

Exodus 40:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When they went into the tent of the congregation, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Analysis

Aaron and sons washing 'when they went into the tent...when they came near' teaches that service requires preparation. The Hebrew בְּאָמֵן (bevo'am, when they enter) and בְּקָרְבָּן (beqorvat am, when they draw near) indicate movement toward sacred space demands cleansing. This prefigures New Testament calls to 'draw near' with cleansed hearts (Hebrews 10:22; James 4:8). The washing's repetition (not one-time) teaches ongoing sanctification. Christ's washing disciples' feet (John 13:4-10) illustrated this—justified saints need daily cleansing from sin's defilement.

Historical Context

The washing's requirement at both entering the tent and approaching the altar meant priests washed multiple times daily during active service. This frequent cleansing emphasized that even consecrated ministers repeatedly contract spiritual defilement requiring renewal—holiness is maintained, not merely attained.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does washing before service teach that ministry requires spiritual preparation, not casual approach?
2. What does Christ washing disciples' feet reveal about His ongoing sanctifying work in justified believers?

Interlinear Text

וְקָרְבָּתָ מִזְבֵּחַ כְּלֵי מִזְבֵּחַ וְקָרְבָּתָ מִזְבֵּחַ
When they went into the tent of the congregation and when they came near
H935 H413 H168 H4150 H7126
אֶל בְּבָא מִזְבֵּחַ כְּאֶשֶׁר יְרַחֲצָו כִּמְצֵבָה כְּאֶשֶׁר צָוָה הָרַב יְהָוָה אֶת
unto the altar they washed commanded as the LORD
H413 H4196 H7364 H834 H6680 H3068 H853
מֹשֶׁה:
Moses
H4872

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