

Numbers 18:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall be joined unto thee, and keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, for all the service of the tabernacle: and a stranger shall not come nigh unto you.

Analysis

The Levites 'shall be joined unto thee' for service, but 'a stranger shall not come nigh unto you.' This exclusivity protected God's ordained order. While the gospel eventually opens access to all believers as 'royal priesthood' (1 Peter 2:9), Old Covenant structures taught that approaching God requires proper authorization. New Testament access came through Christ's priestly work, not human presumption.

Historical Context

The word 'stranger' (zar) meant non-Levites, including most Israelites. Even within the covenant community, not everyone had equal access to holy things. This prefigured that ultimate access to God would require a specific mediator—Jesus Christ, our great High Priest.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Old Testament restricted access help you appreciate New Covenant boldness before God's throne?
2. What role does Christ's priesthood play in your daily confidence before God?

Interlinear Text

וְנִלְוָא	עַל	יְכָרֹב	אֶשְׁמָר	לְךָ	מִשְׁמָרָת
And they shall be joined	H5921	unto thee and keep	H853	the charge	H4931
H3867		H8104		H4931	
בְּאֹהֶל	לְכָל	מִזְבֵּחַ	לְכָל	עַבְדָּת	בְּאֹהֶל
of the tabernacle	of the congregation	H3605	for all the service	of the tabernacle	H168
H168	H4150		H5656		H168
אֶלְיכֶם:	בְּרַא	בְּרַא	אֶלְיכֶם:		
and a stranger	H3808	shall not come nigh	H413		
H2114		H7126			

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