

The so-called P document gives the laws for the priests, which God gave Moses and had written down and tabulated. When these laws were given, they included God's order that Moses should set his brother and his brother's family apart for the priest's office. It was not necessary to tell this to the people in advance, while they were under Moses' direction. It was not necessary to say to them, "You will have to keep the priesthood restricted to the ones God will designate when He is making the covenant." It would stand to reason that He would designate how He wanted it. So He sets Aaron and his sons apart and lays it down very strictly that the priesthood is restricted to them. When you come to Deuteronomy and the people are ready to go into the land, the priesthood is already definitely established in Aaron and his family, so it is not important or necessary that Moses should urge the people in his farewell address as to who is to be priest. There should then be no special point in that. There is a point in his urging them about the place of sacrifice and there is a point in stressing priests and the Levitical tribe in general. This is very briefly done. There is no specific statement, "be sure you keep the priesthood restricted to the family of Aaron." At this time the people are accustomed to having the priesthood confined to the ones designated by God, and they all know about Korah's rebellion in the wilderness when a large number of men insisted they could be priests as well as Aaron, and came with censers to offer sacrifice and God destroyed the whole group. Everyone knew that. It was already driven home to their minds. There was no particular need of stressing it again in his farewell address.

When President Washington gave his farewell address to the American nation, he warned against any entangling alliance with Europe and he urged various things which he thought important for the future welfare of the nation, but he did not urge us to be sure always to have the election of the president on the second Tuesday after the second Monday of November and to be sure that only native-born citizens be elected to that position and to be sure that he be over a particular age and so on. These things are laid down in the Constitution. When there is an election it is important to look them up, find out what they are, and act upon them. But there was no special point in urging the people as a whole to observe these things.