

Waiting as Service to the Lord

Purification, Presentation, and Patience

Ephesians 2:6 *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*

The Tabernacle Then, The Temple Now

Hebrews 8:1-2, 5 *Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man... Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.*

leitourgos (Strong's G3011) *minister, one who serves in a public or sacred office* — the noun form of **leitourgeo** below.

Revelation 15:5 *And after that I looked, and, behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened.*

Numbers 8 — Waiting and Serving

Numbers 8:1-4 *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto Aaron, and say unto him, When thou lightest the lamps, the seven lamps shall give light over against the candlestick. And Aaron did so; he lighted the lamps thereof over against the candlestick, as the LORD commanded Moses. And this work of the candlestick was of beaten gold, unto the shaft thereof, unto the flowers thereof, was beaten work: according unto the pattern which the LORD had shewed Moses, so he made the candlestick.*

tsaba (Strong's H6633) *to wait, to serve, and to war, all at once* — used in verse 24 for wait upon the service.

leitourgeo (Strong's G3008) *to serve in a public or sacred office* — the word our word liturgy comes from; used in Acts 13:2.

I. Purification

Numbers 8:5-9 *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Take the Levites from among the children of Israel, and cleanse them. And thus shalt thou do unto them, to cleanse them: Sprinkle water of purifying upon them, and let them shave all their flesh, and let them wash their clothes, and so make themselves clean. Then let them take a young bullock with his meat offering, even fine flour mingled with oil, and another young bullock shalt thou take for a sin offering. And thou shalt bring the*

Levites before the tabernacle of the congregation: and thou shalt gather the whole assembly of the children of Israel together.

Hebrews 10:22 *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

II. Presentation

Numbers 8:10-22 *And thou shalt bring the Levites before the LORD: and the children of Israel shall put their hands upon the Levites: And Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD for an offering of the children of Israel, that they may execute the service of the LORD. And the Levites shall lay their hands upon the heads of the bullocks: and thou shalt offer the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering, unto the LORD, to make an atonement for the Levites. And thou shalt set the Levites before Aaron, and before his sons, and offer them for an offering unto the LORD. Thus shalt thou separate the Levites from among the children of Israel: and the Levites shall be mine. And after that shall the Levites go in to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation: and thou shalt cleanse them, and offer them for an offering. For they are wholly given unto me from among the children of Israel; instead of such as open every womb, even instead of the firstborn of all the children of Israel, have I taken them unto me. For all the firstborn of the children of Israel are mine, both man and beast: on the day that I smote every firstborn in the land of Egypt I sanctified them for myself. And I have taken the Levites for all the firstborn of the children of Israel. And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and to his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the service of the children of Israel in the tabernacle of the congregation, and to make an atonement for the children of Israel: that there be no plague among the children of Israel, when the children of Israel come nigh unto the sanctuary. And Moses, and Aaron, and all the congregation of the children of Israel, did to the Levites according unto all that the LORD commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so did the children of Israel unto them. And the Levites were purified, and they washed their clothes; and Aaron offered them as an offering before the LORD; and Aaron made an atonement for them to cleanse them. And after that went the Levites in to do their service in the tabernacle of the congregation before Aaron, and before his sons: as the LORD had commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so did they unto them.*

tenuphah (Strong's H8573) *a brandishing or waving* — the technical term for the wave offering.

qadash (Strong's H6942) *to consecrate, to set apart as holy* — used in verse 17, “I sanctified them for myself.”

Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

III. Patience

Numbers 8:23-26 *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, This is it that belongeth unto the Levites: from twenty and five years old and upward they shall go in to wait upon the service of the tabernacle of the congregation: And from the age of fifty years they shall cease waiting upon the service thereof, and shall serve no more: But shall minister with their brethren in the tabernacle of the congregation, to keep the charge, and shall do no service. Thus shalt thou do unto the Levites touching their charge.*

tsaba (Strong's H6633 / H6635) *to serve and to war also means to wait* — appears in verse 24 (wait upon the service) and verse 25 (cease waiting upon the service).

The Three Seasons of the Levite

Season	Age Range	What Was True of Them
Set Apart, Not Yet Sent	Before 25	Already purified and presented under Numbers 8:5-22, already consecrated and set apart, but not yet carrying the tabernacle service. This was preparation, not idleness.
Full Service	25 to 50	Carried the full weight of tabernacle duty. This was the season of heaviest labor, per Numbers 8:24.
Keeping the Charge	50 and Above	Ceased the heaviest labor but continued to minister with their brethren and keep the charge, per Numbers 8:25-26. Service changed shape, it did not end.

mishmereth (Strong's H4931) *a guard, a duty, a function kept and preserved* — used twice in verse 26, “keep the charge” and “concerning their charge.”

shamar (Strong's H8104) *to keep, to watch, to guard carefully* — paired with mishmereth.

2 Timothy 2:2 *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

1 Peter 5:1-4 *The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.*

Our Calling as the Hagios

1 Peter 2:9 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.*

hagios (Strong's G40) ***the called out and set apart ones*** — holy, sacred, consecrated; the same word behind “holy nation” above.