	לְלִוִּי מִן	וְכָתְבָא תִּ	
H4480	thereof from it then it shall be counted	H2803	unto the Levites	and as the increase
			H3881	H8393
וְעַל־	וְכָתְבָא תִּ	לְקַבֵּן		
of the threshingfloor	and as the increase	H3342		
H1637	H8393			