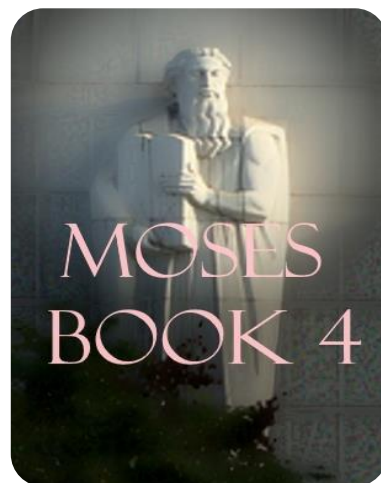


NUMBERS 18 vs 1

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In the preface to this Book of Moses we read: The titles of the five books of Moses, which we use in our Bibles, are all borrowed from the Greek translation of the Seventy, the most ancient version of the Old Testament what we know of. But the title of this book we only turn into English; in all the rest we retain the Greek word, for which difference I know no reason, but that the Latin translators have done the same. Otherwise this book might as well have been called: **Arithmoi**. Where we get our word: **arithmetic**. The Greek title = the numbering; as it shows the promise of God to Abraham that his children would be as the stars of heaven. In this book are two numberings: one at Mount Sinai in Arabia – chapter 1; and the other on the plains of Moab 39 years later. -- Matthew Henry.



The Duties of the Levites

¹ And the LORD said to Aaron, You and your sons and the house of your father with you, will bear the iniquity connected to the sanctuary: and you and your sons with you will bear the iniquity connected to your priesthood.

² But bring with you, your brothers also of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of your father, that they are joined with you, and serve you: while you and your sons with you minister before the tent of witness.

³ And they will attend to your obligation, and the obligation of all the tent: but they will not come near the vessels of the sanctuary and the altar, lest both they, and you die.

⁴ And they will be joined to you, and attend to the obligation of the tent of meeting, for all the service of the tent: but an outsider will not come near to you.

⁵ And you will attend to the obligation of the sanctuary, and the obligation of the altar: that there no longer be wrath on the children of Israel.

⁶ And behold, I, Myself take your fellow Levites from among the children of Israel: they are given as a gift to you, dedicated to the LORD, to perform the service for the tent of meeting.

⁷ But you and your sons with you will attend to your priesthood for all concerning the altar, and inside the vail, and you are to serve. I give your priesthood to you as a gift of service: and the outsider who comes near will be put to death.

⁸ And the LORD spoke to Aaron, Behold, I, Myself give you the obligation of My wave offerings, all the holy gifts of the children of Israel; I give them to you by reason of the anointing, and to your sons, a perpetual ordinance.

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⁹ This will be yours from the most holy gifts, reserved from the fire: every offering of theirs, every grain offering, every sin offering, and every trespass offering which they give to Me, will be most holy for you and for your sons.

¹⁰ In the most holy place you will eat it; every male will eat it: it will be holy to you.

¹¹ And this also is yours; the wave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings of the children of Israel: I have given them to you, and to your sons and to your daughters with you, by a statute forever: everyone who is clean in your house will eat of it.

¹² All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the grain, their firstfruits which they present to the LORD, I have given to you.

¹³ And the first ripe fruit in the land, which they bring to the LORD, will be yours; every one that is clean in your house will eat of it.

¹⁴ Every devoted thing in Israel will be yours.

¹⁵ Every first issue that opens the womb in all flesh, which they bring to the LORD, whether it is of men or animals, will be yours: nevertheless the first-born of man you will surely redeem, and the first-born of unclean animals you will redeem.

¹⁶ And what is to be redeemed from a month old you will redeem, according to your valuation, for five shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs.

¹⁷ But the first-born of a cow, or the first-born of a sheep, or the first-born of a goat, you will not redeem; they are holy: you sprinkle their blood on the altar, and will burn their fat for an offering made by fire, for a sweet aroma to the LORD.

¹⁸ And their meat will be yours, like the breast and right thigh of a wave offering are yours.

¹⁹ All wave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer to the LORD, I have given to you, and your sons and your daughters with you, by a statute forever: it is a covenant of salt forever before the LORD to you and to your descendants with you.

²⁰ And the LORD spoke to Aaron, You will have no inheritance in their land, nor any portion will you have among them: I am your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel.

²¹ And, behold, to the children of Levi I have given all the tithe in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they perform: the service of the tent of meeting.

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²² And the children of Israel from now on will not come near the tent of meeting again, lest they bear sin and die.

²³ Only the Levites will perform the service of the tent of meeting, and they will bear their iniquity: it will be a perpetual statute throughout your generations, and among the children of Israel they have no inheritance.

²⁴ But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as a wave offering to the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said to them, Among the children of Israel they will have no inheritance.

²⁵ And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

²⁶ Thus speak to the Levites, and say to them, When you take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then you will present a wave offering of it for the LORD, a tithe of the tithe.

²⁷ And your wave offering will be accounted to you, like it was the grain of the threshing floor, or the full produce from the winepress.

²⁸ Thus you also will present a wave offering to the LORD of all your tithes, which you receive of the children of Israel; and from it you will give the LORD'S wave offering to Aaron the priest.

²⁹ From all your gifts you will present every offering due to the LORD, of all its best, even from its sacred part.

³⁰ And you say to them, When you have offered its best, then the rest will be accounted to the Levites as the produce of the threshing floor, and the produce of the winepress.

³¹ And you may eat it anywhere, you and your households: for it is your reward for your service in the tent of meeting.

³² And you will bear no sin by reason of it, when you have offered from it the best of it. But you will not profane the sacred gifts of the children of Israel, lest you die.

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