

# Numbers 8:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses, and Aaron, and all the congregation of the children of Israel, did to the Levites according unto all that the LORD commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so did the children of Israel unto them.

## Analysis

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**Moses, and Aaron, and all the congregation... did to the Levites according unto all that the LORD commanded**—This verse emphasizes complete obedience (שָׁמָע shama, to hear and obey) to divine instruction regarding Levitical consecration. The threefold witness (Moses, Aaron, congregation) establishes the corporate nature of Israel's covenant obedience.

The phrase **according unto all** (כֻּלּוֹ kekol) stresses absolute conformity to God's commands—a recurring theme in wilderness worship (cf. Exodus 39:42-43). The Levites' unique status as substitutes for Israel's firstborn (Numbers 3:12-13) required meticulous adherence to consecration rituals, establishing precedent for New Testament priesthood of all believers (1 Peter 2:9).

## Historical Context

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This verse concludes the Levitical consecration ceremony (Numbers 8:5-22), conducted at Sinai during Israel's second year of wilderness wandering (ca. 1445 BC). Moses mediated between God and people while Aaron supervised priestly functions, establishing patterns for Israel's tabernacle service.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the corporate obedience of Israel's leaders and congregation model accountability in Christian community?
2. What does complete conformity to God's commands ('according unto all') teach about partial obedience?
3. How does Levitical consecration foreshadow Christ's setting apart of believers for holy service?

## Interlinear Text

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עָשָׂה וְ	מֹשֶׁה	וְאַהֲרֹן	וְכָל	עַד כָּל	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
did	And Moses	and Aaron	H3605	and all the congregation	of the children
H6213	H4872	H175		H5712	H1121
יְשַׁכְּאֵל:	לְלֵוִיִּם	כָּל	אֲשֶׁר	צִוָּה	
of Israel	concerning the Levites	H3605	H834	commanded	
H3478	H3881			H6680	
יְהוָה	אֶת	מֹשֶׁה	לְלֵוִיִּם	כֵּן	
according unto all that the LORD	H853	And Moses	concerning the Levites	H3651	
H3068		H4872	H3881		
עָשָׂה וְ	לְלֵוִיִּם	בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל:			
did	H0	of the children	of Israel		
H6213		H1121	H3478		