

## Numbers 18

1 Then the Lord said to Aaron: "You and your sons and your father's house with you shall bear the iniquity related to the sanctuary, and you and your sons with you shall bear the iniquity associated with your priesthood. 2 Also bring with you your brethren of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of your father, that they may be joined with you and serve you while you and your sons are with you before the tabernacle of witness. 3 They shall attend to your needs and all the needs of the tabernacle; but they shall not come near the articles of the sanctuary and the altar, lest they die—they and you also. 4 They shall be joined with you and attend to the needs of the tabernacle of meeting, for all the work of the tabernacle; but an outsider shall not come near you. 5 And you shall attend to the duties of the sanctuary and the duties of the altar, that there may be no more wrath on the children of Israel. 6 Behold, I Myself have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel; they are a gift to you, given by the Lord, to do the work of the tabernacle of meeting. 7 Therefore you and your sons with you shall attend to your priesthood for everything at the altar and behind the veil; and you shall serve. I give your priesthood to you as a gift for service, but the outsider who comes near shall be put to death."

8 And the Lord spoke to Aaron: "Here, I Myself have also given you charge of My heave offerings, all the holy gifts of the children of Israel; I have given them as a portion to you and your sons, as an ordinance forever. 9 This shall be yours of the most holy things reserved from the fire: every offering of theirs, every grain offering and every sin offering and every trespass offering which they render to Me, shall be most holy for you and your sons. 10 In a most holy place you shall eat it; every male shall eat it. It shall be holy to you. 11 This also is yours: the heave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings of the children of Israel; I have given them to you, and your sons and daughters with you, as an ordinance forever. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it. 12 All the best of the oil, all the best of the new wine and the grain, their firstfruits which they offer to the Lord, I have given them to you. 13 Whatever first ripe fruit is in their land, which they bring to the Lord, shall be yours. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it. 14 Every devoted thing in Israel shall be yours. 15 Everything that first opens the womb of all flesh, which they bring to the Lord, whether man or beast, shall be yours; nevertheless the firstborn of man you shall surely redeem, and the firstborn of unclean animals you shall redeem. 16 And those redeemed of the devoted things you shall redeem when one month old, according to your valuation, for five shekels of silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs. 17 But the firstborn of a cow, the firstborn of a sheep, or the firstborn of a goat you shall not redeem; they are holy. You shall sprinkle their blood on the altar, and burn their fat as an offering made by fire for a sweet

aroma to the Lord. 18 And their flesh shall be yours, just as the wave breast and the right thigh are yours. 19 All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer to the Lord, I have given to you and your sons and daughters with you as an ordinance forever; it is a covenant of salt forever before the Lord with you and your descendants with you.”

20 Then the Lord said to Aaron: “You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel. 21 Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting. 22 Hereafter the children of Israel shall not come near the tabernacle of meeting, lest they bear sin and die. 23 But the Levites shall perform the work of the tabernacle of meeting, and they shall bear their iniquity; it shall be a statute forever, throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance. 24 For the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer up as a heave offering to the Lord, I have given to the Levites as an inheritance; therefore I have said to them, ‘Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.’ ”

25 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 26 “Speak thus to the Levites, and say to them: ‘When you take from the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them as your inheritance, then you shall offer up a heave offering of it to the Lord, a tenth of the tithe. 27 And your heave offering shall be reckoned to you as though it were the grain of the threshing floor and as the fullness of the winepress. 28 Thus you shall also offer a heave offering to the Lord from all your tithes which you receive from the children of Israel, and you shall give the Lord’s heave offering from it to Aaron the priest. 29 Of all your gifts you shall offer up every heave offering due to the Lord, from all the best of them, the consecrated part of them.’ 30 Therefore you shall say to them: ‘When you have lifted up the best of it, then the rest shall be accounted to the Levites as the produce of the threshing floor and as the produce of the winepress. 31 You may eat it in any place, you and your households, for it is your reward for your work in the tabernacle of meeting. 32 And you shall bear no sin because of it, when you have lifted up the best of it. But you shall not profane the holy gifts of the children of Israel, lest you die.’ ”

### **The Lord, Our Provider and Provision**

**Main idea:** The Lord provides for all needs, most of all atonement so that we may have Him Himself

**Introduction:** priesthood not a political office but a provision; this brings “provision” to the forefront.

1. **Provision for the Levitical priesthood** (v21–24)
2. **Provision for the Aaronic priesthood** (v25–30, 8–20)

### 3. Provision for the ministry of altar and veil. (v1–7)

**Conclusion:** God has provided all in Christ. Believers are not just saved from death, but brought all the way beyond the curtain.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))

Numbers Chapter 18. These are God's words. Then Yahweh said to Aaron. You and your sons and your father's house with you shall bear the iniquity related to the sanctuary.

And you and your sons with you shall bear the iniquity. Associated with your priesthood. Also bring with you your brethren, the tribe of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of your father, that they may be joined with you and serve you while you and your sons are with you before the Tabernacle of witness. They shall attend your needs, and all the needs of the Tabernacle.

But they shall not come near the Articles of the sanctuary and the altar. Bless they die. They and you also. They shall be joined with you and attend to the needs of the Tabernacle of meeting for all the work of the Tabernacle. But an outsider shall not come near you.

And you shall attend to the duties of the sanctuary. And to the duties of the altar. That there may be no more wrath on the children of Israel. Behold, I myself have taken your Brethren. The Levites from among the children of Israel. They are a gift to you given by Yahweh to do the work of the Tabernacle of meeting.

Therefore, you and your sons with, you shall attend to your priesthood for everything at the altar and behind the veil and you shall serve. I give your priesthood to you as a gift for service. But the outsider who comes near shall be put to death. And he always spoke to Aaron.

Here. I myself have also given you charge of my evil offerings, all the holy gifts of the children of Israel. I have given them as a portion to you and your sons as an ordinance forever. This will be yours the most holy things, reserved from the fire. Every offering of theirs, every grain offering and every sin offering and every trespass offering, which they render to me shall be most holy for you.

Sons. In a most holy place, you shall eat it every male shall eat it? It shall be holy to you. This also is yours the heave offering of their gift with all the way of offerings of the children of Israel. I have given them to you and your sons and your daughters with you as an ordinance forever.

Everyone who is clean in your house. I eat it. Every devoted thing in Israel shall be yours, all the best of the oil. All the best of the new wine and the grain their first fruits which they offer to Yahweh, I have given them to you. First ripe fruit is in their land, which they bring to, you always shall be yours.

Everyone who is clean in your house, may eat it. Every devoted thing in Israel shall be yours, everything that first opens the womb of All Flesh, which they bring to Yahweh, whether man or Beast shall be yours. Nevertheless, the firstborn of man, you shall surely redeem. And the firstborn of unclean animals.

You shall redeem. And those redeemed, the devoted things you shall redeem. When one month old, according to your valuation, for five shekels of silver. According to the shekel of the sanctuary which is 20 gross Firstborn of a cow, the firstborn of a sheep and the firstborn of a goat, you shall not redeem.

They are holy You shall sprinkle their blood on the Altar and burn their fat as an offering made by fire for a sweet Aroma to Yahweh. Flesh shall be yours. Just as the wave breasts and the right thigh are yours. All that heave offerings of the Holy things, which the children of Israel, offered Yahweh, I have given to you and your sons and your daughters with you as an ordinance forever.

It is a covenant of salt forever before Yahweh with you and your descendants with you. Then he always said to Aaron. You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them? I am your portion. And your inheritance among the children of Israel. Behold.

I have given the children of Levi, all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return, for the work, which they perform the work of the Tabernacle of meeting. Hereafter the children of Israel, shall not come near the Tabernacle of meeting. Lest they bear sin and die. But the Levites shall perform, the work of the Tabernacle of meeting.

And they shall bear their iniquity. It shall be a statute forever throughout your Generations, that among the children of Israel, they shall have no inheritance. For the ties of the children of Israel, which they offer up as a heave offering to Yahweh. I have given to the Levites as an inheritance.

Therefore I've said to them among the children of Israel, they shall have no inheritance. Then Yahweh spoke to Moses saying speak thus to the Levites and say to them. When you take from the children of Israel, the tithes which I have given you from them as your inheritance, then you shall offer up a heave offering of it to Yahweh, a tenth of a tithe.

And your heave offering shall be reckoned to you as though it were the grain of the threshing floor and as the fullness of the wine press, Thus, you shall also offer a heave offering to Yahweh from all your tithes, which you receive from the children of Israel. And you shall give your ways heave offering from it to Aaron the priest.

Of all your gifts you shall offer up every heave offering due to Yahweh from all the best of them. The consecrated part of them. Therefore, you shall say to them. When you have lifted up the best of it, Than the rest shall be accounted to the Levites as the produce of the threshing floor, and as the produce of the wine press, You may eat it in any place you and your households for, it is your reward for your work in the Tabernacle of meeting.

And you shall bear no sin. Because of it. When you have lifted up the best of it, But you shall not profane the holy gifts of the children of Israel. Lest you die? Amen, that sends this reading of gods inspired. And there aren't In a couple weeks that we took to visit first John and here and think about The Fellowship that the Lord gives us with him in prayer that if we know that we have the son, we have, if we have life, We know that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us?

Not just that, we'll have the petitions, but that he actively listens to us. He has regard for our voices. And he gives us fellowship with him in prayer, and then, Um, last Lord's Day Afternoon, the end of First John 3 and to First John 4, And how the spirit confirms to us.

That we are True Believers. We have taken their, uh, thereby a three-week break or two weeks off. It's been three weeks since we were in the book of numbers, but you probably remember because the last several sermons in chapter 16 and chapter 17 involved those who were not ordained called appointed to the priesthood attempting, to take it off, uh, to take it upon themselves.

The Lord's Wrath against them and against Israel for having done. So, And finally, The Lord gave the command. To bring the rods of the houses, the 12 from. The nation of Israel and the one from The house of Levi. You remember. Joseph has been split into two houses. And he made display of course.

That he is the one. Who has selected Aaron? In other words, the priesthood was not a political office for men to battle. To attain to, but Something ordained by the Lord and that ordination. Now, in verse 18, or chapter 18 turns us to the idea of provision That the priesthood is a provision and it sets it within the context.

The the priest, the provision of a priesthood to atone and sacrifices by which to come near to the Lord, he sets it in the context of all of God's provision. Because indeed, we are unable even to feed ourselves, even to clothe ourselves except that God provides for us. And so he teaches us this by the reminder of the tithe In which he makes provision for the levitical priesthood, through the tithe He teaches us this by the provision that he makes for the aaronic priesthood.

The house of Aaron Providing them the tithe of the tithe and providing for them the Levites who are the Lord's own portion as it were The Lord, having taken them in the place of the firstborn of all of Israel. And he gives gifts then to Aaron and his house But, especially the great theme in chapter 18 against the backdrop of The provision for all the nation is implied in the tithe and the provision for the levitical priesthood by way of the tithe and the provisions of the aaronic priesthood is that he makes provision for the ministry of the altar and the veil

Because man is not able either to ascend to God.

As he is, he may only Ascend to God in a substitute and you remember, you need to import. Now, all that we heard through the Book of Leviticus That it In the substitute who takes away our sin. And then who brings us Justified consecrated unto God, that is our Lord Jesus Christ.

And so, the provision needs to be made for the ministry of the altar on Earth. And then when we hear about the ministry of the veil, particularly in the first seven verses along with the ministry of the of the altar, you remember that, that is the veil that separates the holy place from the holy of holies where God most fully makes his glory.

So, we think about this chapter, especially In terms of the provision for the levitical priesthood, provision for the aaronic priesthood, provision for the ministry of the altar in the veil first in the provision for the levitical priesthood. We're looking here. Bit later at the chapter in the chapter, especially in verses 21 through 24.

We've been familiar with the tithe ever since. Melchizedek this pre-incarnation. Appearance of the Lord. Jesus Christ has come to Abram. You remember, back in Genesis And saying blessed be God most High and blessed is Abram of God, most high. And Abram doesn't just Receive the blessing of God from Melchizedek and the Bread and Wine communicating to him fellowship with God and bond with God.

But he also learns from. Um, what milk has it excess? And he offers Melchizedek a tenth of everything that he has, because Melchizedek has just reminded him, that everything that

Abram has been given to him by God most high. And then you remember, immediately after he's done with Melchizedek another, King shows up and it's the King of Sodom.

And he wants to, he wants to broker a deal. After all Abram has just defeated the winning Coalition of the recent World War, And he offers. Abram to split the spoils and Abram says, no I have sworn to God. Most I will not take as so much as a sandal strap from you.

Lest anyone think that anyone has enriched me except for God must High. Careful not to make a rule of that, you know, when Cyrus gives of the treasury for the rebuilding of the temple. And And permits the taxation of the surrounding. Subjects of the Persian Empire in order to help build the temple.

Ezra Nehemiah, don't say well no, we Raised our hand to God most high. But It does show us in the context there. Reason for or some of the logic behind the tithe. That Abram offered to Melchizedek is a recognition that from the Lord comes all power to make wealth all of our resources.

Uh, and indeed. The the opening section of Deuteronomy especially in chapter 7 and so forth is going to be very concerned. With making sure that the Lord himself is recognized, As the one from whom. Our provision has come. Everything has come from his hand. They were about to enter a land and flowing with milk and honey and have cities.

They didn't build and And cisterns. They didn't dig and Vineyards. They didn't plant. And yet, it's very easy for us to congratulate ourselves. When it is, God, who gives us even the ability? Life and breath, and any ability of mind or body. That we have. The levitical priesthood. However, has not given any land.

They do not receive an inheritance among the children of Israel verse 24. So that the effort that they might have spent upon working their land, they would spend that effort instead. Upon supporting. The public worship of God and the ministry of the aaronic priesthood. That brings us in the second place to the provision that he makes for Aaron and his sons.

First of all, Aaron and his son, Steve the best 1% of all that the Lord provides for Israel because God goes on in verses 25-30, All the Levites that they as they receive the best 10 percent from Rest of Israel, they are to give the best 10 percent of what they receive to the Lord.

And that they are to give that to Aaron and his sons. This includes.

Sorry there to give the vest one percent, then the best 10 percent of 10 percent, the aaronic priest should also then receives Back to verses 8 through 20, they received the holy things. From the offerings. They receive Redemption prices. You couldn't give them an unclean thing, unless they'd be defiled with the unclean thing and you wouldn't Slaughter or give them a child, the one who opens the womb, Slave.

But those would be redeemed with money. And the money would be given to Aaron and his sons to the aaronic priesthood. Uh, in their place. God making The best of the provision for those. Through whom the people would come to God. And in vers. 19, he uses this language, as far as The provision that he makes for Aaron and his sons, that it is a covenant of salt, salt, being a preservative describing how permanent and In inviable.

Permanent and unable to be taken away. Uh is the portion that the Lord assigns to Aaron and to his sons notice also the way he speaks of gifts in verse 6 and verse 7, And verse 6, the Levites is a gift. The Levites were the Lords. What use does the Lord have for Levites?

The Lord doesn't need men any more than he needs Bulls or goats. Remember later, when the people of Israel had failed to see that, which they brought the Lord, as being provided by the Lord, and thought begun to think of that, which they brought to the Lord as provided to the Lord by themselves.

The Lord indignantly tells him if I were hungry. I wouldn't tell you the cattle on a thousand Hills are mine. And so we also want to be careful with that. The Lord has provided to us the worship. Even as we offer him all that we are we do. So by Grace, we do so by his Spirit, we are not enriching God.

Or adding to him, we do not add to his glory at all. Yeah, rather, he provides for us in all that he gives us to bring him. And so the Lord has the Levites whom he's taken in the place of all the firstborn and he re-gifts them Our family had a little chuckle not too long ago, when we received a gift from someone related to someone who had visited Hopewell.

And it came in a Hopewell visitors gift bag. And we knew exactly where that bag had come from and it was not at all. Offensive, it was just I'm using well God has no need for Levites. So he re-gifts them to the to Aaron and his sons for the work of the Tabernacle, he is not the needy God.

He is the god who provides Not only does he provide them the Levites and say in verse 6, they are a gift to you. He even provides to Aaron and his sons the priesthood itself. I give your priesthood as a gift for service. With the outsider, who comes near.

Shall be put to death. And of course, the Lord's best gift ever to any of us is what Children. What's the Lord's? Best gift that he ever gives us? It is a what question? A home answer. It is himself and that's exactly what he says in verse 20 about his provision for the house of Aaron, then you always said to Aaron, you shall have no inheritance in the land, nor shall you have any portion among them?

I am your portion. And your inheritance. Among the children of Israel, how marvelous that they were permitted to come near even by the signway. The simple way, the shadow way that God provided in anticipation of Christ that they got to attend to the altar that they got to go into the Tabernacle and see the furniture and remember, and be instructed by all that, that communicated to us of how God brings us near in the Lord Jesus Christ, they got to see all of that.

But now, there is no more priesthood of Aaron. Is there? There's a change in priesthood. The Lord Jesus is priest forever. According to the order. Of Melchizedek and he has passed through the veil. The true one into the heavens into the true Tabernacle, not the copy on Earth. Marvelously, Hebrews 9 and Hebrews, 10 describes how Jesus's priesthood is superior and Jesus's, sacrifices are superior.

He Jesus sorry, not plural, Jesus's sacrifice once for all is superior. His blood can actually take away sin. And so the Lord Jesus has received from God, not just the Levites, but all of his people from all of the Nations, He is told by God and His anointing as the Christ ask of me and I will give you the Nations as your as your inheritance, as your portion.

And so the Lord Jesus has, of course, God himself and all the nations, but what does he do with the Nations? Those from all the nations whom he receives as a portion, he gives us his portion, he gives us to have God himself in him. So that Hebrews 10 tells us that Jesus hasn't just entered behind the curtain for himself.

No, we with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience by his blood, enter the holy of holies in glory by the new and Living Way that is his flesh. And so the God who has provided for us everything that we have in Earthly terms has provided for us everything that there can be everything as it were that he has in spiritual terms.

By giving us Christ himself, God, the son. And in God, the son. Giving us the Triune God himself. Unto whom we have come in the Lord Jesus. And this is why in Leviticus Sorry, in numbers 18, where you have the provision for the Levites and the provision, for Aaron for the House of Aaron.

You have especially a focus at the beginning and then throughout this provision, for the ministry of the altar and of the veil distinguishing, then between Aaron and his sons and the rest of the Levites, the Levites could attend them. The Levites could be before the Tabernacle in a way that even the rest of the nation of Israel could not but the Levites could not come up to the altar.

Minister touch or see the articles of the sanctuary, the Levites could not enter beyond the Veil. It reminds us how glorious and holy God is That it was so dangerous for anyone other than those whom God had appointed, but even that when the Aaron and his sons came near that needed atoning for You always said to Aaron you and your sons and your father's house with you shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary.

And you and your sons with you shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood. So that coming in the way that God had commanded coming in the way that God had provided. They were looking forward to an atonement for them. So that they might be accepted and not perish. When they came to do the service of the altar or to do the service of the veil.

None of them could ever have been safe apart from the once, for all sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. The best things you or I ever offer, God, must be consecrated by Christ's blood. Even done. According to God's word, they are not good enough to come near him. Or for us to be safe and Drawing Near to him.

And yet, the Lord, who had commanded this system and had appointed them to this office is the Lord who would indeed give his son. And much more than that for you. And for me who has given his son, how needful was the ministry of Christ, how needful it continues to be And you see this throughout the rest of the chapter, not only this bear, the iniquity in verse 1 and let's bear the iniquity in verse 2.

But here in verse 3, lest they die. Day. And you also are verse 5. That there be no more wrath on the children of Israel or verse 7. The outsider who comes near shall be put to death. Verse 22. Um, the children of Israel, shall not come near the Tabernacle of meeting lest, they bear sin and die, or even the Levites if they were to treat the provision that God had given them as if it was theirs and not Gods.

If they failed to tithe from their tithe. He describes it this way. In verse 32, the need for them to tithe from their tithe from the tithe that they received and you shall bear. No sin. Because of it, when you have lifted up the best of it, But you shall not profane the holy gifts of the children of Israel.

Lest you die? And so the great provision of God is a life-saving mission here. He has provided sacrifice and priesthood looking forward to Christ, so that man could come near The Living. God, the holy God. The Glorious God indeed, have the Living, God, dwell among them. Without perishing. And so God has provided for us everything that we have in Earthly terms in temporal terms.



But especially God has provided for us everything in Christ. Christ is our priest. This is why we have no priests ordained priests in our churches. We are all now United to Christ and may come near by faith and shall one day, Be in the very presence of the Living God in him, not just by his priesthood.

But by his sacrifice, Believers are not just saved from Death. We are brought all the way beyond the curtain. Because in all of his other provision and especially in the provision of Christ's priesthood and sacrifice. God has not just provided for us created things. He has provided himself. For us, we have Jesus's Joy.

We have Jesus's inheritance. Amen, let's pray. Lord, give us to be humble under your hand and to be thankful for what you have given. And to see especially our sinfulness and danger. So that we may be grateful, especially for Christ your Indescribable gift. And Grant to us, not to find our portion in Earthly or temporal things.

But in you yourself. That we may Rejoice to be joint inheritors with Christ. For, we ask in his name. Amen.