

Exodus 27:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Aaron and his sons shall order the lamps from evening to morning before the Lord continually—a statute forever. Priestly duty involves tending God's light, maintaining it through the night. Darkness surrounds (evening to morning), but the light must persist. This prefigures Christ our High Priest who maintains light through history's 'night' until the daybreak. It also speaks to believers' priestly responsibility—tend the light, don't let it dim, maintain witness through darkness until dawn.

Historical Context

The daily lamp service occurred twice—evening (kindling) and morning (trimming, replenishing). This perpetual maintenance ensured the Holy Place never sat in darkness. Neglecting this duty would extinguish God's light, making priestly service impossible.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do you maintain spiritual light 'from evening to morning' through life's dark seasons?
2. What does your responsibility to 'tend the light' look like in daily practice?

Interlinear Text

בָּאַ- In the tabernacle	כָּל- of the congregation	מַעַד- without	מִחְצֵ- the veil	רְאֵשֶׁת- H834	כָּל- H5921
H168	H4150	H2351	H6532		
תַּעֲדֵךְ which is before the testimony	יְשִׁירֵךְ shall order	אַתָּה H853	אַהֲרֹן Aaron	וְאֶת- and his sons	
H5715	H6186	H175	H1121		
עַל- it from evening	עַד- to morning	בְּ- before	לִפְנֵי- the LORD	עֲשֵׂה תְּ- it shall be a statute	עוֹלָם- for ever
H6153	H5704	H1242	H6440	H3068	H2708
בְּנֵי- unto their generations	מִאָתָ- H854	בְּנֵי- and his sons	יִשְׂרָאֵל- of Israel		
H1755		H1121	H3478		

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 19:21 (Parallel theme): And it shall be a perpetual statute unto them, that he that sprinkleth the water of separation shall wash his clothes; and he that toucheth the water of separation shall be unclean until even.

Numbers 18:23 (Temple): But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they have no inheritance.

Exodus 30:8 (References Lord): And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.

Leviticus 3:17 (Parallel theme): It shall be a perpetual statute for your generations throughout all your dwellings, that ye eat neither fat nor blood.

Leviticus 16:34 (References Lord): And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

2 Chronicles 13:11 (References Lord): And they burn unto the LORD every morning and every evening burnt sacrifices and sweet incense: the shewbread also set they in order upon the pure table; and the candlestick of gold with the lamps thereof, to burn every evening: for we keep the charge of the LORD our God; but ye have forsaken him.

1 Samuel 3:3 (Temple): And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;

2 Peter 1:19 (Parallel theme): We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Exodus 28:43 (Temple): And they shall be upon Aaron, and upon his sons, when they come in unto the tabernacle of the congregation, or when they come near unto the altar to minister in the holy place; that they bear not iniquity, and die: it shall be a statute for ever unto him and his seed after him.

John 5:35 (Parallel theme): He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.