

Numbers 3:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall keep all the instruments of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the charge of the children of Israel, to do the service of the tabernacle.

Analysis

The command that Levites 'keep all the instruments of the tabernacle' emphasizes faithful stewardship of sacred things. God's people are trustees, not owners, of what He entrusts to them. The tabernacle's instruments were tools for worship, and the Levites' careful maintenance ensured they remained fit for sacred use. This principle extends to the church's stewardship of Word, sacraments, and ministry—we preserve what God has entrusted, not innovating or discarding according to human preference.

Historical Context

The tabernacle's instruments included the altar, lampstand, table of showbread, incense altar, ark, and various utensils for sacrifice and service. Each item had specific construction requirements (Exodus 25-31) and required careful handling to prevent profanation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the Levites' careful maintenance of tabernacle instruments illustrate the church's responsibility to preserve and protect what God has entrusted?
2. What does this teach us about the balance between preserving what God has given and allowing unauthorized innovation?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁמְרוּ	אֵת	כָּל	כְּלֵי	אֵלֵהּ	
And they shall keep			all the instruments	of the tabernacle	
H8104	H853	H3605	H3627	H168	
מִזֶּדֶד	וְאֵת	מִשְׁמֶרֶת	בְּנֵי יִ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	לַעֲבֹד
of the congregation		and the charge	of the children	of Israel	to do
H4150	H853	H4931	H1121	H3478	H5647
אֵת	עֲבֹדַת	הַמִּשְׁכָּן:			
H853	the service	of the tabernacle			
	H5656	H4908			
