

## Watchman Part 8

### The Ministry of Levi

*“8 And of Levi he said, Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah; 9 Who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed thy word, and kept thy covenant. 10 They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar. 11 Bless, LORD, his substance, and accept the work of his hands; smite through the loins of them that rise against him, and of them that hate him, that they rise not again.” (Deuteronomy 33:8-11 KJV)*

Levi is the tribe of the Israelites that God had chosen to be His priests to teach His people His ways and to serve Him at the tent of meeting. They were the workers and watchmen who would take care and perform all the duties at the sanctuary. God called them and assigned to them precise duties and responsibilities that they were responsible to do in the tabernacle of God as we can read here:

*“1 And the LORD said unto Aaron, Thou and thy sons and thy father's house with thee shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary: and thou and thy sons with thee shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood. 2 And thy brethren also of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of thy father, bring thou with thee, that they may be joined unto thee, and minister unto thee: but thou and thy sons with thee shall minister before the tabernacle of witness. 3 And they shall keep thy charge, and the charge of all the tabernacle: only they shall not come nigh the vessels of the sanctuary and the altar, that neither they, nor ye also, die. 4 And they shall be joined unto thee, and keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, for all the service of the tabernacle: and a stranger shall not come nigh unto you. 5 And ye shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar: that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel. 6 And I, behold, I have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel: to you they are given as a gift for the LORD, to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. 7 Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for everything of the altar, and within the vail; and ye shall serve: I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.” (Numbers 18:1-7 KJV)*

God said to Moses to tell the Israelites the following: *“5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. 7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. 8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.” (Exodus 19:5-8 KJV)* From what God instructed Moses we can understand that the whole Israelites were called to be a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation, and they responded verbally to the call of God and agreed upon. **The same is for us**

**today, we who are in Christ we are royal priesthood and a holy nation of God, “9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;” (1 Peter 2:9 KJV)**

God truly chose Aaron and his sons to be priests as we can read here from what He instructed Moses, *“1 And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons. 2 And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.” (Exodus 28:1-2 KJV)* Possibly the Lord chose Aaron and his sons as priests because Aaron stood with God's call when he supported Moses and his mission to Pharaoh King of Egypt. But the Lord also tested the Levites before He confirmed to them their service and ministry. The Lord called them and He favored them to minister and to be the priests who will spiritually guide His people with the Thummim and the Urim in taking decision. The Levites stood the test and prove their faithfulness unto God in the following events:-

*1. The Levites were tested on the occasion of Massah which means tempting and at the waters of Meribah which means strife or contention: “8 And of Levi he said, Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah;” (Deuteronomy 33:8 KJV)* This was the place where the Israelites tested the Lord, quarreled with Moses, and asking him to reproduce water for them to drink: *“1 And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD? 3 And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? 4 And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me. 5 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. 6 Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?” (Exodus 17:1-7 KJV)* Finally the Lord enabled Moses to bring out water to them from the Rock. And it might be that the Levites stood with Moses and assisted him in his stand with the Lord. **The true workers and the Royal priests of God will not quarrel and test the Lord and question His presence in their mid, but in faith will stand with God, obey His Word and do His will.**

*2. The Levites were tested on the account of the golden calf: Let us read this event in the Bible: “1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. 2 And Aaron said unto them, Break off the*

golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. 3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. 4 And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 5 And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD. 6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play. 7 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. 11 And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? 12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever. 14 And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people. 15 And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written. 16 And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables. 17 And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. 18 And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear. 19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. 20 And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it. 21 And Moses said unto Aaron, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them? 22 And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief. 23 For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. 24 And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf. 25 And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:) 26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. 27 And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the

camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour. 28 And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men. 29 For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day. 30 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin. 31 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. 32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. 33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. 34 Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them. 35 And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.” (Exodus 32:1-35 KJV) When Moses challenged the whole Israelites whoever is for the Lord to come to him, only the Levites responded to God’s call: “25 And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:) 26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.” (Exodus 32:25-26 KJV) And indeed the Levites executed the command of God through His servant Moses: “27 And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour. 28 And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.” (Exodus 32:27-28 KJV) They truly showed no regard to blood ties relatives when it came to God’s Word and commands as it was mentioned, “9 Who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed thy word, and kept thy covenant.” (Deuteronomy 33:9 KJV) With what they did, God’s calling for them as Levites was confirmed, “29 For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.” (Exodus 32:29 KJV) In all our deals and ministry God should be first and not men, nor our family member, and nor our relatives and friends. Jesus said, “37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:37 KJV)

Jesus acted the same as we can read here: “46 While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. 47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. 48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? 49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! 50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.” (Matthew 12:46-50 KJV)

3. The covenant of priesthood was confirmed with Phinehas on the account of what he did: “10 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 11 Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, hath turned my wrath away from the children of Israel, while he was zealous for my sake among them, that I consumed not the children of Israel in my

jealousy. 12 Wherefore say, Behold, I give unto him my covenant of peace: 13 And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.” (Numbers 25: 10-13 KJV) God was pleased with Phinehas and confirmed His covenant of peace with him and His descendants because Phinehas stood firm for the LORD when he killed the Israelite man and the Midianite woman whom he brought to his tent and had adultery with her as we can read here: “6 And, behold, one of the children of Israel came and brought unto his brethren a Midianitish woman in the sight of Moses, and in the sight of all the congregation of the children of Israel, who were weeping before the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 7 And when Phinehas, the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose up from among the congregation, and took a javelin in his hand; 8 And he went after the man of Israel into the tent, and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her belly. So the plague was stayed from the children of Israel.” (Numbers 25:6-8 KJV) He was a great watchman when he saw sin he acted immediately and appropriately to deal with those who were committing it. \* The same for you today, if you stand firm with the LORD and side with Him and not with the people, the LORD will confirm His covenant of peace with you and your children and disciples, and you will live a peaceful life because you proved your faithfulness to the LORD. \* We are as priests called to rebuke and discipline those in the body of Christ whoever they are, who live in sin as doing immoralities, stealing, non giving tithes, telling lies, cheating, etc. \* You will do well and the LORD will be with you if you stand firm with Him; God’s blessings will flow to you and to the people under your care.

You who are called by God when you will never stand with people but with God, and as you stand the test and get approved, then you will receive the following from the Lord:

**A. You will receive the Authority to lead others into God’s will:** “And of Levi he said, Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with thy holy one,” (Deuteronomy 33:8 KJV) God will give you the wisdom and the authority to guide others and help them to grasp and see God’s will clearly and to take wise and correct decisions.

**B. You will receive the favor of God:** “47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” (Acts 2:47 KJV)

**C. You will have a good testimony:** It will be accredited to you what you did well with God and how you faithfully served Him and did not recognize your near relations and relatives when they did not follow God. “whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah; 9 Who said unto his father and to his mother, I have not seen him; neither did he acknowledge his brethren, nor knew his own children: for they have observed thy word, and kept thy covenant.” (Deuteronomy 33:8-9 KJV)

**D. You will receive the authority to teach the word of God:** “They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law:” (Deuteronomy 33:10 KJV) As authenticated person with genuine motive toward God and His Word, the Lord will approve you as a teacher for His Word.

**E. You will have the authority and the approval to serve God:** “they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar.” (Deuteronomy 33:10 KJV) Your integrity and your stand with God will pave a way for you to be approved as God’s servant, and your prayers will be answered by God.

**F. The Lord shall be pleased with your work and ministry:** “Bless, LORD, his substance, and accept the work of his hands;” (Deuteronomy 33:11 KJV) The Lord will bless your ministry and will make it shine before men. He will use your ministry as instrument to bring the Light of God in the lives of other men to draw them near to God and guide others into His ways.

**G. The Lord will fight and deal with all your enemies:** “smite through the loins of them that rise against him, and of them that hate him, that they rise not again.” (Deuteronomy 33:11 KJV) No one will be able to stand against you as you stand with God.

**My dear and beloved:** The outcome of your life and your ministry is bound with your commitment to God and how you will stand firm with Him, watching that His Word would be fulfilled, and your perseverance to guard your covenant with God. I pray for you that your eyes will be open and realize all these truth and put them into practice and work with God to keep His Word alive in your ministry, and exercise His Word in the life of the people whom God had placed under your care. Let us pray ...

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teaches me how to conduct myself as a worker to stand with you in your church and ministries to do your work and your will. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments that we received from you.

Confess your sins and renounce them. Confess and renounce your compromises with your friends and your near relations and relatives. Confess and renounce your fear of men and your lack of the fear of God. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, friends and with the Media. Confess and renounce your lack of reading God’s Word and lack of prayers. Confess and renounce your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Christ. Confess and renounce your worldliness and your love for material things. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit myself to abide with your Word in doing your will and never to compromise with people on the account of your Word and commands. Lord help me and give me the strength to continue to stand firm and to persevere in order to keep my covenant with you and bring forth what you desire to see in my life, my ministry and in the life of the people who are under my care. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord thank you for my brothers and sisters who repented of their sins and who committed their lives to follow your Word and the instruction we received in this message. Lord use their lives to bring the fruit that you desire to see in the life of your church. Lord bless them, protect them and give them the strength to continue to stand firm and to serve you in order to fulfill your Word and implement your commands in the lives of their families, ministries and



*your church. Lord provide all their needs so they can continue to go and do your will. Lord reward them and make their lives good testimonies to others to serve you.*

*Lord bless us as a church, and help us to continue to stand firm on your Word to implement your commands and to accomplish your will. Lord raise more faithful watchmen and watchwomen who will watch and work with us for your Word and your will to be fulfilled. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and serve you; to evangelize, making disciples, training workers and to plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

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