

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

וְיָשַׁב	בֵּין	אֶת	כַּפֵּר	בֵּין	אֶת	בֵּין	מִזְבֵּחַ	וְיָשַׁב
And he set	H853	the laver	H996	between the tent	H168	of the congregation	H996	
H7760		H3595					H4150	
וְעַל	שְׂמָחָה	מִמְּלֵךְ	שְׂמָחָה	וְעַל	מִמְּלֵךְ	לְרַחֲצָה	וְעַל	מִמְּלֵךְ
and the altar	and put	H8033	water	H4325	there to wash	H7364		
H4196		H5414						

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.

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