

Taking Care of God's Men

Numbers 18:1 And the Lord said unto Aaron, Thou and thy sons and thy father's house with thee shall **bear the iniquity of the sanctuary:** and thou and thy sons with thee shall **bear the iniquity of your priesthood.** 2 And thy brethren also of **the tribe of Levi,** the tribe of thy father, bring thou **with thee,** that they may be **joined unto thee, and minister unto thee:** but thou and thy sons with thee **shall minister before the tabernacle of witness.** 3 And they shall keep thy charge, and **the charge of all the tabernacle:** only they **shall not come nigh the vessels** of the sanctuary and the altar, that neither they, nor ye also, die. 4 And they shall be joined unto thee, and keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, for all the service of the tabernacle: and **a stranger shall not come nigh** unto you. 5 And ye shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and

the charge of the altar: that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel. **6** And I, behold, **I have taken your brethren the Levites** from among the children of Israel: to you they are given **as a gift for the Lord,** to **do the service of the tabernacle** of the congregation. **7** Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for every thing of the altar, and within the vail; and ye shall serve: **I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift:** and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death. **8** And the Lord spake unto Aaron, Behold, **I also have given thee** the charge of **mine heave offerings** of all the hallowed things of the children of Israel; **unto thee have I given them** by reason of the

anointing, and to thy sons, by an ordinance for ever. **9** **This shall be thine of the most holy things, reserved from the fire: every oblation of theirs, every meat offering of theirs, and every sin offering of theirs, and every trespass offering of theirs, which they shall render unto me, shall be most holy for thee and for thy sons.** **10** In the most holy place shalt thou eat it; every male shall eat it: it shall be holy unto thee. **11** And **this**

is thine; the **heave offering** of their gift, with all the **wave offerings** of the children of Israel: **I have given them unto thee, and to thy sons and to thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: every one that is clean in thy house shall eat of it.** ¹² **All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the firstfruits of them which they shall offer unto the Lord, them have I given thee.** ¹³ And whatsoever is **first ripe in the land,** which they shall bring unto the Lord, **shall be thine; every one**

that is clean in thine house shall eat of it. 14 Every thing devoted in Israel shall be thine. 15 Every thing that openeth

the matrix in all flesh, **which they bring unto the Lord,** whether it be of men or beasts, **shall be**

thine: nevertheless the firstborn of man shalt thou surely redeem, and the firstling of unclean beasts shalt thou redeem. 16 And those that are to be redeemed from a month old shalt thou redeem, according to thine estimation, for the money of five shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs. 17 But the firstling of a cow, or the firstling of a sheep, or the firstling of a goat, thou shalt not redeem; they are holy: thou shalt sprinkle their blood upon the altar, and shalt burn their fat for an offering made by fire, for a sweet savour unto the Lord. 18 And the flesh of them

shall be thine, as the wave breast and as the

right shoulder **are thine.** 19 All the heave

offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer

unto the Lord, **have I given thee,** and

thy sons and thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: it

is a covenant of salt for ever before the Lord unto thee and to

thy seed with thee. 20 And the Lord spake unto Aaron, Thou

shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have

any part among them: **I am thy part**

and thine inheritance among the

children of Israel. 21 And, behold, **I have given the**

children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for

an inheritance, for their service which they serve,

even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. 22

Neither must the children of Israel henceforth come nigh the

tabernacle of the congregation, lest they bear sin, and die. 23

But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle of the

congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel **they have no inheritance.** 24

But **the tithes of the children of Israel,** which they offer as an **heave offering** unto the Lord, **I have given to the Levites** to inherit: therefore I have said

unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance. 25 And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, 26

Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, **When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the Lord, even a tenth part of the tithe.** 27 And this your heave

offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress. 28

Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the Lord of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye

shall give thereof the Lord's heave offering to Aaron the priest.

29 Out of all your gifts ye shall offer every heave offering of the Lord, of all the best thereof, even the hallowed part thereof out of it. **30** Therefore thou shalt say unto them, When ye

have heaved the best thereof from it, then **it shall**

be counted unto the

Levites as the increase of

the threshingfloor, and as

the increase of the

winepress. **31** And ye shall eat it in every place,

ye and your households: for it is **your reward for**

your service in the tabernacle of the

congregation. **32** And ye shall bear no sin by reason of

it, when ye have heaved from it the best of it: neither shall ye pollute the holy things of the children of Israel, lest ye die.

1. God appointed Aaron and his family as the priests to do the spiritual work for Israel **18:1** *And the Lord said unto Aaron, Thou and thy sons and thy father's house with thee shall **bear the iniquity of the sanctuary:** and thou and thy sons with thee shall **bear the iniquity of your priesthood.***
 - a. The Levites were to serve with them and help them with this very important ministry **2** *And thy brethren also of **the tribe of Levi,** the tribe of thy father, bring thou **with thee,** that they may be **joined unto thee, and minister unto thee:** but thou and thy sons with thee **shall minister before the tabernacle of witness.***
 - b. The Levites would take care of the things of the Tabernacle but not the worship
 - c. Those not appointed were not to take part

- d. The priests would handle the altar
- e. The Levites were like a gift of God to the priests to help them do the ministry **6 And I, behold, I have taken your brethren the Levites** from among the children of Israel: to you they are given **as a gift for the Lord,** to **do the service of the tabernacle** of the congregation.
- f. The privilege of being a priest was a gift from God **7** Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for every thing of the altar, and within the vail; and ye shall serve: **I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift:** and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.
- g. Summary and application
 - i. The priests were placed in charge of the tabernacle, the altar, and the worship
 - ii. The Levites were given to them as a gift to help them do their job

- iii. Each were given boundaries in the ministry
- iv. If they would do the ministry as God wanted then He would be pleased
- v. The ministry wasn't just for anyone
- vi. God calls people to the ministry of preaching and teaching His Word
- vii. He gifts those called with deacons who help in every way possible Acts 6 freeing them to accomplish what God called them to do

2. God provided for His servants financially

- a. The priests were given several special offerings, the heave offerings, the wave offerings, all the hallowed things or things that God said save for Him

- b. The special offerings were for them **9 This**

shall be thine of the most holy things, reserved from the fire: every oblation of theirs,

**every meat offering of theirs,
and every sin offering of
theirs, and every trespass
offering of theirs, which they
shall render unto me, shall be
most holy for thee and for thy
sons.**

- c. The food was to be eaten in the right place and with the right attitude **10** In the most holy place shalt thou eat it; every male shall eat it: it shall be holy unto thee. **11** And

this is thine; the **heave offering** of their gift, with all the **wave offerings** of the children of Israel: **I have given them unto thee, and to thy sons and to thy**

daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: every one that is clean in thy house shall eat of it.

d. God saw to it that they got the best of everything **12 All**

the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the firstfruits of them which they shall offer unto the Lord, them have I given thee.

i. These were not considered gifts from the people but from the Lord

ii. The people gave to God and God gave to His servants

e. Check out the number of times in this chapter that it

says, shall be thine **13 And whatsoever is first ripe**

in the land, which they shall bring unto the Lord,

shall be thine; every one

that is clean in thine house

shall eat of it. 14 Every thing

devoted in Israel shall be

thine. 15 Every thing that openeth the matrix in

all flesh, **which they bring unto the Lord,**

whether it be of men or beasts, **shall be**

thine: nevertheless the firstborn of man shalt

thou surely redeem, and the firstling of unclean beasts

shalt thou redeem. **18** And the flesh of them **shall**

be thine, as the wave breast and as the right
shoulder **are thine.**

- f. God wanted it clear that He was giving it to them **19 All**
the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children
of Israel offer unto the Lord, **have I given**
thee, and thy sons and thy daughters with thee, by
a statute for ever: it is a covenant of salt for ever before
the Lord unto thee and to thy seed with thee.
- g. God gave them what they needed. He didn't give the
priests or the Levites any inheritance of their own. They
would have no other way of making money **20 And the**
Lord spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in
their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them:

I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel.

- h. God gave the tithe to take care of the Levites. There was also a full time position **21** And, behold, **I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance,** for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.
- i. No one else should feel like they were to try and do the ministry that God had assigned to the Levites **22** Neither must the children of Israel henceforth come nigh the tabernacle of the congregation, lest they bear sin, and die. **23** But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel **they have no inheritance.**

j. It was God that gave these things to the Levites **24** But **the tithes of the children of Israel**, which they offer as an **heave offering** unto the Lord, **I have given to the Levites** to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.

3. The Levites were supposed to tithe as well **25** And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, **26** Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, **When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the Lord, even a tenth part of the tithe.**

a. Just because they were doing the work of God didn't exempt them from giving **29** Out of all your gifts ye shall

offer every heave offering of the Lord, of all the best thereof, even the hallowed part thereof out of it.

- b. The work that they did in the ministry was considered just as much work as the person who worked his business or fields **30** Therefore thou shalt say unto them, When ye

have heaved the best thereof from it, then **it**

shall be counted unto the Levites as the increase of the threshingfloor, and as the increase of the winepress.

- c. They lived of the tithes as a reward for their work **31** And ye shall eat it in every place, ye and your households: for

it is **your reward for your service in the tabernacle of the congregation.**

d. It was right for them to eat of the offerings because God gave them to His men **32 And ye shall bear no sin by reason of it, when ye have heaved from it the best of it: neither shall ye pollute the holy things of the children of Israel, lest ye die.**

4. The clear teaching for us to learn is that those who serve God should be supported from the ministry

a. Jesus taught the same principle **Luke 10:7 And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for **the labourer is worthy of his hire.**** Go not from house to house. **Matthew 10:10** Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: **for the workman is worthy of his meat.**

b. Paul made it abundantly clear that God's men were to live of the gospel **I Corinthians 9:1 Am I not an apostle? am I**

not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? **are not ye my work in the Lord?** ² If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord. ³ **Mine answer to them that do examine me is this,** ⁴ Have we not power to eat and to drink? ⁵ Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas? ⁶ Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power **to forbear working?** ⁷ Who goeth a **warfare** any time at his own charges? who planteth a **vineyard,** and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a **flock,** and eateth not of the milk of the flock? ⁸ Say I these things as a man? or **saith not the law the same also?** ⁹ For it is written **in the law of Moses,** Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. **Doth God take care for oxen?** ¹⁰ Or saith he it **altogether for our**

sakes? For our sakes,

no doubt, this is written: that he that

ploweth should **plow in hope;** and that he that

thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope. ¹¹ If we

have **sown unto you spiritual things, is it**

a great thing if we shall reap your

carnal things? ¹² If others be partakers of this

power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should

hinder the gospel of Christ. ¹³ **Do ye not**

know that they which

minister about holy things

live of the things of the

**temple? and they which
wait at the altar are
partakers with the altar?** ¹⁴

Even so hath **the Lord ordained**
that **they which preach the
gospel should live of the
gospel.**

- c. Take care of your Bible teacher [Galatians 6:6](#) Let him that
is **taught in the word**
communicate unto him
that teacheth in all good
things. ⁷ Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for

whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. **8** For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. **9** And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. **10** As we have therefore opportunity, **let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.**

- d. We should be supporting our missionaries financially
- Philippians 4:10** But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last **your care of me hath flourished again;** wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. **11** Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. **12** I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. **14**

Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. ¹⁵ Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, **no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.** ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica **ye sent once and again unto my necessity.** ¹⁷ Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. ¹⁸ But I have all, and abound: I am full, **having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you,** an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. ¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

- e. Give good salaries to those that teach and preach the Word [I Timothy 5:17](#) Let the **elders** that rule well be **counted worthy of double honour,**

especially they who **labour in the word and doctrine.** ¹⁸ For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, **The labourer is worthy of his reward.**

f. God's people didn't always obey what He taught in this passage **Nehemiah 10:35** And to **bring the**

firstfruits of our ground, and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, year by year, unto the house of the Lord: ³⁶

Also the firstborn of our sons, and of our cattle, as it is written in the law, and the firstlings of our herds and of our flocks, to bring to the house of our God, **unto the**

priests that minister in the house of our God: ³⁷ And **that we should bring the**

firstfruits of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine and of oil, **unto the priests,** to the chambers of the house of our

God; and the tithes of our ground **unto the Levites,** that the same **Levites might have the tithes in all the cities of our tillage.**

38 And the priest the son of Aaron shall be with the Levites, when the Levites take tithes: and **the Levites shall bring up the tithe of the tithes** unto the house of our God, to the chambers, into the treasure house. **39** For the children of Israel and the children of Levi shall bring the offering of the corn, of the new wine, and the oil, unto the chambers, where are the vessels of the sanctuary, and the priests that minister, and the porters,

and the singers: and **we will not forsake the house of our**

God. **12:44** And at that time were some appointed over the chambers for the treasures, for the offerings, for the firstfruits, and for the tithes, to gather into them out of the fields of the cities the portions of the law for the

priests and Levites: for Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites that waited. ⁴⁵ And both the singers and the porters kept the ward of their God, and the ward of the purification, according to the commandment of David, and of Solomon his son. ⁴⁶ For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God. ⁴⁷ And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave the portions of the singers and the porters, every day his portion: and they sanctified holy things unto the Levites; and the Levites sanctified them unto the children of

Aaron. ^{13:10} And **I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers,**

**that did the work, were
fled every one to his**

field. ¹¹ Then contended I with the rulers, and said,

Why is the house of God

forsaken? And I gathered them together,

and set them in their place. ¹² Then brought all Judah the
tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto the
treasuries. ¹³ And I made treasurers over the treasuries,
Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the
Levites, Pedaiah: and next to them was Hanan the son of

Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah: **for they**

were counted faithful,

and their office was to

distribute unto their brethren.

¹⁴ Remember me, O my God,

concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof.

- g. It is a horrible tragedy when God's people do not love God and His work enough to support it financially

5. Giving is not legalistic

- a. Many might not like the term tithing but it was used before and after the law [Genesis 14:20](#) And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. **And he gave him tithes of all.**
[28:22](#) And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me **I will surely give the tenth unto thee.**
- b. Paul definitely taught more than tithing as grace giving
[II Corinthians 8-9](#)

- c. God's men were supposed to give so it is never an excuse that you are doing God's work so you shouldn't be giving
- d. Your giving is in obedience to God
- e. Your giving is recognizing that it is God that is blessing you and not you doing it on your own
- f. Don't be making excuses for being stingy or selfish with what God has given you