

The Duties of The Priest

Part 19

“¹ This is the account of the family of Aaron and Moses at the time the LORD spoke to Moses at Mount Sinai. ² The names of the sons of Aaron were Nadab the firstborn and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. ³ Those were the names of Aaron’s sons, the anointed priests, who were ordained to serve as priests. ⁴ Nadab and Abihu, however, died before the LORD when they made an offering with unauthorised fire before him in the Desert of Sinai. They had no sons, so Eleazar and Ithamar served as priests during the lifetime of their father Aaron. ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, ⁶ ‘Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to assist him. ⁷ They are to perform duties for him and for the whole community at the tent of meeting by doing the work of the tabernacle. ⁸ They are to take care of all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, fulfilling the obligations of the Israelites by doing the work of the tabernacle. ⁹ Give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are the Israelites who are to be given wholly to him. ¹⁰ Appoint Aaron and his sons to serve as priests; anyone else who approaches the sanctuary is to be put to death.” (Numbers 3:1-10)

In addition to the duties of the father and the mother as husband and wife and parents and priests for their children and family, they have a priesthood responsibility and ministry toward the church that they are part with and whom God had placed them in.

God allow only those who are committed to His word and to His ways to serve in His church. There is also order of service. At the time of Moses, God assigned Aaron and his sons and descendants to be in the office of the priest. But they were also under the instruction and supervision of Moses. *Nadab and Abihu, however, died before the LORD when they made an offering with unauthorised fire* as we can read in *Leviticus 3:1-3*: *“Aaron’s sons Nadab and Abihu took their censers, put fire in them and added incense; and they offered unauthorised fire before the LORD, contrary to his command. ² So fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. ³ Moses then said to Aaron, ‘This is what the LORD spoke of when he said: “Among those who approach me I will be proved holy; in the sight of all the people I will be honoured.” Aaron remained silent.” Nadab and Abihu* They offered unauthorized fire without the permission or the instruction of Moses. Serving the Lord in His church should be in order and under the instruction of the church leadership.

Under the Office of Aaron the priest God placed the Levites to assist him. *⁷ They are to perform duties for him and for the whole community at the tent of meeting by doing the work of the tabernacle. ⁸ They are to take care of all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, fulfilling the obligations of the Israelites by doing the work of the tabernacle.* The Levites they had their own responsibilities toward the tabernacle that they need to do. No one else was allowed to approach the Sanctuary, only the Levites. In the same way now, only those who are committing their lives and ways to the Lord are called to do and assist in the ministerial duties.

The ministers and the workers are accountable to the Lord and to one another to do exactly the responsibilities and the duties that are entrusted to them from the LORD through His church. For example at the time of Ezra, many donations were made to the house of God in Jerusalem. Therefore Ezra inspected the presence of the priests among the people and noticed the lack of the Levites who are responsible to assist the priests in counting and carrying all the offerings and donations made to the house of God, to guard it carefully and care for it until to be handed over *in the chambers of the house of the LORD in Jerusalem before the leading priests and the Levites*

and the family heads of Israel as we can read here: *“¹⁵ I assembled them at the canal that flows towards Ahava, and we camped there three days. When I checked among the people and the priests, I found no Levites there. ¹⁶ So I summoned Eliezer, Ariel, Shemaiah, Elnathan, Jarib, Elnathan, Nathan, Zechariah and Meshullam, who were leaders, and Joiarib and Elnathan, who were men of learning, ¹⁷ and I ordered them to go to Iddo, the leader in Kasiphia. I told them what to say to Iddo and his fellow Levites, the temple servants in Kasiphia, so that they might bring attendants to us for the house of our God. ¹⁸ Because the gracious hand of our God was on us, they brought us Sherebiah, a capable man, from the descendants of Mahli son of Levi, the son of Israel, and Sherebiah’s sons and brothers, 18 in all; ¹⁹ and Hashabiah, together with Jeshaiiah from the descendants of Merari, and his brothers and nephews, 20 men in all. ²⁰ They also brought 220 of the temple servants – a body that David and the officials had established to assist the Levites. All were registered by name. ²¹ There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions. ²² I was ashamed to ask the king for soldiers and horsemen to protect us from enemies on the road, because we had told the king, ‘The gracious hand of our God is on everyone who looks to him, but his great anger is against all who forsake him.’ ²³ So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer. ²⁴ Then I set apart twelve of the leading priests, namely, Sherebiah, Hashabiah and ten of their brothers, ²⁵ and I weighed out to them the offering of silver and gold and the articles that the king, his advisors, his officials and all Israel present there had donated for the house of our God. ²⁶ I weighed out to them 650 talent¹ of silver, silver articles weighing 100 talents, 100 talents of gold, ²⁷ 20 bowls of gold valued at 1,000 darics, and two fine articles of polished bronze, as precious as gold. ²⁸ I said to them, ‘You as well as these articles are consecrated to the LORD. The silver and gold are a freewill offering to the LORD, the God of your ancestors. ²⁹ Guard them carefully until you weigh them out in the chambers of the house of the LORD in Jerusalem before the leading priests and the Levites and the family heads of Israel.’ ³⁰ Then the priests and Levites received the silver and gold and sacred articles that had been weighed out to be taken to the house of our God in Jerusalem. ³¹ On the twelfth day of the first month we set out from the Ahava Canal to go to Jerusalem. The hand of our God was on us, and he protected us from enemies and bandits along the way. ³² So we arrived in Jerusalem, where we rested three days. ³³ On the fourth day, in the house of our God, we weighed out the silver and gold and the sacred articles into the hands of Meremoth son of Uriah, the priest. Eleazar son of Phinehas was with him, and so were the Levites Jozabad son of Jeshua and Noadiah son of Binnui. ³⁴ Everything was accounted for by number and weight, and the entire weight was recorded at that time.” (Ezra 8:15-34)* From the above description we can conclude that the priests and the Levites truly they did an outstanding and perfect work. They proved their real accountability toward God.

My Dear and Beloved: “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” (1Corinthians 4:2) The Lord really looking for your faithfulness toward Him and toward His church by proving your accountability toward God by doing the ministry and the service entrusted to you in a complete and perfect way as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I thank you for your Son Jesus Christ who died on the cross to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that reminded me to be responsible of all what you entrusted to me from material things, spiritual gifts, talents, skills and ministries that you gave me to serve you; Lord I commit myself to serve you wholeheartedly. For this reason, Lord give me good health and provide for me my daily needs and protect me so I can go on and do your work and will, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.