

Numbers 3:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall keep his charge, and the charge of the whole congregation before the tabernacle of the congregation, to do the service of the tabernacle.

Analysis

The Levites' dual charge—'keep his charge, and the charge of the whole congregation'—demonstrates that their service benefited both Aaron (enabling him to fulfill priestly duties) and all Israel (maintaining the tabernacle where God dwelt among them). This principle of serving both leadership and congregation applies to church officers today who assist pastors while also serving the body of Christ. Effective ministry always has both vertical (toward God/leadership) and horizontal (toward people) dimensions.

Historical Context

The 'charge' (Hebrew *mishmeret*) refers to duties, obligations, and things entrusted to one's care. The Levites guarded, maintained, transported, and erected the tabernacle, enabling continuous worship without burdening the other tribes with these constant responsibilities.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the Levites' dual responsibility to Aaron and the congregation model how church officers should serve both pastoral leadership and the body of Christ?
2. What does this teach us about how specialized service roles enable the whole community to worship and function effectively?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁמְרוּ	אֶת	מִשְׁמֶרֶת	וְאֶת	מִשְׁמֶרֶת	כָּל
And they shall keep	H853	and the charge	H853	and the charge	H3605
H8104		H4931		H4931	
הָעֵדָה	לִפְנֵי	אֵלֶּה	מוֹעֵד	לַעֲבֹד	
of the whole congregation	before	the tabernacle	of the congregation	to do	
H5712	H6440	H168	H4150	H5647	
אֶת	עֲבֹדַת	הַמִּשְׁכָּן:			
H853	the service	of the tabernacle			
	H5656	H4908			

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 1:50 (Temple): But thou shalt appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of testimony, and over all the vessels thereof, and over all things that belong to it: they shall bear the tabernacle, and all the vessels thereof; and they shall minister unto it, and shall encamp round about the tabernacle.

Numbers 8:15 (Temple): And after that shall the Levites go in to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation: and thou shalt cleanse them, and offer them for an offering.

Numbers 8:11 (Parallel theme): And Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD for an offering of the children of Israel, that they may execute the service of the LORD.

