

Exodus 40:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and put water there, to wash withal.

Analysis

The laver's placement 'between the tent of the congregation and the altar' with water for washing establishes the order: sacrifice (altar), cleansing (laver), service (tent). Moses washed at the laver, modeling that leaders aren't exempt from purification. The water symbolizes the Word cleansing believers (Ephesians 5:26; John 15:3). The laver's intermediate position teaches that justification (altar/sacrifice) enables but doesn't replace sanctification (laver/cleansing). Christ's blood justifies; His Spirit sanctifies (1 Corinthians 6:11; Titus 3:5).

Historical Context

The laver's bronze construction from mirrors donated by serving women (Exodus 38:8) meant priests saw themselves while washing—self-examination accompanied cleansing. The requirement to wash hands and feet before service (v. 31-32) under penalty of death (Exodus 30:20-21) emphasized holiness's necessity for ministry.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the laver's position illustrate that salvation includes both justification and sanctification?
2. What does Moses himself washing teach about leaders' need for personal holiness, not merely positional authority?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּשֶׂם	אֶת	הַכִּיֹּר	בֵּין	אֶל הֵל	מוֹעֵד	וּבֵין
And he set	H853	the laver	H996	between the tent	of the congregation	H996
H7760		H3595		H168	H4150	
וְהָמִזְבֵּחַ	וַיִּתֵּן	שָׁמָּה	מַיִם	לְכַחֲצָהּ:		
and the altar	and put	H8033	water	there to wash		
H4196	H5414		H4325	H7364		

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.