

Exodus 40:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar, and shalt put water therein.

Analysis

The laver 'between the tent and the altar' with water for washing teaches that cleansing follows sacrifice and precedes service. Priests washed hands and feet before entering the tent (v. 31-32), teaching that justified saints need sanctification for fellowship. The laver's position—after altar (justification) but before tent (communion)—illustrates salvation's order. The water symbolizes the Word (Ephesians 5:26) and Spirit cleansing believers. Christ's blood justifies; His Spirit sanctifies (1 Corinthians 6:11).

Historical Context

The laver, made from bronze mirrors donated by serving women (Exodus 38:8), provided water for priestly washing. Without this cleansing, priests entering the tent or serving at the altar would die (Exodus 30:20-21)—emphasizing that holiness, not merely forgiveness, enables service.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the laver's position illustrate that salvation includes both justification and sanctification?
2. What does priestly washing before service teach about believers' need for daily cleansing?

Interlinear Text

וְתַּעֲתִּיכְתָּ	אַתָּה	בְּכִיְתָה	בֵּין	אֵת	בֵּין	מִזְבֵּחַ
And thou shalt set	H853	the laver	H996	between the tent	of the congregation	
H5414		H3595		H168		H4150
וְתַּעֲתִּיכְתָּ	בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	בְּכִיְתָה	וְתַּעֲתִּיכְתָּ	שׁ	מִזְבֵּחַ	
H996	and the altar	And thou shalt set	H5414	H8033	water	H4325
H4196						

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 10:22 (Parallel theme): Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Psalms 26:6 (Sacrifice): I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD:

1 John 1:7 (Parallel theme): But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Zechariah 13:1 (Parallel theme): In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

Titus 3:5 (Parallel theme): Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

