

Exodus 28:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The garments must be worn whenever priests minister in the tabernacle or approach the altar, 'that they bear not iniquity, and die.' Proper clothing isn't optional but essential for survival in God's presence. Nakedness or improper dress results in death—sin cannot stand before holiness. This underscores Christ's righteousness as non-negotiable for approaching God. We must be clothed in Him or perish. The garments are 'a statute for ever'—the need for righteous covering is permanent, fulfilled eternally in Christ (Isaiah 61:10).

Historical Context

This sobering statement established that priestly service required complete obedience to God's clothing commands. Nadab and Abihu's later death (Leviticus 10) demonstrated that approaching God casually or improperly resulted in judgment. The garments protected as much as they beautified.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does this verse's seriousness about proper clothing illustrate the absolute necessity of Christ's righteousness?
2. What does 'a statute for ever' teach about the permanent need for righteous covering before God?

Interlinear Text

בְּבַאֲרֵב	מִן	בְּנֵי	יְעַל	אֶת	עַל	וְיַעֲבֹר
H935	H1121	and	H5921	upon	H1961	they
sons	when	they	and	his	And	come
אַל	בְּנֵי	אֶת	מִזְבֵּחַ	מִזְבֵּחַ	אֶל	בְּגַשְׁתַּת
H413	H5066	or	H176	congregation	H413	when
in	near	unto	when	the	unto	the
the	they	the	they	tabernacle	tabernacle	tabernacle
עַל	וְיַעֲבֹר	בְּנֵי	וְיַעֲבֹר	בְּנֵי	וְיַעֲבֹר	בְּנֵי
H196	H5771	H3808	H5375	H176	H413	H5066
unto	not	in	place	or	in	or
the	iniquity	they	that	when	the	when
וְיַעֲבֹר	בְּנֵי	וְיַעֲבֹר	בְּנֵי	וְיַעֲבֹר	בְּנֵי	וְיַעֲבֹר
H2233	H310	H5771	H413	H5066	H176	H196
unto	after	not	the	when	the	unto
him	iniquity	in	congregation	they	tabernacle	the
and	they	they	tabernacle	tabernacle	tabernacle	tabernacle
die	bear	not	the	the	the	the
וְיַעֲבֹר	בְּנֵי	וְיַעֲבֹר	בְּנֵי	וְיַעֲבֹר	בְּנֵי	וְיַעֲבֹר
H5769	H176	H5769	H176	H5769	H176	H5769
unto	the	unto	the	unto	the	unto
him	seed	him	seed	him	seed	him
and	his	and	his	and	his	and
die	seed	die	seed	die	seed	die

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 27:21 (Temple): In the tabernacle of the congregation without the veil, 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.

Exodus 20:26 (Sacrifice): Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered thereon.

Leviticus 5:17 (Sin): And if a soul sin, and commit any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD; though he wist it not, yet is he guilty, and shall bear his iniquity.

Leviticus 5:1 (Sin): And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity.

Leviticus 22:9 (Sin): They shall therefore keep mine ordinance, lest they bear sin for it, and die therefore, if they profane it: I the LORD do sanctify them.

Leviticus 17:7 (Sacrifice): And they shall no more offer their sacrifices unto devils, after whom they have gone a whoring. This shall be a statute for ever unto them throughout their generations.

Numbers 18:22 (Sin): Neither must the children of Israel henceforth come nigh the tabernacle of the congregation, lest they bear sin, and die.