

Exodus 40:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat:

Analysis

Aaron and his sons washing hands and feet at the laver establishes priestly purity requirements. The hands (service) and feet (walk) symbolize conduct and character—ministry requires holiness in deed and direction. The washing's regularity ('when they went into...when they came near,' v. 32) teaches that cleansing is ongoing, not once-for-all—justification occurs once, sanctification continues. The 8th and final 'as the LORD commanded Moses' in chapter 40 completes the obedience emphasis (eight = new beginning). Believers, as priests (1 Peter 2:9), need continual cleansing (1 John 1:9).

Historical Context

The priestly washing requirement (Exodus 30:19-21) under death penalty emphasized that even consecrated priests needed repeated cleansing. The hands and feet (not the whole body) indicated that justified priests needed sanctification, not re-justification (cf. John 13:10, Jesus washing disciples' feet).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does washing hands (deeds) and feet (walk) teach that holiness encompasses both conduct and character?
2. What does repeated washing (not once-for-all) teach about believers' ongoing need for sanctification?

Interlinear Text

בְּגַלְּיָקָם:

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