

Numbers 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt give the Levites unto Aaron and to his sons:
they are wholly given unto him out of the children of Israel.

Analysis

The description of Levites as 'wholly given unto him from among the children of Israel' uses the Hebrew *nethunim nethunim* (literally 'given, given'), a double emphasis demonstrating complete dedication. The Levites were given first to God (consecrated for His service) and then given to Aaron (to assist in priestly duties). This double giving illustrates that all Christian service ultimately flows to God while practically serving His appointed leaders and His people.

Historical Context

The Levites replaced Israel's firstborn in God's service (Numbers 3:11-13), being consecrated as substitutes. This made the entire tribe 'given' to God in place of individuals from each tribe, allowing the firstborn to return to their families while the Levites served permanently.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the double giving of the Levites (to God and to Aaron) illustrate that Christian service is ultimately to God even when practically serving people?
2. What does the Levites' complete dedication teach us about wholehearted service versus half-hearted or divided commitment?

Interlinear Text

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|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|
| וְתָתַתְּ | אֶת | הַלְוִיִּם | לְאַהֲרֹן | וּבָנָיו |
| And thou shalt give | H853 | the Levites | unto Aaron | and to his sons |
| H5414 | | H3881 | H175 | H1121 |
| וְתָתַתְּ | וְתָתַתְּ | מִבְּנֵי | לְוִי | וּבָנָיו |
| And thou shalt give | And thou shalt give | H1992 | H0 | H854 |
| H5414 | H5414 | | | and to his sons |
| | | | | H1121 |
| יִשְׂרָאֵל: | | | | |
| of Israel | | | | |
| H3478 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 8:19 (References Israel): And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and to his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the service of the children of Israel in the tabernacle of the congregation, and to make an atonement for the children of Israel: that there be no plague among the children of Israel, when the children of Israel come nigh unto the sanctuary.