

Numbers 4:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

At the appointment of Aaron and his sons shall be all the service of the sons of the Gershonites, in all their burdens, and in all their service: and ye shall appoint unto them in charge all their burdens.

Analysis

The phrase 'at the appointment of Aaron and his sons' establishes the principle of ordained authority in worship. The Gershonites, though Levites, served under priestly direction. They could not decide for themselves what to carry or when; authority came from above. This hierarchy in worship leadership reflects the Reformed understanding of church government—God establishes order and authority structures for the edification and protection of His people.

Historical Context

Aaron, as high priest, held ultimate responsibility for the tabernacle and its service. His sons, the priests, worked under his direction. The Levites served under the priests' supervision, creating three tiers of sacred service, each with distinct roles and responsibilities.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the principle of appointed leadership in worship guard against individualism and disorder?
2. What balance should exist between recognizing human authority in the church and Christ's ultimate headship?
3. In what ways does submission to godly authority demonstrate trust in God's ordering of His church?

Interlinear Text

עַל H5921	פִּי H6310	אָהֵרֹן H175	בְּנֵי י H1121	תְּהִי ה H1961	כָּל H3605
	At the appointment	of Aaron	and his sons		
	וּבְכָל H5656	בְּנֵי י H1121	הַגִּרְשֹׁנִי H1649	לְכָל ל H3605	מִשָּׁאָם: H4853
	and in all their service	and his sons	of the Gershonites		all their burdens
וְלָכָל ל H3605	וּבְכָל H5656	וּפְקֻדָּתָם H6485	עֲלֵהֶם H5921	בְּמִשְׁמָתָם H4931	
	and in all their service	and ye shall appoint		unto them in charge	
אֵת H853	כָּל H3605	מִשָּׁאָם: H4853			
		all their burdens			