

Numbers 8:5-26 **Levites Consecrated for Service**

5 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 6 "Take the Levites from among the children of Israel and cleanse them ceremonially.

Cleansing the Levites

7 Thus you shall do to them to cleanse them: Sprinkle water of purification on them, and let them shave all their body, and let them wash their clothes, and so make themselves clean.

Consecration of the Levites

8 Then let them take a young bull with its grain offering of fine flour mixed with oil, and you shall take another young bull as a sin offering. 9 And you shall bring the Levites before the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall gather together the whole congregation of the children of Israel. 10 So you shall bring the Levites before the LORD, and the children of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites; 11 and Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD, like a wave offering from the children of Israel, that they may perform the work of the LORD. 12 Then the Levites shall lay their hands on the heads of the young bulls, and you shall offer one as a sin offering and the other as a burnt offering to the LORD, to make atonement for the Levites. 13 And you shall stand the Levites before Aaron and his sons, and then offer them like a wave offering to the LORD. 14 Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the children of Israel, and the Levites shall be Mine.

Levites taken as substitute for the Firstborn of the Children of Israel

15 After that the Levites shall go in to service the tabernacle of meeting. So you shall cleanse them and offer them, like a wave offering. 16 For they are wholly given to Me from among the children of Israel; I have taken them for Myself **instead of all who open the womb, the firstborn of all the children of Israel.** 17 For all the firstborn among the children of Israel are Mine, both man and beast; on the day that I struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified them to Myself. 18 I have taken the Levites instead of all the firstborn of the children of Israel. 19 And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the work for the children of Israel in the tabernacle of meeting, and to make atonement for the children of Israel, that there be no plague among the children of Israel when the children of Israel come near the sanctuary."

20 Thus Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel did to the Levites; according to all that the LORD commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so the children of Israel did to them. 21 And the Levites purified themselves and washed their clothes; then Aaron presented them, like a wave offering before the LORD, and Aaron made atonement for them to cleanse them. 22 After that the Levites went in to do their work in the tabernacle of meeting before Aaron and his sons; as the LORD commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so they did to them.

23 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 24 "This is what pertains to the Levites: From twenty-five years old and above one may enter to perform service in the work of the tabernacle of meeting; 25 and at the age of fifty years they must cease performing this work, and shall work no more. 26 They may minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of meeting, to attend to needs, but they themselves shall do no work. Thus you shall do to the Levites regarding their duties." NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ The tribe of the Levites were taken at the command of Yehowah from among the Children of Israel for service of the Tabernacle.
- ✧ They were cleansed for service by sprinkling with water of purification, shaving their entire bodies, and washing their clothes.
- ✧ The Levites were consecrated for service by bringing them before Yehowah before the Tabernacle of Meeting:
 - ✧ The whole assembly of the congregation of the Children of Israel were gathered.
 - ✧ The Children of Israel laid their hands on the Levites.
 - ✧ Aaron presented the Levites as a Wave Offering before Yehowah from the Children of Israel.
 - ✧ The Levites laid their hands on the heads of the young bulls.
 - ✧ Aaron offered one of the bulls as a Sin Offering, and one as a Burnt Offering, and made atonement for the Levites.
- ✧ Yehowah accepted the Levites in the place of the firstborn of all the Children of Israel, thus redeeming the Firstborn of all the Children of Israel. [Numbers 3:12, 8:15-19]
- ✧ Levites belong to Yehowah for work of the Tabernacle in the place of the Firstborn of all Israel, Yehowah has taken the Levites instead of all the firstborn of the Children of Israel.
- ✧ Yehowah has given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the Children of Israel, to do work for the Children of Israel in the Tabernacle of Meeting, and to make atonement for the Children of Israel, so that there will be no plague among the Children of Israel for coming near the Sanctuary. [Numbers 8:18-19]
 - ✧ The Levites are to serve the priests in the work of the Tabernacle.
 - ✧ They shall attend to the needs of the priests.
 - ✧ They shall attend to the needs of the whole congregation before the Tabernacle of Meeting to do the work of the Tabernacle and its furnishings.
 - ✧ Any outsider who comes near shall be put to death.
- ✧ When God killed all the firstborn of Egypt as the final plague to free the Children of Israel, He laid claim to all the firstborn of Israel and established the concept of Redemption. [Exodus 13:1-2, 13:11-15, 22:29-30, Numbers 3:13]
- ✧ The firstborn of your sons you shall redeem. [Exodus 13:11-14]

God set the precedent of Redemption pointing forward to the time when all mankind would be offered Redemption to God through the blood of His Son the Lamb of God, Whom God Himself sacrificed on the cross of Golgotha. [Luke 21:28, Romans 3:24, Romans 8:23, 1 Corinthians 1:30, Ephesians 1:3-7, Colossians 1:13-14, Hebrews 9:11-15]

- ✧ The Levites became the substitute to redeem the Firstborn of all Israel. [Numbers 3:12]

Consecration of Firstborn introduces God's plan of Redemption

- ✧ When Yehowah brings you into the land of Canaan as He swore to your fathers, and gives it to you:
 - ✧ Then you shall set apart all that open the womb, every firstling that comes from an animal, the males shall belong to Yehowah.
 - ✧ The firstling of a donkey shall be redeemed with a lamb, or you shall break its neck.
 - ✧ The firstborn of your sons you shall redeem. [Exodus 13:1, 13:11-16]
 - ✧ It is a testimony to the generations to come that when they ask, they will be told, "By strength of hand Yehowah brought us out of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, and when Pharaoh would not let us go, Yehowah killed all the firstborn of the land of Egypt."

- ✧ This is the reason we sacrifice all the firstborn animal males that open the womb to Yehowah, but the firstborn of our sons, we redeem.
- ✧ Moses and Aaron, and all the Congregation of the Children of Israel did to the Levites all that Yehowah commanded Moses concerning the Levites.
- ✧ After that the Levites went in to do their work in the Tabernacle of Meeting before Aaron and his sons, as Yehowah commanded Moses. [\[Numbers 8:22\]](#)
- ✧ The Levites appointed for the Service of the Tabernacle, were those from 25 years of age to 50 years of age. [\[Numbers 8:24-25\]](#)
- ✧ Those age 50 and above, may minister with their brethren in the Tabernacle of meeting to attend to needs, but they shall do no work. [\[Numbers 8:26\]](#)