

Numbers 4:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Cut ye not off the tribe of the families of the Kohathites from among the Levites:

Analysis

The command 'cut ye not off the tribe of the families of the Kohathites' makes Aaron and his sons responsible for the Kohathites' safety. The priests must cover the holy things properly to protect those who would transport them. This establishes the principle that spiritual leaders bear responsibility for those under their care. The Hebrew imperative mood emphasizes urgent obligation. This models pastoral care—elders must protect the flock from spiritual danger through sound teaching and wise oversight (Acts 20:28-31).

Historical Context

Aaron and his sons bore direct responsibility because they alone could enter the holy place to cover the sacred objects. Any failure in properly covering them would result in Kohathite deaths when they attempted transport. This placed the burden of precision on the priesthood, not on the transporters.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do spiritual leaders bear responsibility for protecting those they lead?
2. What happens when leaders fail to provide proper spiritual covering and guidance?
3. How can we pray for and support those charged with our spiritual oversight?

Interlinear Text

מֹת וְ
בְּקָרְבָתِ
מִשְׁפָחָה תַּ
שְׁבָט אֶת פְּכָר יִתּוּ אֶל
H408 Cut ye not off H853 the tribe of the families of the Kohathites from among
H3772 H7626 H4940 H6956 H8432

פָלִים:

the Levites

H3881

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