

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 בְּבֹאֵם (bevo'am, when they enter) and בִּקְרֹבָתָם (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

וּבִקְרִבְתָּם	מֹשֶׁה	אֶל הַתֵּל	אֶל	בָּבֹאָם
and when they came near	of the congregation	into the tent	H413	When they went
H7126	H4150	H168		H935
אֶת יְהוָה	צִוָּה	כָּאֵשׁ רַ	יָרְחָם	הִמְזִיבָם
H853	as the LORD	commanded	H834	H4196
H3068	H6680		H7364	unto the altar
			they washed	

מֹשֶׁה:

Moses

H4872