

Numbers 3:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And their charge shall be the ark, and the table, and the candlestick, and the altars, and the vessels of the sanctuary wherewith they minister, and the hanging, and all the service thereof.

Analysis

The Kohathites' specific charge over the ark, table, candlestick, altars, and holy vessels represents the most sacred responsibility among the Levites. These were the objects that directly facilitated Israel's approach to God and God's manifestation among His people. The assignment of these most holy items to one clan demonstrates that even among those consecrated for service, God establishes varying levels of responsibility and corresponding holiness requirements.

Historical Context

The items entrusted to Kohathite care were the tabernacle's most sacred objects, those that dwelt in the Holy Place and Holy of Holies. The Kohathites could not touch or look upon these items directly (Numbers 4:15, 20) but transported them after priests had covered them, demonstrating extreme caution around holy things.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the Kohathites' sacred but dangerous charge illustrate that greater privilege comes with greater responsibility and risk?
2. What does the prohibition against touching or looking at uncovered holy things teach us about respecting God's holiness?

Interlinear Text

וְמִשְׁמְרָתָ מְ	בָּאָרֶרֶת	וּבְשְׁלֵטָן	וּבְמִנְבָּרֶת	וּבְמִזְבֵּחַ תְּ
And their charge	shall be the ark	and the table	and the candlestick	and the altars
H4931	H727	H7979	H4501	H4196
וְכָלִים	בְּקָרְבָּן	אֲשֶׁר	וְשְׁרָתָה	בְּבָהָרֶת
and the vessels	of the sanctuary	H834	wherewith they minister	H0
H3627	H6944		H8334	
וְכָלְתְּמִידָה	וְכָלְתְּמִידָה			
and the hanging	H3605	and all the service		
H4539		H5656		

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