

Numbers 3:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister unto him.

Analysis

God commands: 'Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister unto him.' The Hebrew 'sharat' (minister/serve) indicates service under Aaron's direction. Levites assisted priests but couldn't perform priestly duties (offering sacrifices, entering the holy place, burning incense). This distinction between priests and Levites illustrates the difference between Christ's unique mediatorial work and believers' serving ministry. Only Christ offers the atoning sacrifice (Heb 7:27), but all believers serve as 'ministers of Christ' (1 Cor 4:1) under His authority, assisting His ongoing work.

Historical Context

The Levites' service began here and continued until the Second Temple's destruction in 70 AD. They performed tasks like preparing sacrifices, maintaining temple grounds, providing music for worship, teaching the Law, and assisting priests. Chronicles details their extensive organization (1 Chr 23-26). The hereditary Levitical system ensured trained personnel for sacred service, with skills and knowledge passed from generation to generation. While the specific system ended, the principle continues - churches need organized, trained servants to assist pastoral leadership.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How are you assisting those in spiritual leadership rather than either usurping their role or neglecting to serve?
2. Do you understand the distinction between Christ's unique saving work and your service under His authority?

Interlinear Text

הַקֹּרֵב	אֶת	מִטֵּה	לְיָ	וְהִעֲמִדְתָּ	אֶת	לִפְנֵי	אַהֲרֹן
Bring		the tribe	of Levi	and present		them before	Aaron
H7126	H853	H4294	H3878	H5975	H853	H6440	H175

הַכֹּהֵן	וְשָׂרְתָּ	אֹתוֹ:
the priest	that they may minister	
H3548	H8334	H853

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