

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 יְהִיְה תְּרֻמָּה '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

לְאֶלְעָזָר יְהִי תְּרֻמָּתָה מִשְׁהָ אֶת מֵצָבָה |
unto Eleazar as the LORD heave offering the tribute And Moses gave |
H499 H3068 H8641 H4371 H853 H4872 H3541

מִשְׁהָ אֶת יְהִי תְּרֻמָּתָה רְפָכָה |
And Moses as the LORD commanded the priest |
H4872 H853 H3068 H6680 H834 H3548

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.

