

# 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

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**After that went the Levites in to do their service**—The sequential phrase **after that** (אַחֲרֵי־כֵן acharei-ken) emphasizes consecration as prerequisite to service. The verb **to do their service** (לָעֲבֹד 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

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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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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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

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וְאַחֲרֵי כֵן	בָּאוּ	הַלְוִיִּם	לַעֲבֹד	אֶת	עֲבֹדָתָם
And after	that went	concerning the Levites	in to do		their service
H310	H3651	H3881	H5647	H853	H5656
בְּאֵל הַ	מוֹעֵד	וְלִפְנֵי	אַהֲרֹן	וְלִפְנֵי	בְּנֵי יִ
in the tabernacle	of the congregation	and before	Aaron	and before	his sons
H168	H4150	H6440	H175	H6440	H1121
כְּאֲשֶׁר	צִוָּה	יְהוָה	אֶת	מֹשֶׁה	עַל
H834	had commanded	as the LORD	H853	Moses	H5921
	H6680	H3068	H4872		
הַלְוִיִּם	כֵּן	עָשׂוּ	לָהֶם:		
concerning the Levites	H3651	so did	H0		
H3881		H6213			