

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 (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

וְזָאת הַמִּצְוָה אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה אֶת מֹשֶׁה וְאֶת אֶלְיָאֵשׁ בְּנֵי אֱהֲרָן אֲבִירָאֵל בֶּן אֶלְיָאֵשׁ וְאֶת אֶלְיָאֵשׁ בֶּן אֶלְיָאֵשׁ
H2063 But thus do H0 unto them that they may live H2421 H3808 and not die H4191

וְאֶת אֶלְיָאֵשׁ בֶּן אֶלְיָאֵשׁ וְאֶת אֶלְיָאֵשׁ בֶּן אֶלְיָאֵשׁ וְאֶת אֶלְיָאֵשׁ בֶּן אֶלְיָאֵשׁ
H5066 when they approach H853 holy things H6944 holy things H6944 Aaron H175 and his sons H1121

וְאֶת אֶלְיָאֵשׁ בֶּן אֶלְיָאֵשׁ וְאֶת אֶלְיָאֵשׁ בֶּן אֶלְיָאֵשׁ וְאֶת אֶלְיָאֵשׁ בֶּן אֶלְיָאֵשׁ
H935 shall go in H7760 and appoint H853 one H376 one H376 H5921 to his service H5656 H413

וְאֶת אֶלְיָאֵשׁ בֶּן אֶלְיָאֵשׁ וְאֶת אֶלְיָאֵשׁ בֶּן אֶלְיָאֵשׁ וְאֶת אֶלְיָאֵשׁ בֶּן אֶלְיָאֵשׁ
H4853 and to his burden H4853