

possibly refer to a person.

Leviticus 27:28 says that anything "that a man owns and devotes to the Lord -- whether man or animal or family land," if it is so devoted "is most holy to the Lord."

The other instance in which the phrase may perhaps refer to a person is 1 Chronicles 23:13, a verse that is much disputed. In the NIV it reads: "The sons of Amram: Aaron and Moses. Aaron was set apart, he and his descendants for ever, to consecrate the most holy things, to offer sacrifices before the LORD, to minister before him and to pronounce blessings in his name forever." In the KJV it reads: "The sons of Amram; Aaron and Moses: and Aaron was separated, that he should sanctify the most holy things, he and his sons forever, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister unto him, and to bless in his name for ever." But in the NASB it reads: "The sons of Amram were Aaron and Moses. And Aaron was set apart to sanctify him as most holy, he and his sons forever, to burn incense before the Lord, to minister to Him and to bless in His name forever."

Beginning as early as Hippolytus, many commentators have said that in this purpose the phrase refers to Christ, but Keil objects to this interpretation because it is used here without an article and also because it generally refers to a thing rather than a person. He prefers to "understand it of the establishment of the new holy of holies which was shown to the holy seer on Patmos. . . (Rev. 21:13).¹² Others have suggested that it points to the new temple built after the exile, to the establishment of the Christian church, to a temple that is yet to be built, or to a portion of such a temple. Ezekiel applies the phrase to a parcel of land in Ezekiel 48:17, perhaps also in Ezekiel 45:3.

In view of the great diversity of opinion about the meaning of this purpose it can hardly be taken as a basis for interpretation of the prophecy as a whole.

Notes on Purposes

^{^1} See p. 26.

^{^2} See p. 160.