

Exodus 29:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Aaron and his sons thou shalt bring unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and shalt wash them with water.

Analysis

Aaron and his sons are brought to the tabernacle entrance and 'washed with water.' Water washing symbolizes cleansing, regeneration (Titus 3:5). Before wearing holy garments or touching sacred things, priests must be washed. This prefigures Christian baptism—outward sign of inward cleansing through Christ's blood. The washing precedes clothing, anointing, and sacrifice, establishing that cleansing is foundational. We must be washed before we can serve.

Historical Context

The washing (רָחַץ, *rachatz*) likely involved complete bathing, not mere hand/foot washing. This initial cleansing at consecration differed from daily washings at the bronze laver—one comprehensive cleansing followed by regular maintenance washings.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does regeneration (spiritual washing) precede all other aspects of Christian life?
2. What is the difference between initial cleansing (salvation) and ongoing cleansing (sanctification)?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶת־ H853	אֶהָרִן And Aaron H175	וְאֶת־ H853	בְּנָיו and his sons H1121	תִּקְרָב יְיָ thou shalt bring H7126	אֶל־ H413	פֶּתַח תַּחֲנִיכֵהוּ unto the door H6607
אֶת־הַמִּזְבֵּחַ of the tabernacle H168	מִמּוֹעֵד of the congregation H4150	וְרָחַצְתָּ and shalt wash H7364	אֹתָם H853	בַּמַּיִם: them with water H4325		

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 40:12 (Temple): And thou shalt bring Aaron and his sons unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and wash them with water.

Hebrews 10:22 (Parallel theme): Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.