

Numbers 18

King James Version (KJV)

(Ordinances for the priests)

18 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. (Normally God spoke directly to Moses) (Priests sin like everyone else)

²And 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. (Of all the Levis, only Aaron and his sons are approved by God to be priests)

³And 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. (they- the rest of the Levites; Ye - Aaron and his sons) (God is making the priests responsible if anyone else enters the sanctuary. This is a change from Leviticus)

⁴And 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. (they- the rest of the Levites; not Aaron and his sons)

⁵And 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. (Obey God and receive His blessings and His protection)

⁶And 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. (The Levites were chosen by God because they stood with Moses against the golden calf worshippers at Sinai)

⁷Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for everything of the altar, and within the veil; 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. (Only the priests are allowed into the sanctuary. Anyone else who violates the sanctuary will die)

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. (The priests will receive a portion of the peoples' heave offerings to God)

⁹ This shall be thine of the most holy things, reserved from the fire: every oblation of their's, every meat offering of their's, and every sin offering of their's, and every trespass offering of their's which they shall render unto me, shall be most holy for thee and for thy sons. (They also get a portion of the people's meat and sin offerings)

¹⁰ In the most holy place shalt thou eat it; every male shall eat it: it shall be holy unto thee. (Only the males of the Levis ate the sin offerings)

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. (these are peace offerings) (The priests also get a portion of these offerings)

¹² All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the first fruits of them which they shall offer unto the LORD, them have I given thee. (Also the first fruits)

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. (This was how God chose to compensate the priests for their full time duties in the tabernacle. They weren't able to farm like the people because of their full time priestly duties)

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. (the matrix= the womb; These are the first born) Exodus-13:12-13, Leviticus-27 (They would be redeemed in the stead for the unclean animals)

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. (The first born offerings were for all Levites) Exodus-22:30

¹⁸ And the flesh of them shall be thine, as the wave breast and as the right shoulder are thine. (Belongs to the priest's)

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. (a covenant of salt means it is a permanent agreement)

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. (They are a type for the Elect of the future, where the Lord is their inheritance) (They had no farm land for themselves, but were given houses in priests' cities)

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. (the tenth - the tithe) see Leviticus-27:32- on

OLD TESTAMENT: (The entire tribe of Levi received the tenth of the other tribes. The treasury of the tabernacle also served as the social security for the nation. It provided funding for the government of the country for reasons of defense and infrastructure. It wasn't there to make the Levites richer than the other tribes)

NEW TESTAMENT: (Today we see priests telling people to donate a tenth of their income. They keep all the donations made by the entire congregation for themselves. This gave rise to these millionaire preachers who claim that God ordained their wealth. HE didn't. These preachers are con men who end up driving people away from Christianity. Jesus didn't charge anyone for anything. In fact, He

whipped the moneychangers and threw them out of the temple. Paul supported himself by working as a tent maker)

(Give charitably to support a preacher or a church that teaches you the Word of God and not traditions of men. A laborer is worth his hire. However, you don't owe them a tenth of your income. The government now provides for your civil support; not the church. You pay for that through your taxes)

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. (The tabernacle was their full time job. That is why they accepted tithes from the other tribes)

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. (to all Levites) (The Levites didn't get a territory in the Promised Land. Instead, they got cities in each of the other tribes' lands)

²⁵ And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, (Moses was the governmental head of the nation. Aaron was the high priest for the nation)

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 fullness 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. (We offer our best to the Lord)

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. (The tithes that they receive is their salary for working in the tabernacle)

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. (Follow God's instructions concerning all sacrifices)