

MAINTAIN, MAINTAINED, MAINTAINEST, MAINTAINING, MAINTAINS, MAINTENANCE, UPKEEP

The priests were required to **maintain** the candlestick that was in the most holy place of the tabernacle, so that it burned continually.

- **Exodus 27:20-21:** "And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always. In the tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the LORD: it shall be a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel."

When a census was taken of the Israelites, a half shekel was given to make atonement for the souls of those who gave it. (That money was used for the **maintenance** of the tabernacle, where sacrifices were offered.)

- **Exodus 30:15-16:** "The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls. And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls."

When a census was taken of the Israelites, the money that was

collected from the half shekel tax was offered as a memorial for the Israelites (because it helped make atonement for them, since it paid for the **maintenance** of the tabernacle).

- **Exodus 30:15-16:** "The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls. And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls."

The job of **maintaining** and carrying the tabernacle was given to the Levites alone. (Anyone else who tried to take that job was to be put to death.)

- **Numbers 1:51:** "And when the tabernacle setteth forward, the Levites shall take it down: and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death."
- **Numbers 1:53:** "But the Levites shall pitch round about the tabernacle of testimony, that there be no wrath upon the congregation of the children of Israel: and the Levites shall keep the charge of the tabernacle of testimony."

God gave the tribe of Levi to Aaron so that they could minister to him (by helping him **maintain** the tabernacle).

- **Numbers 3:6-7:** "Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister unto him. And they shall keep his charge, and the charge of the whole congregation before the tabernacle of the congregation, to do the service of the tabernacle."

God commanded the tribe of Levi to **maintain** the instruments of the tabernacle.

- **Numbers 3:6, 8:** "Bring the tribe of Levi near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister unto him. ... And they shall keep all the instruments of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the charge of the children of Israel, to do the service of the tabernacle."

Out of all the tribes of Israel, the tribe that God chose to help the priests **maintain** the tabernacle was the tribe of Levi. No other tribe was chosen.

- **Numbers 3:9:** "And thou shalt give the Levites unto Aaron and to his sons: they are wholly given unto him out of the children of Israel."

God commanded the Gershonites to **maintain** the tabernacle curtains. (Since the tabernacle was a tent, they were responsible for maintaining the fabric portions of the tabernacle.)

- **Numbers 3:25-26:** "And the charge of the sons of Gershon in the tabernacle of the congregation shall be the tabernacle, and the tent, the covering thereof, and the hanging for the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, And the hangings of the court, and the curtain for the door of the court, which is by the tabernacle, and by the altar round about, and the cords of it for all the service thereof."

God commanded the Kohathites to **maintain** the candlestick

that was located inside the tabernacle.

- **Numbers 3:31:** "And their charge shall be the ark, and the table, and the candlestick, and the altars, and the vessels of the sanctuary wherewith they minister, and the hanging, and all the service thereof."

God commanded the Kohathites to **maintain** the shewbread table.

- **Numbers 3:31:** "And their charge shall be the ark, and the table, and the candlestick, and the altars, and the vessels of the sanctuary wherewith they minister, and the hanging, and all the service thereof."

God commanded the Kohathites to **maintain** the curtain.
(This may be a reference to the veil inside the tabernacle.)

- **Numbers 3:31:** "And their charge shall be the ark, and the table, and the candlestick, and the altars, and the vessels of the sanctuary wherewith they minister, and the hanging, and all the service thereof."

God commanded the Kohathites to **maintain** the vessels of the tabernacle that the priests used to do their jobs.

- **Numbers 3:31:** "And their charge shall be the ark, and the table, and the candlestick, and the altars, and the vessels of the sanctuary wherewith they minister, and the hanging, and all the service thereof."

God commanded the Kohathites to **maintain** the Ark of the Covenant.

- **Numbers 3:31:** "And their charge shall be the ark, and the table, and the candlestick, and the altars, and the vessels of the sanctuary wherewith they minister, and the hanging, and all the service thereof."

God gave Eleazar the priest oversight of all those who **maintained** the tabernacle.

- **Numbers 3:32:** "And Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest shall be chief over the chief of the Levites, and have the oversight of them that keep the charge of the sanctuary."

God commanded the family of Merari to **maintain** the pillars, boards, bars, sockets, pins, and vessels of the tabernacle. (In other words, they were responsible for maintaining the tabernacle's physical structure.)

- **Numbers 3:36-37:** "And under the custody and charge of the sons of Merari shall be the boards of the tabernacle, and the bars thereof, and the pillars thereof, and the sockets thereof, and all the vessels thereof, and all that serveth thereto, And the pillars of the court round about, and their sockets, and their pins, and their cordes."

God gave the Kohathites the responsibility of **maintaining** the holy things in the tabernacle.

- **Numbers 4:4:** "This shall be the service of the sons of Kohath in the tabernacle of the congregation, about the most holy things:"

The priests and Levites worked in the tabernacle. They

maintained it and made atonement for the Israelites, so that people from the other tribes wouldn't approach the tabernacle and cause a plague to break out.

- **Numbers 8:19:** "And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and to his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the service of the children of Israel in the tabernacle of the congregation, and to make an atonement for the children of Israel: that there be no plague among the children of Israel, when the children of Israel come nigh unto the sanctuary."
- **Numbers 18:6:** "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."
- **Numbers 31:47:** "Even of the children of Israel's half, Moses took one portion of fifty, both of man and of beast, and gave them unto the Levites, which kept the charge of the tabernacle of the LORD; as the LORD commanded Moses."

During the reign of Jehoash, the temple wasn't being **maintained**. It had been allowed to fall into a state of disrepair.

- **2 Kings 12:6:** "But it was so, that in the three and twentieth year of king Jehoash the priests had not repaired the breaches of the house."

During the reign of David, the treasures that were dedicated to the temple were used to pay for its **maintenance**.

- **1 Chronicles 26:26-27:** "Which Shelomith and his

brethren were over all the treasures of the dedicated things, which David the king, and the chief fathers, the captains over thousands and hundreds, and the captains of the host, had dedicated. Out of the spoils won in battles did they dedicate to maintain the house of the LORD."

Rehoboam wanted to **maintain** the appearance of wealth, even though all of his wealth was actually gone. (The brass shields that he made may have looked nice, but they were worthless compared to the gold shields that he had lost)

- **2 Chronicles 12:9-10:** "So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made. Instead of which king Rehoboam made shields of brass, and committed them to the hands of the chief of the guard, that kept the entrance of the king's house."

The Levites should have been collecting money from the Israelites each year for the temple (to fund its **maintenance**). However, they hadn't been doing that.

- **2 Chronicles 24:6:** "And the king called for Jehoiada the chief, and said unto him, Why hast thou not required of the Levites to bring in out of Judah and out of Jerusalem the collection, according to the commandment of Moses the servant of the LORD, and of the congregation of Israel, for the tabernacle of witness?"

Job's wife didn't want him to **maintain** his integrity. Instead

she wanted him to curse God and die.

- **Job 2:9:** "Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die."

Job said that he would **maintain** his own ways before God. He refused to curse God (which is what his wife urged him to do).

- **Job 13:15:** "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him."

God has **maintained** our cause.

- **Psalm 9:4:** "For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right."

The Lord **maintains** us. He watches over us, cares for us, loves us, and preserves us.

- **Psalm 16:5:** "The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot."

God **maintains** the cause of those who are afflicted.

- **Psalm 140:12:** "I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor."

God **maintains** the rights of the poor.

- **Psalm 140:12:** "I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor."

Things that aren't cared for and **maintained** will decay and fall into ruin.

- **Ecclesiastes 10:18:** "By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through."

Those who believe that they must **maintain** their salvation by doing good works aren't saved. They're going to Hell. (Although good works are always the *result* of genuine salvation, they are *never* its cause.)

- **Galatians 3:3-4:** "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain."

Christians must pursue good works carefully, and be diligent to **maintain** them.

- **Titus 3:8:** "This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men."
- **Titus 3:14:** "And let our's also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful."

Those who are saved don't labor to become saved, and they also don't labor to **maintain** their salvation. Our salvation doesn't come from our works! This is the rest of God (since we rest from our works, which play no part in our salvation).

- **Hebrews 4:10:** "For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from

his."