

Duties of the Priests and Levites; Giving From the Firstfruits and Best

Numbers 18

Group ¹	C	V	Description
Duties of Levites	18	1-7	Aaron's family are to serve as priests inside the tabernacle and the other Levite families are to aid the priests in other obligations
The Priests' Portion		8-20	God identifies the portion of the tithe and sacrifices that are to be the priests' portion
		21-24	A portion of the tithe is given to the sons of Levi for their service
		25-32	Levites are to present a portion from the best part of the tithes to the Lord

Reflections

God selected the tribe of Levi for Himself. Aaron and his sons and descendants are to serve as priests in the tabernacle and performing the duties inside the tabernacle area. The other Levite families are then to aid the priests in whatever other duties need to be done, except for serving inside the tabernacle. They were selected by God in place of the firstborn from the rest of the Israelites (Numbers 1-3).

A portion of all of the tithes that the people brought to the temple were to be distributed to the Levites and priests as they wouldn't have a land inheritance in the promised land. They were to present a portion from it to the Lord as well. They were not exempt from giving to the Lord.

Just like the rest of the people, they were to give of the firstfruits and the best of what they had been given to the Lord. There is much to be said about giving and especially honoring God in our giving. But I think the word of the hymn, "*Give of Your Best to the Master*²," expresses it best.

Give of your best to the Master;
 Give of the strength of your youth.
 Throw your soul's fresh, glowing ardor
 Into the battle for truth.
 Jesus has set the example,
 Dauntless was He, young and brave.
 Give Him your loyal devotion;
 Give Him the best that you have.

Refrain

Give of your best to the Master;
 Give of the strength of your youth.
 Clad in salvation's full armor,
 Join in the battle for truth.

Give of your best to the Master;
 Give Him first place in your heart.
 Give Him first place in your service;
 Consecrate every part.
 Give, and to you will be given;

1 (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

2 (*Give of Your Best to the Master*) <http://nethymnal.org/htm/g/i/giveofyb.htm>

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God His beloved Son gave.
Gratefully seeking to serve Him,
Give Him the best that you have.

Refrain

Give of your best to the Master;
Naught else is worthy His love.
He gave Himself for your ransom,
Gave up His glory above.
Laid down His life without murmur,
You from sin's ruin to save.
Give Him your heart's adoration;
Give Him the best that you have.

Refrain

There and Then: Here and Now

Answer the questions below as you reflect on your own life and this part of our study: *my LOG vs others SPECK*. Here are some possible responses I've identified from the text that might apply to anyone.

S - Are there *sins* for me to avoid or confess?

- Lord there are times when I forget to trust You for my needs and to give You the honor due You when You do

P - Are there *promises* from God for me to claim?

- God will provide for my needs

E - Are there *examples* for me to follow or avoid?

- Just as the Levites and the rest of the Israelites were to give a portion or tithe to God from the things He has blessed them with, so too must I

C - Are there *commands* for me to obey?

- As God has blessed me, I am to give of the firstfruits and of the best that God has given me.

K - How has this passage increased my *knowledge* about God / Jesus / Holy Spirit?

- God has called certain people to serve Him and He will provide for their needs

Key Words: Old Testament, Torah/Pentateuch, Numbers, Aaron, Priests, Levites, Firstfruits, Tithe



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Bibliography

Give of Your Best to the Master. nethymnal.org, 1902. Audio Recording. The Endeavor Hymnal.

* *Navigator Bible Study Handbook* (with additions) & Matthew 7:1-5.

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(NASB) New American Standard Bible. La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995. Print.