

Exodus 30:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt also make a laver of brass, and his foot also of brass, to wash withal: and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation and the altar, and thou shalt put water therein.

Analysis

The bronze laver for washing hands and feet represents ongoing sanctification—priests must wash before serving or die. Initial consecration washing (ch 29) cleansed once; laver washing cleanses continually for service. This prefigures the difference between justification (initial cleansing) and sanctification (ongoing cleansing). Christ provides both—His blood justifies once for all; His word sanctifies daily (John 13:10, 15:3, Ephesians 5:26).

Historical Context

The bronze laver stood between the altar and tabernacle entrance, reminding priests that service requires both sacrifice and cleansing. The bronze construction (from women's mirrors, Exodus 38:8) symbolized judgment/self-examination.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Christ provide both initial cleansing (justification) and daily cleansing (sanctification)?
2. What 'hands and feet' (work and walk) need daily washing in your life?

Interlinear Text

לְרֹחֵץ הַנְּחֵשׁ שְׁתִּים וְעַשְׂתִּים יְמִינָה
Thou shalt also make a laver also of brass and his foot also of brass to wash
H6213 H3595 H5178 H3653 H5178 H7364

מָועֵד אֶל בֵּין אֶת זֶה וְזֶה
and thou shalt put it between the tabernacle of the congregation
H5414 H853 H996 H168 H4150

מִים: שְׁמִינִי וְעַד יְמִינָה
and the altar and thou shalt put water
H996 H4196 H5414 H8033 H4325

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 40:7 (Sacrifice): And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water therein.

Exodus 38:8 (Temple): And he made the laver of brass, and the foot of it of brass, of the lookingglasses of the women assembling, which assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

1 Kings 7:38 (Parallel theme): Then made he ten lavers of brass: one laver contained forty baths: and every laver was four cubits: and upon every one of the ten bases one laver.

1 Kings 7:23 (Parallel theme): And he made a molten sea, ten cubits from the one brim to the other: it was round all about, and his height was five cubits: and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about.

2 Chronicles 4:2 (Parallel theme): Also he made a molten sea of ten cubits from brim to brim, round in compass, and five cubits the height thereof; and a line of thirty cubits did compass it round about.

1 John 1:7 (Parallel theme): But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Zechariah 13:1 (Parallel theme): In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

Leviticus 8:11 (Sacrifice): And he sprinkled thereof upon the altar seven times, and anointed the altar and all his vessels, both the laver and his foot, to sanctify them.

2 Chronicles 4:6 (Sacrifice): He made also ten lavers, and put five on the right hand, and five on the left, to wash in them: such things as they offered for the burnt offering they washed in them; but the sea was for the priests to wash in.

Titus 3:5 (Parallel theme): Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;