

Numbers 8:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And after that went the Levites in to do their service in the tabernacle of the congregation before Aaron, and before his sons: as the LORD had commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so did they unto them.

Analysis

After that went the Levites in to do their service—The sequential phrase **after that** (אַתְּ רִיכָּן acharei-ken) emphasizes consecration as prerequisite to service. The verb **to do their service** (לְעַבֵּד אֶת־עֲבֹדָתָם la'avod et-avodatam) uses the same root for both worship and work, revealing that Levitical ministry was simultaneously service to God and labor for the community.

This verse establishes the principle that effective ministry flows from proper consecration—a pattern Jesus affirmed by delaying public ministry until after His baptism and wilderness testing (Luke 3:21-4:14). The phrase **as the LORD had commanded** reiterates covenant fidelity as the foundation for acceptable service.

Historical Context

The Levites' service (Numbers 3:5-10; 4:1-49) included dismantling, transporting, and reassembling the tabernacle, guarding sacred objects, and assisting priests. This verse marks their official commencement of duties following a month-long consecration process.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why must consecration precede service rather than the reverse? What dangers arise from premature ministry?
2. How does the Hebrew connection between 'worship' and 'work' challenge modern sacred/secular divisions?
3. What 'wilderness preparation' might God require before releasing you into fuller kingdom service?

Interlinear Text

וְאַחֲרֵי	בְּאֹם	בְּלֹויִם	לְעַבְדָּת	אֶת	עַבְדְּתֶם
And after	H3651	that went	concerning the Levites	in to do	their service
H310	H935		H3881	H5647	H5656
בְּאֹם	מִזְבֵּחַ	לְפָנֵי	אַחֲרֵי	לְפָנֵי	בְּאֹם
in the tabernacle	of the congregation	and before	Aaron	and before	his sons
H168	H4150	H6440	H175	H6440	H1121
כִּאָשֶׁר	צִוָּה	יְהֹוָה	אֶת	מֹשֶׁה	עַל
had commanded	as the LORD		H853	Moses	H5921
H6680	H3068		H4872		
בְּלֹויִם	עָשָׂה	לְקַרְבָּן			
concerning the Levites	H3651	so did	H0		
H3881		H6213			