

NUMBERS

Walking with God Through the Wilderness

Lessons from the Past for Life in the Present

Numbers 18



The Theological Center to the Holiness Laws

A Vows and Modifications - due to timing of Jubilee: Leviticus 27

B Levites: Census - Numbers 1:1 to 5:4

C Special Situations Involving Gifts to Tabernacle: Numbers 5:5 to 6:21

X-CENTER - Priestly, Aaronic Blessing: Numbers 6:22-27

C1 Special Tribal Gifts to Tabernacle: Numbers 7:1-89

B1 Levites: Special Status: Numbers 8:5-26

A1 Passover and Modification - due to timing of Passover: Numbers 9:1-14

The Theological Center of the Wilderness Journey

- A Journey Begins: Departure from Sinai (10:11-36)
- B Complaint about Hardship, Manna and No Food (11:1-35)
- C Miriam Punished for her Sin (with Aaron) (12:1-16)
- D Rebellion at Kadesh (in Wilderness of Zin) (13:1-14:45)
- E Ritual Regulations (15:1-36)
- F Holiness of Aaron Above Levites Challenged (15:37-16:50)
- X CENTER - Aaron's Rod Budding (17:1-13)
- F1 Holiness of Aaron above Levites Explained (18:1-32)
- E1 Ritual Regulations (19:1-22)
- D1 Rebellion at Kadesh (in Wilderness of Zin) (20:1-21)
- C1 Aaron Punished for his sin: death (20:22-29)
- B1 Complaint about Hardship, Manna and No Food (21:4-9)
- A1 Journey Ends: Arrival at Plains of Moab (21:10-20)



The Ominous Context

Numbers 17:12-13.

And the children of Israel spake unto Moses, saying,
Behold, we die, we perish, we all perish.

¹³ Whosoever cometh any thing near unto the tabernacle of the LORD
shall die: shall we be consumed with dying?



I. The Office Gifts - Priests and Levites (18:1-7)

A. The Office of the Priests

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.

The Office Gifts - Priests and Levites (18:1-7)

B. The Office of the Levites

Numbers 18:2,

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.



The Office Gifts - Priests and Levites (18:1-7)

Numbers 18:3-4,

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.



The Office Gifts - Priests and Levites

Numbers 18:5-6,

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.



The Office Gifts - Priests and Levites

Numbers 18:7,

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.



I. The Office Gifts - Priests and Levites (18:1-7)

A. The Office of the Priests

B. The Office of the Levites

1. The Respect for the Priests and Levites - "are given as a gift for (from) the Lord" - "a service of gift"
2. The Responsibilities of the Priests and Levites
3. The Relationship Between the Priests and Levites
4. The Reasons for the Priests and Levites - ALL ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE NATION

Lessons from the Past for Life in the Present

1. Direct communication is best!
2. God vindicates those He has called who are faithful.
3. The ministry of the Priests and Levites involved their families.
4. The Importance of a thorough job description.
5. The need for the two offices of priests and Levites to work together as a team. This is true today with the pastors and deacons of a church.
6. To modify the worship of God is dangerous business.

Christ Seen in Numbers 18:1-7

1. Christ is our high priest who bore all our iniquity. He paid with His life the penalty for our sins.
2. The priests and Levites were a gift to Israel, just as Christ is the ultimate gift given to the world. God gave His only begotten Son to this world. Those who believe in Him receive everlasting life.
3. Christ is the "life" of the believer!
4. He invites the stranger to come near to Him in faith!



II. The Offerings Given (8:8-19)

Numbers 18:8-9,

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.

The Offerings

Numbers 18:10-11,

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.

The Offerings

Numbers 18:12-14,

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.



The Offerings

Numbers 18:15-16,

¹Every 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.

The Offerings

Numbers 18:17-18,

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.



The Offerings

Numbers 18:19,

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.



II. The Offerings Given (18:8-19)

- A. The Particular Offerings
- B. The Provisions for the Priests/Levites and Their Families
- C. The Principles of Redemption



Lessons from the Past for Life in the Present (18:8-19)

1. The Priests and their families daily needs were met by the congregation. Today, provide for those in vocational ministry.
2. Those obeying and who were ceremonially clean had their needs met.
3. The gifts given to God benefitted people.
4. Give your first fruits to God.
5. Give your best to God, not your leftovers.
6. Sacrificial giving pleases God.



Christ Seen in Numbers 18:8-19

1. The various OT sacrifices pointed to the future once-and-for-all sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.
2. Christ is the first born from the dead (Colossians 1:18). He was raised from the grave on the Feast of the First Fruits.
3. Christ is the ultimate Redeemer. His death was the price paid for the redemption of sinners. He is the giver of life.
4. The New Covenant is a "covenant of salt." A permanent covenant preserved by God.

III. The Ownership of Land not Given (18:20-24)

Numbers 18:20-21,

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.

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.

Ownership of Land Not Given

Numbers 18:22-24,

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.

IV. The Obvious Granted

Numbers 18:25-27,

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.

The Obvious Granted

Numbers 18:28-29,

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.



The Obvious Granted

Numbers 18:30-32,

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.

The Ownership Omission and the Obvious

III. The Ownership of Land not Given

A. The Ordinance of No Land

B. The Opportunity to Have God and to Serve Him

IV. The Obvious Granted

A. The Change of Address - "unto Moses" (18:25)

B. The Charge for Levites to Tithe to "Aaron"

C. The Compensation for Serving

LESSONS FROM THE PAST FOR LIFE IN THE PRESENT

1. The Privilege of Serving God.
2. Do not get entangled with riches and temporal things. Keep your spiritual priorities.
3. All we need is Jesus. Give me Jesus.
4. God has the best compensation plans for life.



Christ Seen in Numbers 18:20-32

1. The Levites tithed to Aaron and the priests illustrated the supremacy of the priests. Christ is our Supreme Priest.
2. Whoever you tithe to is an acknowledgment that this person is a superior. When we give our gifts of our treasures, talents and time we are acknowledging Jesus Christ as the superior, the Supreme God.
3. ABRAHAM TITHED TO MELCHIZEDEK, 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.
4. Psalm 110:4 The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Prayer to Receive Salvation from the Lord

Dear God,

I know that I am sinner and that I need your pardon. I humbly come to the cross and ask for your blood to cleanse me from all my sin. I believe your Son was raised from the dead. I ask you Lord to give me everlasting life.

Amen.

