



117

The Journey from Sinai to Moab 10:10-21:35

- God gives a definitive sign to unquestionably establish that He has established the priesthood through Aaron. 17:1-11
 - Each tribe was to contribute a staff
 - The name of each man was to be written on his staff. Aaron's name was written on the staff of the tribe of Levi.
 - God revealed to the people through Moses that the staff of the person He chose would sprout.
 - The purpose of this was to end the grumbling of the people.
 - The staffs were placed in the tent of meeting overnight
 - The next day Moses brought out the staffs. Aaron's had not only sprouted; it had produced ripe almonds overnight. Another example that God's activity is unmistakable.

118

The Journey from Sinai to Moab 10:10-21:35

- In light of God establishing Moses' position by the ground opening up and swallowing the rebels, fire coming down and consuming those who were offering the incense, the plague that wiped out 14,700 people and this miraculous display with Aaron's staff, the people are terrified of what may happen to them when they approach the tabernacle. 17:12-13

119

The Journey from Sinai to Moab 10:10-21:35

- God assures His people that they need not avoid drawing near to Him out of sheer terror since it is the responsibility of the priests and Levites to preserve the holiness of the tabernacle. 18:1-7
 - The guilt and subsequent judgment for violations of the holy things of the temple will be borne by the priests.
 - The ministry of the Levites to the priests are restated
 - Function as guards over the priest and the tabernacle
 - Forbidden to handle the holy items of the tabernacle
 - Ensure that no outsider enters the holy places.

120

The Journey from Sinai to Moab 10:10-21:35

- God assures His people that they need not avoid drawing near to Him out of sheer terror since it is the responsibility of the priests and Levities to preserve the holiness of the tabernacle. (cont.) 18:1-7
 - The priest have exclusive access to the holy items
 - The priesthood is a gift given by God.

121

The Journey from Sinai to Moab 10:10-21:35

- Other exclusive rights of the priests and Levites. 18:8-32
 - The priests and members of their family who were ceremonially clean had exclusive right to eat the parts of the sacrifices that were not offered as a burnt offering on the altar.
 - The firstborn were also theirs, but humans were redeemed for five shekels of silver. Unclean animals were redeemed with a clean animal (Exodus 13:13)
 - The priests and other Levites were given no inheritance in the Promised Land but Yahweh was their portion and inheritance.

122

The Journey from Sinai to Moab 10:10-21:35

- Other exclusive rights of the priests and Levites. 18:8-32
 - The Levites received the tithe as compensation for their service and in lieu of an inheritance.
 - The Levites were to give a tithe of the tithe to the priests.
 - This tithe was to be the best part of what had been given as a tithe by the congregation.

123

Lessons

- God desires to extend His lovingkindness and tender mercies toward His people rather than bring judgment. 17:10
- The proper fear of God makes us careful not fearful. 17:12-13
- God provides for the work He establishes. 18:19-20; 24
- God gives us the privilege of expressing His character through giving. 18:28
- God is deserving of and expects the best to be given to Him. 18:29

124