

Priests and Passover

Priests

Their Placement

Their Purification

Their Purpose

Their Passage

Their placement

Numbers 8:14 “Thus **you shall separate** the Levites from among the people of Israel, and **the Levites shall be mine**.

Numbers 3:44–45 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ⁴⁵ “Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the people of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of their cattle. The Levites shall be mine: I am the LORD.

He is the sovereign King, and it is his prerogative to choose whomever he will to serve him. By the same token, it is his prerogative to pass over whomever he will.

Duguid, Iain M., and R. Kent Hughes. 2006. [*Numbers: God's Presence in the Wilderness*](#). Preaching the Word. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

Their Purification

Numbers 8:5–6 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ⁶ “Take the Levites from among the people of Israel and **cleanse** them.

Cleanse (piel): cleanse, purify i.e., cause ritual purity, often with an official pronouncement of a new state.

Numbers 8:7 Thus you shall do to them to cleanse them: **sprinkle the water of purification upon them**, and let them go **with a razor over all their body, and wash their clothes and cleanse themselves**.

Numbers 8:8 Then let them take a bull from the herd and its grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, and you shall take another bull from the herd for a sin offering.

Numbers 8:9–10 And you shall bring the Levites before the tent of meeting and assemble the whole congregation of the people of Israel. ¹⁰ When you bring the Levites before the LORD, the people of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites,

Numbers 8:11–13 and Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD as a wave offering from the people of Israel, that they may do the service of the LORD. ¹² Then the

Levites shall lay their hands on the heads of the bulls, and you shall offer the one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering to the LORD to make atonement for the Levites. ¹³ And you shall set the Levites before Aaron and his sons, and shall offer them as a wave offering to the LORD.

Shall lay (samak): lean upon

Their Purpose

Numbers 8:16–18 For they are **wholly given to me** from among the people of Israel. Instead of all who open the womb, the firstborn of all the people of Israel, **I have taken them for myself.** ¹⁷ For all the firstborn among the people of Israel are mine, both of man and of beast. On the day that I struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I consecrated them for myself, ¹⁸ and **I have taken the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the people of Israel.**

Numbers 8:20–25 Thus did Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the people of Israel to the Levites. According to all that the LORD commanded Moses concerning the Levites, the people of Israel did to them. ²¹ And the Levites purified themselves from sin and washed their clothes, and Aaron offered them as a wave offering before the LORD, and Aaron made atonement for them to cleanse them. ²² And after that **the Levites went in to do their service in the tent of meeting before Aaron and his sons;** as the LORD had commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so they did to them.

Their Passage

Numbers 8:23–26 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁴ “This applies to the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they shall come to do duty in the service of the tent of meeting. ²⁵ And from the age of fifty years they shall withdraw from the duty of the service and serve no more. ²⁶ They minister to their brothers in the tent of meeting by keeping guard, but they shall do no service. Thus shall you do to the Levites in assigning their duties.”

Passover

Numbers 9:1–2 And the LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt, saying, ² “Let the people of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time.

Numbers 9:3 On the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you shall keep it at its appointed time; according to all its statutes and all its rules you shall keep it.”

Numbers 9:4–5 So Moses told the people of Israel that they should keep the Passover. ⁵And they kept the Passover in the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, at twilight, in the wilderness of Sinai; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so the people of Israel did.

What about me?

Numbers 9:6–8 And there were certain men who were unclean through touching a dead body, so that they could not keep the Passover on that day, and they came before Moses and Aaron on that day. ⁷And those men said to him, “We are unclean through touching a dead body. Why are we kept from bringing the LORD’s offering at its appointed time among the people of Israel?” ⁸And Moses said to them, “Wait, that I may hear what the LORD will command concerning you.”

Numbers 9:9–14 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹⁰“Speak to the people of Israel, saying, If any one of you or of your descendants is unclean through touching a dead body, or is on a long journey, he shall still keep the Passover to the LORD. ¹¹In the second month on the fourteenth day at twilight they shall keep it. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ¹²They shall leave none of it until the morning, nor break any of its bones; according to all the statute for the Passover they shall keep it. ¹³But if anyone who is clean and is not on a journey fails to keep the Passover, that person shall be cut off from his people because he did not bring the LORD’s offering at its appointed time; that man shall bear his sin. ¹⁴And if a stranger sojourns among you and would keep the Passover to the LORD, according to the statute of the Passover and according to its rule, so shall he do. You shall have one statute, both for the sojourner and for the native.”