

Deuteronomy 18

Verses 1 – 5

“The Levitical priests, the whole tribe of Levi, shall not have a portion or inheritance with Israel; they shall eat the Lord’s offerings by fire and His property. ² They shall not have an inheritance among their countrymen; the Lord is their inheritance, as He promised them. ³ “Now this shall be the priests’ portion from the people, from those who offer a sacrifice, either an ox or a sheep: they shall give the priest the shoulder, the two cheeks, and the stomach. ⁴ You shall give him the first fruits of your grain, your new wine, and your oil, and the first fleece of your sheep. ⁵ For the Lord your God has chosen him and his sons from all your tribes, to stand to serve in the name of the Lord always.

The Levitical priests, the whole tribe of Levi, shall not have a portion or inheritance with Israel

The tribe of Levi did not receive a designated area like the other 12 tribes. But they were given 48 cities with their pasture lands, 4 cities in each tribe.

See Joshua 21

The land of the Levitical cities belonged to the tribes where they were located.

The Levites were simply allowed to live in the cities that were given to them and the surrounding fields for their herds.

The Levites could sell their homes, but not the fields.

See Lev 25:32

They were given these cities and pasture lands because they served at the Tabernacle on a rotational basis.

This required at least 5 trips to the Tabernacle each year.

Depending on how far away the Levites lived from the Tabernacle there would have been up to 2 or 3 days travel time each way.

See chart 1805

Work schedule at the Tabernacle and Temple

In the time of David there were 32,000 Levites
The priests and the Levites were divided into 24 groups
Each of the 24 groups served twice a year
The length of service for each group was 7 days
The week of service began and ended on the Sabbath

In addition, all the groups served for 3 extra weeks during the year
So each group served for a total of 5 weeks during the year
Most of this information can be found in 1 Chron. 23 thru 26

So if we divide 32000 Levites by 24 groups
There were over 1300 Levites serving in the temple each week
And 32,000 during the three festivals

We don't have this kind of detail for the time of the Judges
But lets say it was somewhat similar for the Tabernacle
In Numbers 3 there were 22,000 Levites
That would be over 900 Levites on duty per week
And 22,000 during the three feasts

God set up a system that allowed the Levites to live a "normal" life.

They could marry and have kids and have a good home life.

They had land and animals to provide income during the other 47 weeks of their life.

Plus, Levites living throughout Israel would provide stability to the nation as a whole because the common people would have access to those who knew the law.

Also, every tribe had Levitical cities which served as centers for their judicial system.

Now this shall be the priests' portion from the people, from those who offer a sacrifice, either an ox or a sheep: they shall give the priest the shoulder, the two cheeks, and the stomach.

Here we have another change in the law

See chart 1810 Change in the law #5

Changes in the law		
Lev.	Chp 7	Now this is the law of peace offerings The breast shall belong to Aaron and his sons The right thigh shall belong to the priest who presides over the offering
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Deut.	18:3	from those who offer a sacrifice, either an ox or a sheep: they shall give the priest the shoulder, the two cheeks, and the stomach
 Under this new law: The priests were given an increase in the offering		
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So why did God make this change?		
 Under the new rules that applied to the land of Canaan any animals that were killed and eaten at home as part of their daily needs did not have to be taken to the Tabernacle any longer. This would decrease the number of offering to the priests so God made up the difference by increasing the number of animal parts of each sacrifice that belonged to the priests.		

You shall give him the first fruits of your grain, your new wine, and your oil, and the first fleece of your sheep.

This is another change in the law

See chart 1815 Change in the law #6

Changes in the law

Num. 18:8-20 What the Priests received from God

- 1 Every grain, sin and guilt offering
- 2 All the wave offerings
The breast and right thigh of a wave offering
- 3 The first born of the womb
For humans that was five shekels in silver
The meat of the firstborn ox, sheep, or goat
- 4 And the first fruits

Deut. 18:4 You shall give him (the priest) the first fruits of your grain, your new wine, and your oil, and the first fleece of your sheep.

Moses doesn't go into a lot of detail here, like in Numbers 18
But one item was added to the gifts that priests were to receive,
the first fleece of the peoples sheep.

Verses 6 - 8

⁶“Now if a Levite comes from any of your towns throughout Israel where he resides, and he comes whenever he desires to the place which the Lord chooses, ⁷then he shall serve in the name of the Lord his God, like all his fellow Levites who stand there before the Lord. ⁸They shall eat equal portions, except for *what they receive from the sale of their fathers’ estates*.

Levites were allowed to leave their home towns in order to live at the place where God had put his name. (This was Shiloh during the time of the Judges)

If they did, they were to receive equal contributions as the Levites who lived there.

Plus, they could sell their home, but not the pasture land, where they came from.

This would provide the funds needed to buy a house nearer to the Tabernacle.

Verses 9 - 14

⁹ “When you enter the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. ¹⁰ There shall not be found among you *anyone* who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, a soothsayer, one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, ¹¹ or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who consults the dead. ¹² For whoever does these things is detestable to the Lord; and because of these detestable things the Lord your God is going to drive them out before you. ¹³ You are to be blameless before the Lord your God. ¹⁴ For these nations, which you are going to dispossess, listen to soothsayers and diviners, but as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you *to do so*.

There shall not be found among you *anyone* who:

1. Makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire,

This refers to the sacrifice of children to pagan gods such as Molech and Baal

This was practiced by several organized pagan religions.

2. Uses divination, a soothsayer, one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, one who casts a spell or a medium or a spiritist, or one who consults the dead.

This refers to individuals involved in the Occult. Occult magic is an attempt by the practitioner to manipulate the supernatural in order to receive power or control. Their practices usually fell outside the scope of organized religion.

Verses 15 - 19

¹⁵ “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen; to him you shall listen. ¹⁶ *This is* in accordance with everything that you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Do not let me hear the voice of the Lord my God again, and do not let me see this great fire anymore, or I will die!’ ¹⁷ And the Lord said to me, ‘They have spoken well. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them everything that I command him. ¹⁹ And it shall come about that whoever does not listen to My words which he speaks in My name, I Myself will require *it* of him.

I will raise up for them a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them everything that I command him.

In the time of Christ, many Jews were confused about this prophecy

See Matt 16:13-14

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and *still* others, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets.”

Well, that narrowed it down to about 20 people.

But none of those answers were right.

The religious leaders had the same misconception concerning John the Baptist

See John 1:19-21

¹⁹ This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites to him from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ And he confessed and did not deny; and *this is what* he confessed: “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ And so they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” And he **said*, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.”

John didn't understand that he was the Elijah who was to come.

It is interesting that he was a prophet but didn't understand who he was.

Philip understood Jesus to be the prophet that Moses spoke of but he didn't understand at this point that Jesus was the Messiah.

See John 1:45

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses wrote in the Law, and the prophets *also wrote*: Jesus the son of Joseph, from Nazareth!”

Prophecy is often unclear until it is fulfilled.

Here are 10 ways that Jesus was like Moses?

See sheet 1820 (not sure who deserves credit for this)

How was Jesus like Moses

- 1 Both required Divine intervention at infancy to save their lives
- 2 Both received special treatment in death - God buried Moses and God raised Jesus.
- 3 Both were the greatest of miracle-workers
- 4 Both began their miracles in water - the Nile to blood; the water to wine.
- 5 Both gave water to the people - Moses at the rock, Christ the living water.
- 6 Both gave bread to Israel, the manna and "the bread of life."
- 7 Both were mediators of a covenant.
- 8 Both constructed essential institutions, the tabernacle and the church.
- 9 Both were shepherds
- 10 Both delivered people from slavery

¹⁹ And it shall come about that whoever does not listen to my words which he speaks in my name, I will require *it* of him.

The Jewish people were judged by the words of Moses but all of mankind will be judged by Christ.

Verses 20 – 22

²⁰ But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name, *a word* which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’ ²¹ And if you say in your heart, ‘How will we recognize the word which the Lord has not spoken?’ ²² When the prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, and the thing does not happen or come *true*, that is the

thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you are not to be afraid of him.

²⁰ But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name, *a word* which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'

When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord and that prophesy didn't come from the Lord or he comes with a message that came from a foreign god.....that prophet was to be put to death.

²¹ And if you say in your heart, 'How will we recognize the word which the Lord has not spoken?

The people had one small problem with this command.

How were they supposed to know if someone was a true prophet?

The answer to that question was, watch and see.

If what he says comes true, then he is a true prophet of God