

to this tribe risks his life if he tries to usurp their place in the service of the tabernacle (22). Thus God undertakes to remove the fears of the Israelites about the sanctuary by specifying the way in which His tabernacle may be served in safety by those whom He has selected for the particular tasks. The statement about the right of the Levites to the tithes (21,24) has sometimes been thought to be contradicted by Dt. xiv.22-29. However, there is no contradiction, but only an elaboration, caused by the fact that when Moses gave the addresses recorded in Deuteronomy the people were about to enter the Promised Land, and soon the matter of distance from the sanctuary would become a problem. Also Deuteronomy brings in a new subject--the sacrificial meal, in which the people would eat a portion of the tite before the Lord (Dt.xiv.22-29; cf. xii.7,17-18). Exhortation to the people not to forget the Levites, after the nation is scattered over Canaan (Dt. xii.12,18-19, xiv.27,29), in no way contradicts the ideal arrangements of Nu.xviii.21,24, which might naturally be much harder to enforce after the people are scattered over the Promised Land than while they are camping together in the wilderness. Up to this point the various sections of this chapter have been ~~add~~ addressed to Aaron (1,8,20). Now the Lord speaks to Moses (25), as representing the nation as a whole, telling him to order the Levites to give to the priests a tithe of the tithes which they themselves receive (26-32).

c. Removal of the uncleanness resulting from the rebellion (xix.1-22)

Since so many people had died as a result of Korah's rebellion, ordinary means were insufficient to deal with the pollution. God commanded that Eleazar the priest should take a red heifer outside the camp, slay it, and then burn it with appropriate ceremonies, to remove the uncleanness from the people. This was to be a permanent statute (10). Everyone who touched a dead body should be unclean seven days. On the third day he should be sprinkled with water containing the ashes of the