

Introduction: The Order of God's House

When we open the scriptures to examine the laws and statutes of Israel, we are not looking at dead history. We are looking at the divine blueprint for how God governs His people. He is a God of order, and He has established a specific way for His house to be managed, protected, and fed. In the Old Testament, He established the Hebrew Republic with distinct officers: the judges, the kings, and the priests.

The tribe of Levi was set apart for a sacred and weighty task. They were the guardians of the text, the leaders of public worship, and the theologians of the nation. Their calling was so demanding that God forbade them from making their living by farming the land like the rest of the tribes. They were to be supported by the tithes and offerings of the people, freeing them to study, teach, and equip the nation to take godly dominion.

This is not an outdated concept. It is the center of how Christ governs His church today. Just as the Levites were called by Yahweh, so Christ calls men today to be pastors and elders. He commands His church to support them so they might give themselves continually to the word and to prayer. As we study this over the next five days, we will see the beauty of God's design. We will understand the clear distinction between our earthly occupations and our spiritual callings, and we will renew our commitment to faithfully support the ministers God has given to His local church.

Day 1: The Tribe With No Land

Scripture Reading

"The priests, the Levites—all the tribe of Levi—shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel; they shall eat the offerings of the Lord made by fire, and His portion. Therefore they shall have no inheritance among their brethren; the Lord is their inheritance, as He said to them." (Deuteronomy 18:1-2, NKJV)

In God's order, in God's way, the men of the tribe of Levi did not make their living in the land in the same way as the men of the other tribes. When the children of Israel finally crossed the Jordan River and entered the Promised Land, it was a time of great expectation. Every tribe was given a portion of the land of Canaan to conquer and work. They plowed the fields, threshed the wheat, and pressed the oil of the olive and the juice of the grape. They built homes and established family estates that would be passed down to their children.

That was not the work of the Levites. The priests, the Levites, and all the tribe of Levi were to have no part nor inheritance with Israel. When the maps were drawn and the land was divided, Levi's name was not on a territory. Instead of receiving a portion of real estate, they received something far greater. The Lord is their inheritance. They were set apart to serve

God and the people in connection with the religion of Israel. God was teaching His people that the spiritual health of the nation was more important than their agricultural wealth. The Levites were sustained directly by the offerings brought to the Lord.

What do we mean by this? Well, if the Levites had been forced to clear fields and herd cattle, they would not have had the time or the energy to properly minister before the Lord or teach the people. God required the other eleven tribes to bring their first fruits, their tithes, and their sacrifices. By feeding the Levites, the nation was actively participating in the worship of Yahweh. They were acknowledging that their earthly prosperity came from God, and they were investing it back into the spiritual life of their nation.

Parent and Adult Theological Reflection

It is easy to view giving to the church merely as paying the bills or keeping the lights on. But the biblical pattern reveals something much deeper. Giving is an act of covenant faithfulness. When we bring our offerings, we are participating in the divine order, ensuring that those called to minister the word are free to do so without the distraction of worldly entanglements.

1. How does knowing that "the Lord is their inheritance" change the way you view the calling of the men who pastor and lead your church?
2. Do you currently view your tithes and offerings as a burdensome tax, or as a joyful participation in the spiritual equipping of your family and congregation?

When we rightly understand God's design, our giving becomes an act of worship. We are materially supporting the spiritual warfare and instruction that protects our own homes and our own children.

Questions for Children

It is important that we teach our children to understand how God ordered His nation of Israel and how He provides for His church today. The Levites had a very special job, and it required the rest of the people to faithfully bring their offerings so the Levites could focus entirely on the Lord's work.

1. When the Israelites entered the Promised Land, every tribe got a piece of land to farm, except for one tribe. Which tribe did not get any land?
2. Since they did not have farms to grow their own food, who was their inheritance instead of land?

Make sure they understand that God always takes care of the people He sets apart to serve Him, and He usually does it by commanding the rest of His people to be generous.

Scripture Memory Verse

"Therefore they shall have no inheritance among their brethren; the Lord is their inheritance, as He said to them." (Deuteronomy 18:2, NKJV)

Prayer

Almighty God, we thank You that You are a God of perfect order. We thank You for the wisdom of Your law, which teaches us how to live as a holy people. Lord, we confess that we often become so focused on our own land, our own homes, and our own bank accounts that we forget the work of Your kingdom. Forgive us for our short-sightedness. Help us to see that the greatest blessing a nation or a family can have is the faithful administration of Your word. Give us generous hearts, that we might joyfully support the work of the ministry in our local church, trusting that as we honor Your order, You will provide for all our needs. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 2: Guardians of the Truth

Scripture Reading

"They shall teach Jacob Your judgments, And Israel Your law. They shall put incense before You, And a whole burnt sacrifice on Your altar. Bless his substance, Lord, And accept the work of his hands." (Deuteronomy 33:10-11a, NKJV)

To understand the calling of the Levites, we have to grasp what they actually did day in and day out. We often think of them simply as the men who stood in the courtyard of the tabernacle offering animal sacrifices. While that was a crucial part of their duty, their calling was much broader. They were the guardians of the text of Scripture. In a world without printing presses or personal Bibles, the Levites protected the scrolls. They copied them, preserved them, and ensured that the word of God was not corrupted by the pagan nations surrounding them.

Most importantly, they were the teachers and the interpreters of the law of God. The Levites were the preachers, the pastors, and the theologians of Israel. They were not all stationed in Jerusalem. By God's design, they were scattered in Levitical cities and towns throughout the land so they could discharge their tasks as instructors of the people more effectively. The law of truth was in their mouth. When a farmer had a dispute with his neighbor, or a father needed to know how to apply God's law to his household, he went to the Levites.

The life of the nation was absolutely dependent upon this teaching ministry. If the Levites failed to teach, the people would be carried about by every wind of Canaanite doctrine. They would start worshipping the Baals. They would adopt the wicked practices of the nations around them. The Levites stood as the bulwark between the holiness of God and

the total apostasy of the nation. Their faithful teaching of the law was the means by which God kept His covenant people distinct, pure, and obedient.

Parent and Adult Theological Reflection

The necessity of faithful, doctrinal instruction has not changed. Without men who are devoted to studying and teaching the whole counsel of God, the church quickly drifts into cultural compromise and spiritual weakness. The pulpit is the rudder of the church.

1. Why is it dangerous for a church to minimize the deep, theological teaching of God's law in favor of simple, entertaining messages?
2. How has the faithful preaching of God's word in your local church protected your family from the cultural lies of our current day?

Let us learn to deeply value the rigorous study and preparation our pastors undertake every week. They are guarding the truth so that we might walk safely in a world full of lies.

Questions for Children

The Levites did much more than just work at the altar. They were placed in towns all over Israel so that every family had access to the word of God.

1. What was the main job of the Levites in the towns and villages?
2. If the Levites stopped teaching the Bible, what would happen to the people of Israel?

Remind your children that this is why we sit quietly and listen carefully during the sermon on Sunday. The pastor is doing the same work the Levites did: explaining God's law so we know how to live.

Scripture Memory Verse

"They shall teach Jacob Your judgments, And Israel Your law." (Deuteronomy 33:10a, NKJV)

Prayer

Father in heaven, we praise You for the preservation of Your holy word. We thank You that throughout history, You have raised up faithful men to guard the text of Scripture and to proclaim it to Your people. Lord, we pray for the pastors and elders of our church today. We ask that the law of truth would remain in their mouths. Protect them from error, grant them courage to speak hard truths, and give them wisdom to apply Your word to our modern lives. Give us, as a family, a deep hunger for Your law and a readiness to obey it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 3: Equipping the Saints

Scripture Reading

"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12, NKJV)

The ministry of the Levites in the Old Testament was not an end in itself. They taught the word and God's precepts so that the whole nation could be a kingdom of priests. They equipped the people of God to take godly dominion in the land, to live righteously, to be good husbands, and to be good wives. The Levites did not do all the work; they prepared the people to do the work.

This same order continues directly into the New Testament. As the Levites were called by Yahweh, so Christ calls men today to be pastors and teachers. In Ephesians 4, the Apostle Paul reveals that these men are a gift from the ascended Christ to His church. And what is their primary purpose? It is for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry. The role of the pastor is not to do every single task in the church. His role is to teach the word of God so clearly and powerfully that the saints are strengthened to do the work.

Every member of the church has a calling. There is a division of labor in the kingdom of God. The pastor labors in the text so that the father can labor in his home, the mother can labor with her children, and the churchman can labor in his community. When the pastor faithfully equips, and the saints faithfully work, the body of Christ is edified. It grows up into maturity. It becomes strong, established, and protected from the deceitful trickery of the world.

Parent and Adult Theological Reflection

A healthy church understands this division of labor. We do not hire a pastor to live the Christian life on our behalf. We support a pastor so that he can train us for the battlefield of our own daily lives.

1. According to Ephesians 4, whose job is "the work of ministry"?
2. How are you actively taking the teaching you receive on the Lord's Day and applying it to your own specific calling in life during the week?

Take inventory of your family's involvement in the local church. Ensure that you are not merely consumers of sermons, but equipped soldiers doing the work of the ministry in your appointed sphere.

Questions for Children

God gave pastors to the church as a special gift. But their job isn't to do everything by themselves. They have a specific job to do on Sundays so that we can do our jobs on Monday.

1. According to our reading, what is the pastor's main job?
2. Once the pastor teaches the Bible, whose job is it to do the "work of ministry"?

Explain to your children that every time they obey their parents, share the gospel with a friend, or help serve someone in the church, they are doing the work of the ministry.

Scripture Memory Verse

"...for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12, NKJV)

Prayer

Lord Jesus, You are the great Head of the Church. When You ascended on high, You did not leave us as orphans, but You gave gifts to men. We thank You for the pastors and teachers You have placed over us. We pray that they would equip us thoroughly through the rigorous exposition of Your word. And Lord, we pray for ourselves. Do not let us be lazy or passive hearers of the word. Take the teaching we receive each Sunday and forge it into practical obedience in our home, in our work, and in our church. Help us to do the work of the ministry faithfully. In Your holy name, Amen.

Day 4: Calling vs. Occupation

Scripture Reading

"Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer is worthy of his wages.'" (1 Timothy 5:17-18, NKJV)

As adults living in a busy modern world, we often struggle with a division of our time and energy. To understand God's order, we need to draw a clear distinction between our calling and our occupation. Your calling consists of those permanent roles and duties you have directly from God. You are called to be a godly husband, a faithful father, a loyal churchman, and to take dominion in applying the law of God to every area of life. Your occupation, on the other hand, is how you make your living and put food on the table. A man might work as an engineer or a mechanic simply to provide, while his true, eternal calling in the kingdom is found in how he leads his home and serves his church.

For the women in the church, God has uniquely blessed you so that your calling and occupation are perfectly united. By God's design, your calling and occupation come together under the noble title of a keeper at home. It is a wonderful provision. You do not have to endure the confusing, stressful division that men often face between their daily secular job and their spiritual duties. The home is your primary field of dominion, the place where you shape the next generation for the glory of Christ.

Because our callings demand so much of us, the church must ensure that its leaders are not unnecessarily burdened. Paul tells Timothy that elders who rule well, and especially those who labor in the word and doctrine, are worthy of "double honor"—which in this context means financial support. Paul quotes the Old Testament law to prove his point. Just as the ox deserves to eat the grain it is threshing, the pastor deserves to be supported by the church he is feeding. When the church provides for its ministers, it frees them to focus entirely on their calling, which in turn strengthens every family in the congregation to fulfill theirs.

Parent and Adult Theological Reflection

It is a common error to find our ultimate identity in our occupation rather than our God-given calling. When a man's job becomes his idol, his family and his church always suffer the neglect.

1. In what ways have you confused your God-given calling with your daily occupation? Does your job ever cause you to neglect your primary calling to your family and your church?
2. Wives and mothers, how does understanding that your calling and occupation are united in the home bring peace and purpose to your daily tasks?

Let us repent of any misplaced priorities. Let us honor the men who labor in the word by supporting them, and let us honor God by fulfilling the specific callings He has placed upon our own lives.

Questions for Children

When adults go to work, they are doing a job to make money so they can buy food and a house. But God also gives us a "calling," which is the special work He wants us to do for Him, like being a good father or mother.

1. What is the special calling and occupation that God gives to mothers?
2. Why does the Bible say a pastor who works hard at teaching the Bible is worthy of honor and support?

Make sure the children understand that a mother's work at home is a high and holy calling from God, and that taking care of our pastors is a command from God.

Scripture Memory Verse

"Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine." (1 Timothy 5:17, NKJV)

Prayer

Gracious God, we thank You for giving each of us a specific work to do. We pray for the men of our home, that they would work hard at their occupations to provide, but never allow their jobs to overshadow their calling as spiritual leaders. We thank You for the women of the church, and for the beautiful, unified calling You have given them as keepers at home. Bless the work of their hands. Finally, Lord, we pray for our elders who labor in the word and doctrine. May our church always count them worthy of honor, providing for them generously so they may serve You with joy. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5: Sowing Spiritual Things

Scripture Reading

"Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat of the things of the temple, and those who serve at the altar partake of the offerings of the altar? Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel." (1 Corinthians 9:13-14, NKJV)

We have traced God's design from the wilderness of Sinai all the way to the New Testament church. The pattern has never changed. In 1 Corinthians 9, the Apostle Paul looks back at the Levites and the priests. He reminds the church that those who served at the altar partook of the offerings of the altar. The Old Testament worship system functioned because the people faithfully brought their tithes. Then Paul brings the hammer down with perfect clarity: "Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel."

This is not a suggestion. It is the command of the Lord. As the Levites did not make their living from the land, but from the tithes of the people, so the ministers of Christ are supported today. They sow spiritual things into our lives: the preaching of the gospel, the administration of the sacraments, biblical counsel in times of grief, and the steady, week-by-week exposition of the text that anchors our souls. In return, we are commanded to sow material things.

When we hold back our giving, we are not just hurting a church budget. We are actively fighting against God's order. We are behaving like practical atheists, living as if God does not see or care how we manage the wealth He gave us. But when we give faithfully, generously, and joyfully, we are renewing our allegiance to our Lord. We are declaring that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the most valuable thing in our lives, and we want it proclaimed with power and without hindrance.

Parent and Adult Theological Reflection

True biblical submission means submitting to God's financial order for His house just as much as we submit to His moral laws for our lives. Our checkbooks tell the unvarnished truth about what we truly value.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 9:13-14 again. How does Paul directly connect the Old Testament law of the Levites to the New Testament duty of the Christian?
2. As a family, do you need to make a renewed commitment to consistently and cheerfully support the ministry of your local church?

Let this be a day of evaluation and action. Let us arrange our finances so that giving to the Lord's work is our first priority, not an afterthought from our leftovers.

Questions for Children

When we go to church on Sunday, we often see people put money into an offering box or plate. We don't do this to buy God's love, because Jesus already paid for our sins. We do it to obey God's command.

1. According to the Apostle Paul, how should the men who preach the gospel make their living?
2. What are we showing God when we joyfully give our money to support the church?

Teach your children that giving is a happy duty. We give because God has given us so much, and we want the Bible to be taught to as many people as possible.

Scripture Memory Verse

"Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel." (1 Corinthians 9:14, NKJV)

Prayer

Lord God Almighty, You own the cattle on a thousand hills. Everything we have—our homes, our food, our income—is a gift of grace from Your hand. Deliver us from the sin of

greed and the fear of not having enough. Give us tremendous faith to trust Your providence. Lord, we joyfully commit ourselves to supporting the ministry of the gospel in our local church. Bless our tithes and offerings. Use them to sustain the preaching of Your word, the care of the saints, and the spread of Your truth in our community. May we always seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Conclusion: A Kingdom of Priests

Over these past five days, we have looked deeply into the way God has ordered His house. From the Levites in the Old Testament to the pastors in the New Testament, God has always ensured that His word is guarded, taught, and applied. He has given us a clear command to support this vital work. But He has also given you a calling. You are part of a holy nation, a royal priesthood.

As you prepare to gather with the saints this Lord's Day, go with a renewed mind. Listen to the preaching of the word not just as someone receiving comfort, but as a soldier being equipped for the week ahead. Honor the men who labor in the word and doctrine. Fulfill your daily calling with excellence, whether in the workplace or in the home. And above all, rejoice that you have been brought into the greatest story that has ever been told—the gospel of Jesus Christ. Walk in His order, walk in His ways, and let your family stand as a testimony of covenant faithfulness to a watching world.