

Numbers 3:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest shall be chief over the chief of the Levites, and have the oversight of them that keep the charge of the sanctuary.

Analysis

Eleazar's appointment as 'chief over the chief of the Levites' established a supervisory role overseeing all Levitical service. As Aaron's son and eventual successor as high priest, Eleazar represented the connection between priestly and Levitical offices, ensuring coordination between those who officiated at the altar and those who maintained the tabernacle. This hierarchical structure maintained order while preserving distinctions between offices.

Historical Context

Eleazar would succeed Aaron as high priest after Aaron's death (Numbers 20:28), providing continuity in leadership. His oversight of Levitical service during his father's lifetime prepared him for the high priestly office and ensured smooth coordination of all tabernacle-related activities.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Eleazar's supervisory role over all Levites illustrate the importance of coordinating various ministry functions under unified leadership?
2. What does his dual role (priest and Levitical overseer) teach us about the importance of coordination between different offices in the church?

Interlinear Text

וְנָשִׂיאַ י	וְנָשִׂיאַ י	הַלְוִי י	וְאֶלְעָזָר	בֶּן	אַהֲרֹן
over the chief	over the chief	of the Levites	And Eleazar	the son	of Aaron
H5387	H5387	H3881	H499	H1121	H175
הַכֹּהֵן	וְהָיוּ	שֹׁמְרֵי	מִשְׁמֶת	הַקֹּדֶשׁ:	
the priest	and have the oversight	of them that keep	the charge	of the sanctuary	
H3548	H6486	H8104	H4931	H6944	

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