

Purpose of the Lord in our Life

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Numbers 8:14-16, 24

This is how you are to separate the descendants of Levi from among the Israelis. The descendants of Levi belong to me. After this, the descendants of Levi are to come to serve at the appointed place of meeting, after you have purified them and presented them as wave offerings, since they've been set apart for me from among the Israelis. I've taken them for myself instead of the first to open the womb—every firstborn of the Israelis. "Now regarding a descendant of Levi who is 25 years and above, he is to enter work in the service at the appointed place of meeting." [International Standard Version]

Ezekiel 44:15-16, 28

The descendants of Zadok, Levitical priests who took care of my sanctuary when the Israelis wandered away from me, are to come near me to minister to me. They are to stand before me to offer the fat and the blood to me," declares the Lord God. They are to enter my sanctuary, approach my table to minister to me, and carry out my requirements. "Now with respect to the priests' inheritances, I am to be their inheritance, and you are to give them no possession in Israel, since I am their possession.

Isaiah 43:1

But now this is what the Lord says, the one who created you, Jacob, the one who formed you, Israel: "Do not be afraid, because I've redeemed you. I've called you by name; you are mine."

The desire of the Lord God is to save as many people as he can, but that is not all. The Lord also wants his presence to be revealed to the entire world through each one of the saved people.

"The indwelling Lord", the Lord Jesus living inside us is the proof of our new rebirth. When people see us, they will see the Lord Jesus dwelling inside us. Not until we testify Jesus through our lives in this way can we call ourselves witnesses of the Lord.

Chapter 8 of the Numbers cited at the beginning of this article describes the tribe of Levi, who served in 'tabernacles' and were tasked with carrying the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord. The Lord says in verse 14, "This is how you are to separate the descendants of Levi from among the Israelis. The descendants of

Levi belong to me." It can be seen from verse 15 that Levites were the 'offerings' to the Lord and they have dedicated themselves to God. The Levites, who sacrificed everything to serve the Lord, can be regarded as the ideal people to reveal the glory of the Lord. This article will focus on these people, Levites.

The Levites

The Levites bore the Ark of the Covenant, which represented the presence of the Lord, when the people of Israel walked through the wilderness for forty years. When the people of Israel saw the pillar of cloud standing in the sky, which indicated the presence of the Lord, they set out from the camp and walked while being led by the cloud. They encamped where the cloud stopped. When the cloud of the presence of God stopped, the Levites also stopped obediently. No matter how unpleasant the place was to encamp, no matter how scruffy the place looked to them, they stayed there, as guided by the Lord.

How about us? Do we walk as guided by the Lord? Or, do we follow our own inclinations and choose the pleasant place to inhabit? As a matter of fact, this world we are living in is like a wilderness no matter where we are. A place may look very comfortable and thus you decide to live there, but after a while, you will find that it is just another wilderness.

The presence of the Lord is revealed in the land where his hand is laid. So, we should keep walking where the Lord leads us, just like the Levites did.

The Levites, who belonged to the Lord, had three distinctive characteristics. They worshiped the Lord wholeheartedly, they served for humans; and they fought against the evil spirits. And in actuality, these three are exactly what the Lord wants in the daily life of us believers.

True Worship

John 4:23

The time is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. Indeed, the Father is looking for people like that to worship him.

What is worship?

To worship is to acknowledge your recognition of the greatness of the Father and his son, Jesus and to proclaim how precious he is from the depth of your heart. When you look at yourself and realize that you are greatly separated from God, too worthless to serve him, so sinful and powerless, and then, if you see the salvation of the compassionate Lord Jesus with the eyes of your heart, you will be compelled to worship him. Those who don't belong to Christ, and

thus, do not recognize the love and strength of the Lord God are not able to worship him in the true sense.

It is indispensable in our worship to have the eyes of our hearts wide open to the greatness of the Lord. However, even the already saved believers do not fully understand the value of the Lord. It will take forever to comprehend the greatness of the Lord. We want the Lord to open the eyes of our hearts wider so that we realize the wonder and magnificence of our Lord.

As we understand the greatness of the Lord Jesus better, we will be led closer to true worship. As we worship the Lord God more, more of his magnificence is revealed to us. To those who worship the Lord wholeheartedly, a new hidden aspect of the Lord is unveiled. Those who see the Lord are compelled to fall down before him in worship. When the governance by the Lord Jesus, who was taken up into heaven and seated on the throne, becomes a reality inside us, we will be able to worship him sincerely deep in our hearts.

How is our reality? Is the Lord placed at the center of our daily lives and is the Lord God truly worshiped in there? Or, has the worship of the Lord ceased to occupy the primary position in our lives, having been replaced by worldly concerns? Has the time for worship faded away? Do we, the ones who were saved by God's compassion, live our daily lives as the 'worshippers'?

The eyes of the Lord God constantly roam throughout the earth, looking for true worshippers whose hearts are completely devoted to him. Our lives have to be dominated by worship to the Lord God. Actually, all aspects of our lives have to be governed by worship.

Service to Men

The first characteristic of the Levites was their sincere worship of the Lord. The second characteristic was their "service to humans", their ministrations. So what is the service after all?

John 6:29

Jesus answered them, "This is the action of God: to believe in the one whom he has sent."

The "action of God" refers to the service for God. This is a very strange definition of service. True service should be an act derived from faith. Even though we devote our whole life and offer everything we have, it will not be regarded as the service if it is given without faith.

The author of "Epistle to the Hebrews" explains;

Hebrews 11:6

Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who diligently search for him.

We cannot come close to the Lord without true faith. Likewise, to serve the Lord without faith is utterly meaningless.

It is the work of faith that makes us serve the Lord God.

By the way, what is faith? What does it mean to believe in God? Faith is to entrust everything to God, to rely totally on him. For example, whatever it is, if you are convinced that it is the intention of God, you can move forward without hesitation, without indecision—this is what is called faith. However, when we start something new, we feel anxious and aware of our weakness and uselessness at the beginning, which makes us rely on the Lord. However, as we continue working on it, we see some improvement, which makes us believe that we can achieve success by ourselves. This is dangerous. To be truly useful in our service, we ought to look up to the Lord moment by moment, rely on the Lord and depend totally on him.

We can see from the Old Testament that the Levites served in various ways. The Bible also tells us that the Levites did not depend on their own abilities or competence in their service, but relied upon the strength of the Lord alone. Our service also has to be the manifestation of our faith. If it is, every task we perform, no matter how trivial, will be viewed as the true service.

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it wholeheartedly as though you were doing it for the Lord and not merely for people.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

If you carry it out in order to glorify the Lord with sincere faith, then it can be regarded as a true service, whatever it is. Avoid being caught up in your own thoughts or any outmoded traditions; instead remember to rely on the Lord and lean on him alone as you continue walking. We want to dedicate our whole selves to the Lord, to testify that our whole lives are dominated by the Lord.

The third distinctive characteristic of Levi was their battle against the evil spirits.

Battle against the Evil Spirits

Ephesians 6:12

For our struggle is not against human opponents, but against rulers, authorities, cosmic powers in the darkness around us, and evil spiritual forces in the heavenly realm.

We should aspire to be the ones who worship the Lord God, serve people and fight against the evil spirits like the Levites did. Then, we will begin to reveal the presence of the Lord.

The devil concentrates his attack on those who are willing to devote themselves faithfully to the work of God. Those who are used by God, those who carry the Ark of the Covenant which propagates the existence of the Lord and those who deserve to serve the Lord, will certainly be exposed to relentless hatred from hell and will be targeted by Satan. In contrast, if we are not under attack from Satan, undoubtedly our worship and our service are fundamentally flawed. In fact, this battle is very harsh and present in our daily lives.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

You know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God, don't you? You do not belong to yourselves, because you were bought for a price. Therefore, glorify God with your bodies.

End

However, the Lord has won a sweeping victory. Even while we are engaged in this furious battle, we have to be firmly convinced of this sweeping victory that the Lord has accomplished. Satan is a miserable loser who has been defeated mercilessly.

Your distress and worries which make you compare yourself to others and become anxious about the future are just unfruitful. When we look away from the Lord, who is seated at the right-hand of the Father God, we will lose the strength needed to work as the witnesses. Then, we will fall into the same state as all non-believers. When the enemies surrounding the Israelites saw the tabernacle of the congregation, they realized the presence of the Lord above it. Now, when non-believers come and see us, do they see the light of the Lord shining inside us? Or do they only see totally distressed, devastated and wretched people?

With the Lord Jesus who already won a sweeping victory, we ourselves cannot be the winners and as a matter of fact we do not need to be. Still, our battle begins with victory and ends with victory. No matter how powerful Satan is, no matter how fierce his aggression is, we have to remain firm in the victory of the Lord Jesus.

Are we standing at the center of the victory of the Lord Jesus? Undoubtedly, the Bible proclaims the victory of the Lord. We might have won once in the past, but are we still standing within the same victory of the Lord now? Is the cloud of the Lord's presence still floating above us?

Are we the ones who please the Lord? Are our eyes wide open to the greatness of the Lord, which makes us live as true worshipers? Do we rely on the Lord with all our strength and all our hearts? Or, do we undertake the duties of the Spirit through the strength of our flesh? Do we bring the victory of Jesus into all aspects of our lives and rejoice in that victory?