

Numbers 18:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar: that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel.

Analysis

Priests and Levites must 'keep the charge of the sanctuary' so 'there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel.' Their faithful service protected the entire nation. Mediatorial roles benefit the whole community; failure in representing God brings corporate consequences. This anticipates Christ's perfect priestly work that permanently averts divine wrath from His people.

Historical Context

Recent judgments (Korah's rebellion, plague from murmuring) demonstrated that wrath threatened whenever God's holiness was violated. Proper priestly service maintained the protective buffer between God's holiness and Israel's sinfulness, making continued coexistence possible.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does your faithfulness in your calling affect others in the community of faith?
2. What aspects of Christ's priestly work protect you from divine wrath you deserve?

Interlinear Text

וּשְׁמַרְתֶּם	אֶת	מִשְׁמַחַת	הַקֹּדֶשׁ	וְאֶת	מִשְׁמַחַת
And ye shall keep	H853	and the charge	of the sanctuary	H853	and the charge
H8104		H4931	H6944		H4931
הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	וְלֹא	יִהְיֶה הָ	עוֹד	קִצְף	עַל
of the altar	H3808	H1961	H5750	that there be no wrath	H5921
H4196				H7110	
בְּנֵי		יִשְׂרָאֵל:			
any more upon the children		of Israel			
H1121		H3478			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 27:21 (Temple): In the tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the LORD: it shall be a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel.

Leviticus 24:3 (Temple): Without the vail of the testimony, in the tabernacle of the congregation, shall Aaron order it from the evening unto the morning before the LORD continually: it shall be a statute for ever in your generations.

Numbers 16:46 (Judgment): And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the LORD; the plague is begun.

