

Numbers 18:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I, behold, I have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel: to you they are given as a gift for the LORD, to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Analysis

God reiterates: 'I have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel'—emphasizing divine initiative in their selection. They were given 'as a gift' to serve the priesthood. Understanding our roles as divine gifts rather than earned positions eliminates both pride and envy. We serve not by human achievement but by God's gracious appointment.

Historical Context

The Levites were substitutes for Israel's firstborn (3:12), themselves a gift from God. This dual gift—God giving Levites to Israel, then giving Levites to priests—illustrated that all service ultimately flows from divine grace. Ministry is gift both in calling and in provision of those called.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does viewing your role as 'gift' rather than achievement change your attitude toward service?
2. What gifts has God given to the church through people assigned to support your ministry?

Interlinear Text

הָיָה וְאֲנִי	לָקַח חֲתָנִי	אֶת	אֶחָיִךְ	הַלְוִיִּם
H589	H2009	H853	H251	H3881
	And I behold I have taken		your brethren	the Levites
		H3947		
מִתּוֹךְ	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל	לָךְ	מִתְּנָה	נִתְּנִים
H8432	H1121	H0	H4979	H5414
from among	the children	of Israel	as a gift	to you they are given
		H3478		
לַיהוָה	לַעֲבֹד	אֶת	אֶת הַ	מוֹעֵד:
H3068	H5647	H853	H168	H4150
for the LORD	to do	the service	of the tabernacle	of the congregation
		H5656		

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 3:9 (References Israel): And thou shalt give the Levites unto Aaron and to his sons: they are wholly given unto him out of the children of Israel.

Numbers 3:12 (References Israel): And I, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that openeth the matrix among the children of Israel: therefore the Levites shall be mine;

Numbers 3:45 (References Lord): Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of their cattle; and the Levites shall be mine: I am the LORD.

