

Numbers 5:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And every offering of all the holy things of the children of Israel, which they bring unto the priest, shall be his.

Analysis

Every heave offering of holy things belonging to the priests establishes divine provision for those who serve at the altar. The Hebrew terumah (heave offering/contribution) indicates a portion lifted up and set apart for God, then given to His servants. This principle—that those who proclaim the gospel should live from the gospel (1 Corinthians 9:14)—undergirds ministerial support. The priests had no land inheritance; God Himself was their portion, materially expressed through these offerings.

Historical Context

The heave offering differed from the wave offering. The heave offering was lifted vertically as a gesture of presenting it to God, then given to the priests. This included portions of grain offerings, peace offerings, and various firstfruits. The system ensured the priesthood's material needs were met while they devoted full time to sacred service.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision for priests inform our responsibility to support gospel workers?
2. What does it mean that God Himself is the inheritance of those who serve Him full-time?
3. How can churches ensure adequate, dignified support for pastors and missionaries?

Interlinear Text

וְכֹל	תְּרוּמָה	הַלְכָדָשָׁה	וְכָל	בְּנֵי	שְׁרָאֵל
H3605	And every offering	H3605	of all the holy things	of the children	of Israel
	H8641		H6944		H3478
אֲשֶׁר	יִקְרָב	יְבוֹן	לְפָנָה	לְאֵת	יְהִי
H834	which they bring	unto the priest	H0	H1961	
	H7126	H3548			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 29:28 (Sacrifice): And it shall be Aaron's and his sons' by a statute for ever from the children of Israel: for it is an heave offering: and it shall be an heave offering from the children of Israel of the sacrifice of their peace offerings, even their heave offering unto the LORD.

Numbers 18:19 (Holy): 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.