

18:1 The priests the Levites, and 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 inheritance. 2 Therefore shall they have no inheritance among their brethren: the Lord is their inheritance, as he hath said unto them. 3 And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from them that offer a sacrifice, whether it be ox or sheep; and they shall give unto the priest the shoulder, and the two cheeks, and the maw. 4 The firstfruit also of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him. 5 For the Lord thy God hath chosen him out of all thy tribes, to stand to minister in the name of the Lord, him and his sons for ever. 6 And if a Levite come from any of thy gates out of all Israel, where he sojourned, and come with all the desire of his mind unto the place which the Lord shall choose; 7 Then he shall minister in the name of the Lord his God, as all his brethren the Levites do, which stand there before the Lord. 8 They shall have like portions to eat, beside that which cometh of the sale of his patrimony. 9 When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. 10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. 12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. 13 Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God. 14 For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do. 15 The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; 16 According to all that thou desiredst of the Lord thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not. 17 And the Lord said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken. 18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. 19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him. 20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. 21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? 22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.

1. They would have spiritual leadership in the priests and Levites
 - a. They needed to remember how God wanted them treated 18:1 The priests the Levites, and 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 inheritance.
 - i. They wouldn't have a way to support themselves as the other tribes
 - ii. They would eat from the offerings given to God
 - iii. God was their inheritance, the ministry to Him in other words 18:2 Therefore shall they have no inheritance among their brethren: the Lord is their inheritance, as he hath said unto them.
 - iv. The people owed the priests certain things from the sacrifices 18:3 And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from them that offer a sacrifice, whether it be ox or sheep; and they shall give unto the priest the shoulder, and the two cheeks, and the maw. 4 The firstfruit also of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him.
 - b. These men, the Levites and the priests had been chosen by God to serve in His name 18:5 For the Lord thy God hath chosen him out of all thy tribes, to stand to minister in the name of the Lord, him and his sons for ever.
 - c. The Levites were allowed to serve wherever they felt God wanted them 18:6 And if a Levite come from any of thy gates out of all Israel, where he sojourned, and come with all the desire of his mind unto the place

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Deuteronomy 18:1-22

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- which the Lord shall choose; 7 Then he shall minister in the name of the Lord his God, as all his brethren the Levites do, which stand there before the Lord.
- d. They were to be taken care above whatever their parents might have left them as an inheritance 18:8 They shall have like portions to eat, beside that which cometh of the sale of his patrimony.
2. God's people were to never do what the world and those that hated God did 18:9 When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.
- a. Demonic worship was forbidden 18:10 There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.
- i. They were to never pass their children through the fire
 - ii. They were not to go to witches and psychics
 - iii. They were not to talk to those that talked to the dead
 - iv. They were to stay away from anyone playing these games
 - v. Those who called up the dead or channeled the dead, seances etc
- b. These wicked practices are why God was driving out these nations. He hates these practices 18:12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee.
- c. God's people were to be loyal to Him, to be perfect or have a complete heart for Him. Not a heart divided between different gods and religions 18:13 Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God.
- d. God has a way of communicating with Him and it is not these demonic channels 18:14 For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.
- e. God would raise up a prophet that they should listen to 18:15 The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;
- f. God would give this prophet His very words 18:18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.
- g. They would be required to obey this prophet 18:19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.
- h. There would be prophets who took it on themselves to claim to speak for God but were lying 20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.
- i. They would know He was lying because what He said didn't come true 18:21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? 22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.
- j. God has a way of communicating with you
- i. You do not need to seek the ways of the lost world to know God's will
 - ii. God's will is abundantly clear for us in His Word
 - iii. God's prophets speak God's Word
 - iv. Don't play with demons
 - v. Do obey what God says

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3. Lessons for us to understand in our ministry today from this passage
 - a. God will call out men and women to serve Him in His ministry
 - b. God holds His people to high standards and they can be confronted I Timothy 5:19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses. 20 Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear.
 - c. As a church we should be careful not to follow the currents of the world in our worship
 - d. We should be giving from a heart of love and never trying to cheapen our worship
 - e. We should separate individually and corporately from sin and be willing to take a very unpopular stand if necessary to please God above all
 - f. Church discipline is real and should apply to all. There are Biblical explanations to how to handle discipline
 - i. We need a clear and organize membership
 - ii. We need to know who has agreed to follow what the Bible says and live accordingly
 - iii. We do not discipline those that are not of our fellowship
 - g. No one in church leadership should use their position to take advantage of others or get popularity, pride, or possessions from it
 - h. All of us should spend time in the Word of God to obey Him and also to keep us humble
 - i. The church will be responsible to take care of those that God has placed in leadership and service to Him and His people I Corinthians 9:14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.
 - j. We are to hear from God through His Word and should not seek other means of getting to Him or hearing from Him
 - k. We definitely do not follow after the lost world in their religions and actions
 - l. We know that the Prophet that has truly come with the truth is Jesus.