

~LEVITES (885)

[Of, or belonging to, Levi]

.. Taken As A Ransom For Firstborn

.. Duties

.. Maintenance

.. Provided Supporters Of True Worship

- **Descendants of **Levi**, third son of Jacob by Leah.**
- **And Leah became pregnant and brought a son to birth and then called his name Reuben, for she said; It is because Yehowah has looked upon my wretchedness, in that now my husband will begin to love me. (**Genesis 29:32**)**
- **And she became pregnant again and brought a son to birth and then said; It is because Yehowah has listened, in that I was hated and so he gave me also this one. Hence she called his name Simeon. (**Genesis 29:33**)**
- **And she became pregnant yet again and brought a son to birth and then said; Now this time my husband will join himself to me, because I have borne him three sons. His name was therefore called **Levi**. (**Genesis 29:34**)**
- **At times the term applies to the whole tribe, but usually it excludes the priestly family of Aaron.**
- **For Moses had given the inheritance of the two other tribes and the other half tribe on the other side of the Jordan, and to the **Levites** he did not give an inheritance in their midst. (**Joshua 14:3**)**
- **For the sons of Joseph had become two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim, and they had not given a share in the land to the **Levites**, except cities to dwell in and their pasture grounds for their livestock and their property. (**Joshua 14:4**)**
- **The heads of the fathers of the **Levites** now approached Eleazar the priest and Joshua the son of Nun and the heads of the fathers of the tribes of the sons of Israel. (**Joshua 21:1**)**
- **And they proceeded to speak to them in Shiloh in the land of**

Canaan, saying; Yehowah by means of Moses commanded cities to be given us in which to dwell, together with their pasture grounds for our domestic animals. (**Joshua 21:2**)

- So the sons of Israel gave the **Levites**, at the order of Yehowah, these cities and their pasture grounds out of their inheritance. (**Joshua 21:3**)
- Thus the expression, priests and **Levites**, is common.
- And they came bringing up the ark of Yehowah and the tent of meeting and all the holy utensils that were in the tent, and the priests and the **Levites** came bringing them up. (**1 Kings 8:4**)
- And he proceeded to gather all the princes of Israel and the priests and the **Levites**. (**1 Chronicles 23:2**)
- Then the heads of the fathers of Judah and of Benjamin and the priests and the **Levites** rose up, even everyone whose spirit the true God had roused, to go up and rebuild the house of Yehowah, which was in Jerusalem. (**Ezra 1:5**)
- Now this is the witness of John when the Jews sent forth priests and **Levites** from Jerusalem to him to ask him; Who are you? (**John 1:19**)
- Priestly duties were confined to the male members of Aaron's family, with the **Levites**, the rest of the tribe, acting as their assistants.
- These were the names of Aaron's sons, the anointed priests whose hands had been filled with power to act as priests. (**Numbers 3:3**)
- Bring the tribe of **Levi** near, and you must stand them before Aaron the priest, and they must minister to him. (**Numbers 3:6**)
- And they must keep their obligation to him and their obligation to all the assembly before the tent of meeting in discharging the service of the tabernacle. (**Numbers 3:7**)
- And they must take care of all the utensils of the tent of meeting, even the obligation of the sons of Israel in discharging the service of the tabernacle. (**Numbers 3:8**)

- And you must give the **Levites** to Aaron and his sons. They are given ones, given to him from the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 3:9**)
- And you should appoint Aaron and his sons, and they must take care of their priesthood, and any stranger coming near should be put to death. (**Numbers 3:10**)
- This arrangement began with the setting up of the tabernacle, as before this no particular family or tribe was assigned to offer the sacrifices.
- After that he sent young men of the sons of Israel and they offered up burnt offerings and sacrificed bulls as sacrifices, as communion sacrifices to Yehowah. (**Exodus 24:5**)

.. Taken As A Ransom For Firstborn

- The **Levites** were chosen by Yehowah in place of all the firstborn of the other tribes.
- And Yehowah spoke further to Moses, saying; (**Exodus 13:1**)
- Sanctify to me every male firstborn that opens each womb among the sons of Israel, among men and beasts. It is mine. (**Exodus 13:2**)
- And it must occur that when Yehowah brings you into the land of the Canaanites, just as he has sworn to you and to your forefathers, and when he does give it to you. (**Exodus 13:11**)
- Then you must devote everyone that opens the womb to Yehowah, and every firstling, the young of a beast, which will come to be yours. The males belong to Yehowah. (**Exodus 13:12**)
- And every firstling ass you are to redeem with a sheep, and if you will not redeem it, then you must break its neck. And every firstborn of man among your sons you are to redeem. (**Exodus 13:13**)
- And it must occur that in case your son should inquire of you later on, saying; What does this mean? Then you must say to him, By strength of hand Yehowah brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slaves. (**Exodus 13:14**)

- **And it came about that Pharaoh showed obstinacy toward sending us away, and Yehowah proceeded to kill every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of man to the firstborn of beast. That is why I am sacrificing to Yehowah all the males that open the womb, and every firstborn of my sons I redeem. (Exodus 13:15)**
- **And it must serve as a sign upon your hand and as a frontlet band between your eyes, because by strength of hand Yehowah brought us out of Egypt. (Exodus 13:16)**
- **And you must take the **Levites** for me, I am Yehowah, in place of all the firstborn among the sons of Israel, and the domestic animals of the Levites in place of all the firstborn among the domestic animals of the sons of Israel. (Numbers 3:41)**
- **Counting from a month old upward, there were 22,000 Levite males who could be exchanged for the same number of firstborn males of the other tribes.**
- **The census taken in the Wilderness of Sinai revealed that there were 22,273 firstborn sons in the other tribes. Therefore, God required that a ransom price of five shekels (\$11) be given to Aaron and his sons for each of the 273 firstborn in excess of the **Levites**.**
- **All the registered ones of the **Levites** whom Moses and Aaron registered at the order of Yehowah by their families, all the males from a month old upward, were twenty-two thousand. (Numbers 3:39)**
- **And all the firstborn males by the number of the names from a month old upward of their registered ones came to be twenty-two thousand two hundred and seventy-three. (Numbers 3:43)**
- **And as the ransom price of the two hundred and seventy-three from the firstborn of the sons of Israel, who are in excess of the **Levites**. (Numbers 3:46)**
- **You must take five shekels for each individual. In the shekel of the holy place you should take it. A shekel is twenty gerahs. (Numbers 3:47)**
- **And you must give the money to Aaron and his sons as the ransom price of those who are in excess of them. (Numbers 3:48)**

- So Moses took the money of the redemption price from those who were in excess of the ransom price of the **Levites**. (**Numbers 3:49**)
- From the firstborn of the sons of Israel he took the money, a thousand three hundred and sixty-five shekels, in the shekel of the holy place. (**Numbers 3:50**)
- Then Moses gave the money of the ransom price to Aaron and his sons according to the order of Yehowah, just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Numbers 3:51**)

•• Duties

- The **Levites** were made up of three families, from Levi's sons Gershon, or Gershom, Kohath, and Merari.
- And the sons of **Levi** were **Gershon, Kohath and Merari**. (**Genesis 46:11**)
- The sons of **Levi** were **Gershon, Kohath and Merari**. (**1 Chronicles 6:1**)
- Each of these families was assigned a place near the tabernacle in the wilderness. The Kohathite family of Aaron camped in front of the tabernacle to the east. The other Kohathites camped on the south side, the Gershonites on the west, and the Merarites on the north.
- The families of the Gershonites were behind the tabernacle. They were encamped to the west. (**Numbers 3:23**)
- The families of the sons of Kohath were encamped on the side of the tabernacle to the south. (**Numbers 3:29**)
- And the chieftain of the paternal house for the families of Merari was Zuriel the son of Abihail. They were encamped on the side of the tabernacle toward the north. (**Numbers 3:35**)
- And those camping before the tabernacle toward the east, before the tent of meeting toward the sunrising, were Moses and Aaron and his sons, those taking care of the obligation to the sanctuary, as the obligation for the sons of Israel. And any stranger coming near would be put to death. (**Numbers 3:38**)

- **Setting up, dismantling, and carrying the tabernacle was the work of the **Levites**. When it was time to move, Aaron and his sons took down the curtain dividing the Holy from the Most Holy and covered the ark of the testimony, the altars, and other sacred furniture and utensils.**
- **The Kohathites then carried these things. The Gershonites transported the tent cloths, coverings, screens, courtyard hangings, and tent cords, evidently the cords of the tabernacle itself, and the Merarites took care of the panel frames, pillars, socket pedestals, tent pins and cords, cords of the courtyard surrounding the tabernacle.**
- **And you yourself appoint the **Levites** over the tabernacle of the Testimony and over all its utensils and over everything that belongs to it. They themselves will carry the tabernacle and all its utensils, and they themselves will minister at it, and around the tabernacle they are to camp. (**Numbers 1:50**)**
- **And whenever the tabernacle is setting out, the **Levites** should take it down, and when the tabernacle encamps, the **Levites** should set it up, and any stranger coming near should be put to death. (**Numbers 1:51**)**
- **And the obligation of the sons of Gershon in the tent of meeting was the tabernacle and the tent, its covering and the screen of the entrance of the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 3:25**)**
- **And the hangings of the courtyard and the screen of the entrance of the courtyard that is round about the tabernacle and the altar, and its tent cords, for all its service. (**Numbers 3:26**)**
- **And the chieftain of the paternal house for the families of the Kohathites was Elizaphan the son of Uzziel. (**Numbers 3:30**)**
- **And their obligation was the Ark and the table and the lampstand and the altars and the utensils of the holy place with which they would minister and the screen, and all its service. (**Numbers 3:31**)**
- **And the oversight for which the sons of Merari were obligated was over the panel frames of the tabernacle and its bars and its pillars and its socket pedestals and all its utensils and all its service. (**Numbers 3:36**)**

- **And the pillars of the courtyard round about and their socket pedestals and their tent pins and their tent cords. (Numbers 3:37)**
- **This is the service of the sons of Kohath in the tent of meeting. It is something most holy. (Numbers 4:4)**
- **And Aaron and his sons must come in when the camp is departing, and they must take down the screening curtain and must cover the ark of the testimony with it. (Numbers 4:5)**
- **And they must put a covering of sealskins over it and spread out an entire cloth of blue on top and put in its poles. (Numbers 4:6)**
- **And they will spread out a cloth of blue over the table of showbread, and they must put upon it the dishes and the cups and the bowls and the pitchers of the drink offering, and the constant bread should continue on it. (Numbers 4:7)**
- **And they must spread out a cloth of coccus scarlet over them, and they must cover it with a covering of sealskins and put in its poles. (Numbers 4:8)**
- **And they must take a cloth of blue and cover the lampstand of the luminary and its lamps and its snuffers and its fire holders and all its vessels for oil with which they regularly minister to it. (Numbers 4:9)**
- **And they must put it and all its utensils into a covering of sealskins and put it upon a bar. (Numbers 4:10)**
- **And over the golden altar they will spread out a cloth of blue, and they must cover it with a covering of sealskins and put in its poles. (Numbers 4:11)**
- **And they must take all the utensils of the ministry with which they regularly minister in the holy place, and they must put them in a cloth of blue and cover them with a covering of sealskins and put them upon a bar. (Numbers 4:12)**
- **And they must clear away the fatty ashes of the altar and spread out a cloth of wool dyed reddish purple over it. (Numbers 4:13)**

- **And they must put upon it all its utensils with which they regularly minister at it, the fire holders, the forks and the shovels and the bowls, all the utensils of the altar, and they must spread out over it a covering of sealskins and put in its poles. (Numbers 4:14)**
- **And Aaron and his sons must finish covering the holy place and all the utensils of the holy place when the camp is departing, and after that the sons of Kohath will come in to carry them, but they must not touch the holy place so that they have to die. These things are the load of the sons of Kohath in the tent of meeting. (Numbers 4:15)**
- **And the oversight of Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest is over the oil of the luminary and the perfumed incense and the constant grain offering and the anointing oil, the oversight of all the tabernacle and all that is in it, namely, the holy place and its utensils. (Numbers 4:16)**
- **And Yehowah spoke further to Moses and Aaron, saying; (Numbers 4:17)**
- **Do not let the tribe of the families of the Kohathites be cut off from among the Levites. (Numbers 4:18)**
- **But do this for them that they may indeed keep alive and may not die for their approaching the most holy things. Aaron and his sons will come in, and they must assign them each one to his service and to his load. (Numbers 4:19)**
- **And they must not come in to see the holy things for the least moment of time, and so they have to die. (Numbers 4:20)**
- **Then Yehowah spoke to Moses, saying; (Numbers 4:21)**
- **There will be a taking of the sum of the sons of Gershon, yes, them by the house of their fathers according to their families. (Numbers 4:22)**
- **From thirty years old upward to fifty years you will register them, all who come to enter into the service group to render service in the tent of meeting. (Numbers 4:23)**
- **This is the service of the families of the Gershonites as to serving**

and as to carrying. (**Numbers 4:24**)

- And they must carry the tent cloths of the tabernacle and the tent of meeting, its covering and the sealskin covering that is on top over it, and the screen of the entrance of the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 4:25**)
- And the hangings of the courtyard and the entrance screen of the gate of the courtyard that is round about the tabernacle and the altar, and their tent cords and all their service utensils, and all things with which work is regularly done. Thus they must serve. (**Numbers 4:26**)
- At the order of Aaron and his sons all the service of the sons of the Gershonites should take place as regards all their loads and all their service, and you must assign all their loads to them by obligation. (**Numbers 4:27**)
- This is the service of the families of the sons of the Gershonites in the tent of meeting, and their obligatory service is under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. (**Numbers 4:28**)
- As for the sons of Merari, you will register them by their families in the house of their fathers. (**Numbers 4:29**)
- From thirty years old upward to fifty years you will register them, all who enter into the service group to render the service of the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 4:30**)
- And this is their obligation, their load, according to all their service in the tent of meeting: the panel frames of the tabernacle and its bars and its pillars and its socket pedestals. (**Numbers 4:31**)
- And the pillars of the courtyard round about and their socket pedestals and their tent pins and their tent cords together with all their equipment and all their service. And by their names you will assign the equipment for which they are obligated, as their load. (**Numbers 4:32**)
- This is the service of the families of the sons of Merari according to all their service in the tent of meeting, under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. (**Numbers 4:33**)

- Accept them from them, as they must serve for carrying on the service of the tent of meeting, and you must give them to the **Levites**, each one in proportion to his own service. (**Numbers 7:5**)
- O Moses accepted the wagons and the cattle and gave them to the **Levites**. (**Numbers 7:6**)
- Two wagons and four cattle he gave to the sons of Gershon in proportion to their service. (**Numbers 7:7**)
- And four wagons and eight cattle he gave to the sons of Merari in proportion to their service, under the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest. (**Numbers 7:8**)
- But to the sons of Kohath he gave none, because the service of the holy place was upon them. They did their carrying on the shoulder. (**Numbers 7:9**)
- The work of the **Levites** was highly organized under David, who appointed supervisors, officers, judges, gatekeepers, and treasurers, as well as a vast number to assist the priests in the temple, the courtyards, and the dining rooms in connection with the offerings, sacrifices, purification work, weighing, measuring, and various guard duties.
- Levite musicians were organized into 24 groups, similar to the priestly divisions, and served in rotation. Duties were determined by casting lots. In the case of the groups of gatekeepers, the particular gate assignment was chosen in the same way. (**1 Chronicles Chapters 23,25,26**)
- And he went on to say to the **Levites**, the instructors of all Israel, those holy to Yehowah. Put the holy Ark in the house that Solomon the son of David the king of Israel built, it is not yours as a burden upon the shoulder. Now serve Yehowah your God and his people Israel. (**2 Chronicles 35:3**)
- And make preparation by the house of your forefathers according to your divisions, by the writing of David the king of Israel and by the writing of Solomon his son. (**2 Chronicles 35:4**)
- And stand in the holy place by the classes of the house of the forefathers for your brothers, the sons of the people, and the portion of a paternal house belonging to the **Levites**. (**2**

Chronicles 35:5)

- And the service was prepared and the priests kept standing at their places, and the **Levites** by their divisions, according to the kings commandment. (**2 Chronicles 35:10**)
- In Moses day it was at 30 years of age that a Levite assumed his full duties, such as bearing the tabernacle and its articles when it was being moved.
- All the registered ones whom Moses and Aaron and the chieftains of Israel registered as **Levites** by their families and by the house of their fathers. (**Numbers 4:46**)
- From thirty years old upward to fifty years old, all those coming to render the laborious service and the service of carrying loads in the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 4:47**)
- Their registered ones came to be eight thousand five hundred and eighty. (**Numbers 4:48**)
- At the order of Yehowah they were registered by means of Moses, each one according to his service and his load, and they were registered just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Numbers 4:49**)
- Some duties could be performed from the age of 25, but apparently not the laborious service, such as transporting the tabernacle.
- This is what applies to the **Levites**. From twenty-five years old upward he will come to enter into the company in the service of the tent of meeting. (**Numbers 8:24**)
- In King David's time the age was reduced to 20 years. The reason David gave was that the tabernacle, now to be replaced by the temple, would no longer have to be carried about. Assignments of obligatory service terminated at the age of 50 years.
- But after the age of fifty years he will retire from the service company and serve no longer. (**Numbers 8:25**)
- And he must minister to his brothers in the tent of meeting in taking care of the obligation, but he must render no service. In

accord with this you will do to the **Levites** in their obligations. (**Numbers 8:26**)

- These were the sons of **Levi** by the house of their fathers, the heads of the fathers, by their commissioned ones, in the number of the names, head by head of them, the doers of the work for the service of the house of Yehowah, from the age of twenty years upward. (**1 Chronicles 23:24**)
- For David had said; Yehowah the God of Israel has given rest to his people, and he will reside in Jerusalem to time indefinite. (**1 Chronicles 23:25**)
- And also the **Levites** will not have to carry the tabernacle or any of its utensils for its service. (**1 Chronicles 23:26**)
- The **Levites** needed to be well versed in the Law, often being called upon to read it in public and to teach it to the common people.
- And David was dressed in a sleeveless coat of fine fabric, and also all the **Levites** carrying the Ark and the singers and Chenaniah the chief of the carrying by the singers, but upon David there was an ephod of linen. (**1 Chronicles 15:27**)
- And the **Levites** that were singers belonging to all of them, namely, to Asaph, to Heman, to Jeduthun and to their sons and to their brothers clothed in fine fabric with cymbals and with stringed instruments and harps, were standing to the east of the altar and along with them priests to the number of a hundred and twenty sounding the trumpets. (**2 Chronicles 5:12**)
- And in the third year of his reigning he sent for his princes, namely, Ben-hail and Obadiah and Zechariah and Nethanel and Micaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. (**2 Chronicles 17:7**)
- And with them the **Levites**, Shemaiah and Nethaniah and Zebadiah and Asahel and Shemiramoth and Jehonathan and Adonijah and Tobijah and Tob-Adonijah the Levites, and with them Elishama and Jehoram the priests. (**2 Chronicles 17:8**)
- And they began teaching in Judah, and with them there was the book of Yehowah's Law, and they kept going around through all the cities of Judah and teaching among the people. (**2 Chronicles 17:9**)

- And Jeshua and Bani and Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, even the **Levites**, were explaining the Law to the people, while the people were in a standing position. (**Nehemiah 8:7**)
- And they continued reading aloud from the book, from the Law of the true God, it being expounded, and there being a putting of meaning into it, and they continued giving understanding in the reading. (**Nehemiah 8:8**)
- And Nehemiah, that is, the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest, the copyist, and the **Levites** who were instructing the people proceeded to say to all the people; This very day is holy to Yehowah your God. Do not mourn or weep. For all the people were weeping as they were hearing the words of the law. (**Nehemiah 8:9**)

See Also AGE

.. Maintenance

- Maintenance of the **Levites** was mainly by tithes from the other tribes, a tenth of everything produced from the ground and the cattle being given them. The **Levites**, in turn, passed on a tenth of this to the priests.
- Then Yehowah spoke to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 18:25**)
- And you should speak to the **Levites**, and you must say to them, you will receive from the sons of Israel the tenth part that I have given to you from them for your inheritance, and you must contribute from it as a contribution to Yehowah a tenth part of the tenth part. (**Numbers 18:26**)
- And it must be reckoned to you as your contribution, like the grain of the threshing floor and like the full produce of the wine or oil press. (**Numbers 18:27**)
- In this way you yourselves also will contribute a contribution to Yehowah from all your tenth parts that you will receive from the sons of Israel, and from them you must give the contribution to Yehowah to Aaron the priest. (**Numbers 18:28**)

- From all the gifts to you, you will contribute every sort of contribution to Yehowah, of the very best of it, as some holy thing from them. (**Numbers 18:29**)
- Furthermore, he said to the people, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to give the portion of the priests and of the **Levites**, in order, that they might adhere strictly to the Law of Yehowah. (**2 Chronicles 31:4**)
- And as soon as the word broke forth, the sons of Israel increased the firstfruits of the grain, new wine, and oil and honey and all the produce of the field, and the tenth of everything they brought in abundantly. (**2 Chronicles 31:5**)
- And the sons of Israel and of Judah that were dwelling in the cities of Judah, even they themselves brought in the tenth of cattle and sheep and the tenth of the holy things, the things sanctified to Yehowah their God. They brought in and so gave heaps upon heaps. (**2 Chronicles 31:6**)
- In the third month they started the heaps by laying the lowest layer, and in the seventh month they finished. (**2 Chronicles 31:7**)
- When Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they proceeded to bless Yehowah and his people Israel. (**2 Chronicles 31:8**)
- And the priest, the son of Aaron, must prove to be with the **Levites** when the Levites receive a tenth, and the Levites themselves should offer up a tenth of the tenth to the house of our God to the dining halls of the supply house. (**Nehemiah 10:38**)
- For it is to the dining halls that the sons of Israel and the sons of the **Levites** should bring the contribution of the grain, the new wine and the oil, and there is where the utensils of the sanctuary and the priests that were ministering, and the gatekeepers and the singers are, and we should not neglect the house of our God. (**Nehemiah 10:39**)
- Also, though the **Levites** were exempt from military service, they, along with the priests, shared some of the spoils of battle.

- And all those registered of the sons of Israel according to the house of their fathers from twenty years old upward, everyone going out to the army in Israel, came to be. (**Numbers 1:45**)
- Yes, all those registered came to be six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty. (**Numbers 1:46**)
- However, the **Levites** according to the tribe of their fathers did not get registered in among them. (**Numbers 1:47**)
- Accordingly Yehowah spoke to Moses, saying; (**Numbers 1:48**)
- Only the tribe of Levi you must not register, and the sum of them you must not take in among the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 1:49**)
- And Yehowah proceeded to say this to Moses. (**Numbers 31:25**)
- Take the sum of the booty, the captives both of humankind and of domestic animals, you and Eleazar the priest and the heads of the fathers of the assembly. (**Numbers 31:26**)
- And you must divide the booty in two between those taking part in the battle who went out on the expedition and all the rest of the assembly. (**Numbers 31:27**)
- And as a tax for Yehowah you must take away from the men of war who went out on the expedition one soul out of five hundred, of humankind and of the herd and of the asses and of the flock. (**Numbers 31:28**)
- From their half you should take it and you must give it to Eleazar the priest as Yehowah's contribution. (**Numbers 31:29**)
- And from the half of the sons of Israel you should take one out of fifty, of humankind, of the herd, of the asses and of the flock, of every sort of domestic animal, and you must give them to the **Levites**, the keepers of the obligation of Yehowah's tabernacle. (**Numbers 31:30**)
- And Moses and Eleazar the priest went doing just as Yehowah had commanded Moses. (**Numbers 31:31**)
- The **Levites** received no territorial allotment in Canaan, Yehowah being their share.

- And Yehowah went on to say to Aaron; In their land you will not have an inheritance, and no share will become yours in their midst. I am your share and your inheritance in the midst of the sons of Israel. (**Numbers 18:20**)
- However, other tribes of Israel gave them a total of 48 cities scattered throughout the Promised Land.
- And Yehowah went on to speak to Moses on the desert plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho, saying; (**Numbers 35:1**)
- Give the sons of Israel the command that they must give the **Levites** cities to inhabit out of the inheritance of their possession, and they should give the Levites the pasture ground of the cities all around them. (**Numbers 35:2**)
- And the cities must serve for them to inhabit, while their pasture grounds will serve for their domestic animals and their goods and for all their wild beasts. (**Numbers 35:3**)
- And the pasture grounds of the cities, which you will give the **Levites**, will be from the wall of the city and out for a thousand cubits all around. (**Numbers 35:4**)
- And you must measure outside the city on the east side two thousand cubits and on the south side two thousand cubits and on the west side two thousand cubits and on the north side two thousand cubits, with the city in the middle. This will serve them as pasture grounds of the cities. (**Numbers 35:5**)
- These are the cities that you will give to the **Levites**, six cities of refuge, which you will give for the manslayer to flee there, and besides them you will give forty-two other cities. (**Numbers 35:6**)
- All the cities that you will give to the **Levites** will be forty-eight cities, they together with their pasture grounds. (**Numbers 35:7**)
- The cities that you will give will be from the possession of the sons of Israel. From the many you will take many, and from the few you will take few. Each one, in proportion to his inheritance that he will take as a possession, will give some of his cities to the **Levites**. (**Numbers 35:8**)

See Also TITHE

.. Provided Supporters Of True Worship

- The **Levites** supplied some notable examples of enthusiasm for true worship. This was evident in the golden-calf incident and again when Levites moved out of Jeroboam's territory following the split in the kingdom.
- Then Moses took his stand in the gate of the camp and said; Who is on Yehowah's side? To me! And all the sons of Levi began gathering themselves to him. (**Exodus 32:26**)
- And the priests and the **Levites** themselves that were in all Israel took their stand by him out of all their territories. (**2 Chronicles 11:13**)
- For the **Levites** left their pasture grounds and their possession and then came to Judah and Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons had discharged them from acting as priests to Yehowah. (**2 Chronicles 11:14**)
- They were also zealous in their support of Kings Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, and Josiah as well as of Governor's Zerubbabel and Nehemiah and the priest-scribe Ezra in their efforts to restore true worship in Israel.
- And in the third year of his reigning he sent for his princes, namely, Ben-hail and Obadiah and Zechariah and Nethanel and Micaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. (**2 Chronicles 17:7**)
- And with them the **Levites**, Shemaiah and Nethaniah and Zebadiah and Asahel and Shemiramoth and Jehonathan and Adonijah and Tobijah and Tob-Adonijah the Levites, and with them Elishama and Jehoram the priests. (**2 Chronicles 17:8**)
- And they began teaching in Judah, and with them there was the book of Yehowah's Law, and they kept going around through all the cities of Judah and teaching among the people. (**2 Chronicles 17:9**)
- At that the **Levites** rose up, Mahath the son of Amasai and Joel the son of Azariah of the sons of the Kohathites, and from the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi and Azariah the son of

- Jehallelel, and from the Gershonites, Joah the son of Zimmah and Eden the son of Joah. (2 Chronicles 29:12)
- And from the sons of Elizaphan, Shimri and Jeuel, and from the sons of Asaph, Zechariah and Mattaniah. (2 Chronicles 29:13)
 - And from the sons of Heman, Jehiel and Shimei, and from the sons of Jeduthun, Shemaiah and Uzziel. (2 Chronicles 29:14)
 - Then they gathered their brothers together and sanctified themselves and came according to the king's commandment in the words of Yehowah, to cleanse the house of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 29:15)
 - The priests now came inside the house of Yehowah to do the cleansing and brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of Yehowah to the courtyard of the house of Yehowah. In turn the **Levites** received it to take it out to the torrent valley of Kidron outside. (2 Chronicles 29:16)
 - Thus they got started on the first day of the first month at sanctifying, and on the eighth day of the month they came to the porch of Yehowah, so that they sanctified the house of Yehowah in eight days, and on the sixteenth day of the first month they finished. (2 Chronicles 29:17)
 - So the sons of Israel that were found in Jerusalem held the festival of the unfermented cakes seven days with great rejoicing, and the **Levites** and the priests were offering praise to Yehowah day by day with loud instruments, even to Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 30:21)
 - Moreover, Hezekiah spoke to the heart of all the **Levites** who were acting with fine discretion toward Yehowah. And they proceeded to eat the appointed feast for seven days, sacrificing communion sacrifices and making confession to Yehowah the God of their forefathers. (2 Chronicles 30:22)
 - And the men were acting in faithfulness in the work, and over them there were appointed Jahath and Obadiah the **Levites**, from the sons of Merari, and Zechariah and Meshullam, from the sons of the Kohathites, to act as overseers. And the Levites, each of whom was expert with the instruments of song. (2 Chronicles 34:12)

- Were over the burden bearers, and the overseers of all the doers of the work for the different services, and from the **Levites** there were secretaries and officers and gatekeepers. (**2 Chronicles 34:13**)
- However, Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahzeiah the son of Tikvah themselves stood up against this, and Meshullam and Shabbethai the **Levites** were the ones that helped them. (**Ezra 10:15**)
- And Jeshua and Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani and Chenani proceeded to rise on the platform of the **Levites** and cry out with a loud voice to Yehowah their God. (**Nehemiah 9:4**)
- And the **Levites** Jeshua and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodia, Shebaniah and Pethahiah went on to say; Rise, bless Yehowah your God from time indefinite to time indefinite. And let them bless your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. (**Nehemiah 9:5**)
- So in view of all this we are contracting a trustworthy arrangement, both in writing and attested by the seal of our princes, our **Levites** and our priests. (**Nehemiah 9:38**)
- As a tribe, however, they did not support the Son of God in his work of restoration, although some individual **Levites** became Christians.
- So Joseph, who was surnamed Barnabas by the apostles, which means, when translated, Son of Comfort, a **Levite**, a native of Cyprus. (**Acts of Apostles 4:36**)
- Possessing a piece of land, sold it and brought the money and deposited it at the feet of the apostles. (**Acts of Apostles 4:37**)
- Many of the **Levite** priests became obedient to the faith.
- Consequently the word of God went on growing, and the number of the disciples kept multiplying in Jerusalem very much, and a great crowd of priests began to be obedient to the faith. (**Acts of Apostles 6:7**)

- With the destruction of Jerusalem and its temple in **70 C.E.**, the family records of the **Levites** were lost or destroyed, bringing the Levitical system to an end. But, a tribe of **Levi** constitutes part of Spiritual Israel.
- And I heard the number of those who were sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the sons of Israel: (**Revelation 7:4**)
- Out of the tribe of Simeon twelve thousand. Out of the tribe of Levi twelve thousand. Out of the tribe of Issachar twelve thousand. (**Revelation 7:7**)
- The name of the tribe is also the basis for the name of the Bible book Leviticus. This book deals extensively with the **Levites** and their duties.