

# Numbers 18:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall bear no sin by reason of it, when ye have heaved from it the best of it: neither shall ye pollute the holy things of the children of Israel, lest ye die.

## Analysis

**And ye shall bear no sin by reason of it, when ye have heaved from it the best of it: neither shall ye pollute the holy things of the children of Israel, lest ye die**—The phrase **bear no sin** (לֹא תִשְׁאַל עַל חֵטָאת lo-tis'u alav chet) promises exemption from guilt when proper firstfruits are given, while failure to give the best would constitute **polluting** (לְלֹא chalal, profaning/desecrating) holy things. The death penalty (תָּמֹת tamutu) for profaning sacred offerings underscores the seriousness of stewardship obligations.

This verse concludes the tithe regulations (18:25-32) by establishing that faithful stewardship from received blessings prevents spiritual danger, while keeping the best for self while giving God inferior portions profanes worship. The New Testament warns against similar profaning: 'You cannot serve both God and money' (Matthew 6:24).

## Historical Context

The death penalty for profaning holy things (see Nadab and Abihu, Leviticus 10:1-2; Uzzah, 2 Samuel 6:6-7) demonstrated that casual or contemptuous treatment of sacred matters invited divine judgment. Israel learned to approach stewardship with reverent seriousness.

## Related Passages

## Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

1. How does the warning against 'polluting holy things' through poor stewardship challenge casual attitudes toward giving?
2. What does the death penalty for profaning offerings teach about God's seriousness regarding faithful handling of His resources?
3. How can you examine your giving patterns to ensure you're offering God 'the best' rather than polluting worship with leftovers?

## Interlinear Text

וְלֹא	תְּשַׁאֲרֵי	עַלְיוֹן	חַטָּאת	בְּקַרְיָמִיכְתּוֹ	אֵת
H3808	<b>And ye shall bear</b>	H5921	<b>no sin</b>	<b>by reason of it when ye have heaved</b>	H853

ל א ישרא ל בָּנִי קָדְשָׁךְ מִתְּבָנָה מִתְּבָנָה סְלָבָה  
from it the best H4480 H853 the holy things H6944 of the children H1121 of Israel H3808

תְּמֻלֵּל וְאֵל תְּמֻותָן  
of it neither shall ye pollute lest ye die  
H3808 H4191

## Additional Cross-References

**Leviticus 19:8** (Sin): Therefore every one that eateth it shall bear his iniquity, because he hath profaned the hallowed thing of the LORD: and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.

**Leviticus 22:2** (Holy): Speak unto Aaron and to his sons, that they separate themselves from the holy things of the children of Israel, and that they profane not my holy name in those things which they hallow unto me: I am the LORD.

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