

Inheritance

It would seem on the surface that Aaron was getting a raw deal. As the Children of Israel prepared to move into the Promised land, God, through Moses, began to give directives as to who got what in the way of tangible assets. Reuben would get a property over here and Ephraim would get one over there. But, the tribe of Levi? “Then the Lord said to Aaron: ‘You shall have no inheritance in the land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel’” (Numbers 18:20).

No inheritance? No area dedicated to the venerated, priestly tribe of Levi? One might be taken aback by what seemed to be an oversight at best or a selective punishment at worst. But, is that the case? Notice what immediately follows: “Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting” (Numbers 18:21). They actually received the best of the land and, further, were allowed the elevated status of representing the people of God.

God set His priests apart to do the spiritual work of the people (Deuteronomy 10:8). The honor and privilege of such a station was worthy of a reward far more valuable than mere tangible assets. In these directives that were intended by God to be a type of the real thing (Hebrews 8:5), a shadow of things to come (Colossians 2:17), God was preparing His people to think beyond the physical and focus on things above (Leviticus 20:26). Therefore, this class of people within a people represented those who had a more direct connect with God (Leviticus 9:7), a mediation role, that brought people to the Father. In the New Testament, God’s children are called Christians (Acts 11:26) and they consist of a holy and royal priesthood (1 Peter 3:5, 9). They look for no inheritance in this old corruptible world (Romans 13:14) but aspire to a heavenly city (Hebrews 11:16; 12:22), and invite a lost and dying people to enter into and fully develop a spiritual relationship with the Father through the great Mediator, Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5).

Frankly, considering the distinction between this pile-of-dump world we now live in right now and an eternal city where there is no death, no crying, no sorrow (Revelation 21:4), a Christian will choose the latter all day long, for eternity. As faithful Christians, endeavor to recognize and appreciate, daily, the great blessing of inheriting God.