

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

Moses, and Aaron, and all the congregation... did to the Levites according unto all that the LORD commanded—This verse emphasizes complete obedience (*שָׁמַע 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** (*לְכֹל 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

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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

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

בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עָשָׂה מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן וְכָל הַקְבִּילָה עַד תְּנִזְנִית בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
did And Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children
H6213 H4872 H175 H3605 H5712 H1121

בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְלִי מְלֵא כָּל אֲשֶׁר קָרְבָּן הָצִיָּה אֶלְיוֹן
of Israel concerning the Levites commanded
H3478 H3881 H3605 H834 H6680

לְלִי מְלֵא אֶת מֹשֶׁה וְאַתָּה יְהִי הָרָבָן
according unto all that the LORD And Moses concerning the Levites
H3068 H853 H4872 H3881 H3651

בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְבָנָם עָשָׂה
did of the children of Israel
H6213 H0 H1121 H3478