

Numbers 31:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses gave the tribute, which was the LORD'S heave offering, unto Eleazar the priest, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Analysis

And Moses gave the tribute, which was the LORD'S heave offering, unto Eleazar the priest—The Hebrew *terumah* YHWH (תְּרוּמַת יְהוָה, 'heave offering of Yahweh') emphasizes the offering's direction: lifted from common use toward holy purposes. Moses's mediation through Eleazar (Aaron's successor) established proper channels for consecrating spoils to God. Human hands cannot directly handle what belongs to God; priestly mediation is essential.

This foreshadows Christ's high priesthood—He alone mediates between holy God and sinful humanity (1 Timothy 2:5). All we offer to God must pass through Christ's priestly hands to be acceptable.

Historical Context

Eleazar succeeded Aaron after his death (Numbers 20:28) and served as high priest during Israel's conquest of Canaan. His administrative role included receiving sacred offerings, maintaining the tabernacle, and overseeing Levitical service. Moses functioned as prophetic authority, but priestly mediation remained distinct.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Do you attempt to approach God directly, or do you recognize your need for Christ's mediating priesthood?
2. What does it mean that no offering to God is acceptable except through Christ's mediation?
3. How does the concept of 'heave offering' challenge consumer Christianity that keeps most resources for self?

Interlinear Text

וַיֵּן	מֹשֶׁה:	אֶת	כֶּסֶף	תְּרוּמַת	יְהוָה	לְאַלְעָזָר
gave	And Moses	H853	the tribute	heave offering	as the LORD	unto Eleazar
H5414	H4872		H4371	H8641	H3068	H499
הַכֹּהֵן	כָּאָשׁ	צִוָּה	יְהוָה	אֶת	מֹשֶׁה:	
the priest	H834	commanded	as the LORD	H853	And Moses	
H3548		H6680	H3068		H4872	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 18:19 (Sacrifice): All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer unto the LORD, have I given thee, and thy sons and thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: it is a covenant of salt for ever before the LORD unto thee and to thy seed with thee.

Numbers 18:8 (Sacrifice): And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Behold, I also have given thee the charge of mine heave offerings of all the hallowed things of the children of Israel; unto thee have I given them by reason of the anointing, and to thy sons, by an ordinance for ever.

