

The Book of Numbers

Instructions for the Priests

Text: Numbers 18 – 19

- I. Separation of the Levites (Numbers 18:1-7)
 - A. These instructions confirmed the selection of God demonstrated in the miracle of Aaron's rod that budded (cf. chapter 17).
 - B. The Levites alone had the right and responsibility for the Tabernacle and all things pertaining to it.
 - C. Note verse 6 – the Levites were taken from Israel as a gift to God and for the nation.

- II. Support of the Levites (Numbers 18:8-32)
 - A. Vs. 8-14 – The heave offerings were to be food for the priests.
 - B. Vs. 15-19 – The offerings of firstborn animals were to be food for the priests.
 - C. Vs. 20-32 – One tenth of the tithes of Israel were to support the priests.

- III. The Water of Separation (Numbers 19:1-10)
 - A. Vs. 1-6 – The sacrifice and burning of a red heifer
 - B. Vs. 7-10 – The ashes were used to make the “water of separation” for purification.
 - C. See Hebrews 9:13-14

- IV. Removal of Uncleanness (Numbers 19:11-22)
 - A. The ashes were placed in water which was then sprinkled upon one who had become defiled by touching a dead body.
 - B. Only by having this water sprinkled upon him was one able to be made clean from his defilement.
 - C. It was also used to purify tents, vessels, and other things that had become defiled by the dead.