

Ezekiel 36:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Analysis

"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you." This describes spiritual purification, not mere ritual. The "clean water" anticipates Christian baptism, symbolizing regeneration and washing away of sins. God promises cleansing from both external defilement ("filthiness") and internal corruption ("idols"). The Reformed doctrine of definitive sanctification appears—believers are cleansed decisively at conversion, though progressive sanctification continues. The passive voice "ye shall be clean" emphasizes God's action, not human effort. We don't cleanse ourselves; God cleanses us.

Historical Context

The cleansing ritual used water mixed with ashes from a red heifer (Numbers 19), symbolizing purification from defilement. Ezekiel prophesied (587 BC) that God would spiritually accomplish what rituals symbolized. The exile proved ceremonial cleansing insufficient without heart transformation. John the Baptist's baptism prepared for Christ, who baptizes with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11). Christian baptism fulfills this prophecy—not the water itself but what it represents: Spirit-wrought regeneration cleansing from sin and idolatry.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the promise of God's cleansing challenge attempts at self-purification?
2. What is the relationship between ritual baptism and the spiritual reality it symbolizes?

Interlinear Text

Then will I sprinkle	H2236	water	H5921	שְׁחַתָּה יְמִינְךָ מַעַלְיךָ מִזְבְּחָתִיךָ	אַתָּה רְשָׁאָתָה מִזְבְּחָתִיךָ	upon you and ye shall be clean	H2891
H3605	from all your filthiness	H2932	H3605	וּמְכַל מִכְעָדָתְךָ מִמְּלֵאָתְךָ מִמְּלֵאָתְךָ	בְּלֹא וְלֹאַתְּמִימָנָה מִמְּלֵאָתְךָ מִמְּלֵאָתְךָ	and from all your idols	H1544

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.

John 3:5 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Jeremiah 33:8 (Parallel theme): And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.

Isaiah 4:4 (Parallel theme): When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.

Psalms 51:7 (Parallel theme): Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

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.

Hebrews 9:19 (Parallel theme): For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

Psalms 51:2 (Parallel theme): Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Ezekiel 37:23 (Parallel theme): Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

Titus 2:14 (Parallel theme): Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.