

Numbers 7:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Take it of them, that they may be to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; and thou shalt give them unto the Levites, to every man according to his service.

Analysis

Moses receiving the wagons and oxen to distribute to the Levites shows proper ecclesiastical authority in handling gifts for ministry. The phrase 'every man according to his service' establishes the principle of distributing resources based on actual need and function. Not all received equally, but all received appropriately. This demonstrates the Reformed understanding that gifts are tools for service, not status symbols. Equity doesn't mean identical distribution but appropriate allocation according to calling.

Historical Context

The Levitical clans had different burdens—the Merarites carried the heaviest items (boards and sockets), while the Kohathites carried the sacred furniture. The distribution of transportation resources would reflect these different needs, with the Merarites receiving more wagons and the Kohathites possibly receiving none since they carried sacred objects on their shoulders.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does resource distribution according to service challenge egalitarian assumptions about fairness?
2. What does appropriate allocation according to need teach about biblical stewardship?
3. In what ways should functional requirements rather than status determine resource distribution in churches?

Interlinear Text

ח ק מ מֵאֵת וְהֵי יְהוָה	Take H3947	H853	H1961	it of them that they may be to do H5647	לַעֲבֹד אֶת עֲבֹדָתוֹ	H853	the service H5656
אֵל הַלְּ	of the tabernacle H168	מִוֶּעַד ד	of the congregation H4150	וְנָתַתָּה	אֹתָם אֶל	H853	H413
הֵלְוִיִּם	them unto the Levites H3881	אֶל יֵשׁ	to every man H376	כַּפִּי	עֲבֹדָתוֹ	according H6310	the service H5656