

Numbers 4:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But thus do unto them, that they may live, and not die, when they approach unto the most holy things: Aaron and his sons shall go in, and appoint them every one to his service and to his burden:

Analysis

The detailed assignment of each man to 'his service and to his burden' shows that God ordains specific, individual callings within corporate service. The Hebrew *ish-*ish** (each man, individually) emphasizes personal assignment. No Kohathite could choose his burden or swap duties—each received divine appointment. This pictures the doctrine of spiritual gifts where God assigns each believer specific capacities and callings (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). Faithfulness means accepting God's assignment, not coveting another's role or shirking one's own.

Historical Context

The tabernacle furnishings varied greatly in weight and bulk. The ark was relatively small and manageable, while the bronze altar was large and heavy. God's individual assignments may have considered each man's strength, but primarily taught submission to divine sovereignty in role assignment.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's specific assignment of service challenge the idea that we can serve wherever we wish?
2. What is your specific 'burden' or calling in the body of Christ?
3. How can you contentedly fulfill your role without envying others' assignments?

Interlinear Text

וְזַעַם	לְקַרְבָּן	בְּגַשְׁתַּת	אֶת	מִזְבֵּחַ	בְּקַדְשָׁם	אֶת	אַבְרָהָם	וְבָנָיו	וְלֹא	תְּמִתְתּוּ	וְלֹא	תַּמְתִּיתּוּ	
H2063	But thus do	H0	unto them that they may live	H3808	and not die								
H6213		H2421		H4191									
when they approach	H853	holy things	H6944	holy things	Aaron	H175	and his sons	H1121					
H5066		H6944		H6944	H175	H1121							
shall go in	and appoint	H853	one	one	H5921	to his service	H413						
H935	H7760	H376	H376	H5921	H5656								
מִשְׁאָן:													
and to his burden	H4853												

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