

"Take heed for yourself that you do not forsake the Levi as long as you live upon your land." (12:19)

As *Bnei Yisroel* are about to undertake the settlement of the land, it is significant to note that the tribe of *Levi* will be scattered among the people. The *Leviim* will act as the nerves and arteries emanating from the nation's brain and heart, with the *Mishkan* maintaining the spiritual link and bond between the members of the nation.

Scattered among a population engaged primarily in agricultural pursuits, cattle breeding, and other related industries, such "unproductive" members of the community as the *Leviim*, could easily become neglected and even despised, if the people fail to appreciate the vital and role of the *Leviim* in the spiritual and moral welfare of the nation. Therefore, the *Torah* reiterated the admonishment against neglecting the *Levi* "*all your days upon your soil.*" From this we learn that the length of time that we are permitted to dwell upon the land actually depends upon the respect and reverence accorded to the *Leviim*, and their influence and dominance on our own moral and spiritual development.