

Ezekiel 40:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Four tables were on this side, and four tables on that side, by the side of the gate; eight tables, whereupon they slew their sacrifices.

Analysis

Four tables were on this side, and four tables on that side, by the side of the gate; eight tables, whereupon they slew their sacrifices. The total count of eight tables underscores the comprehensive provision for sacrifice in the restored temple. The verb shachat (שָׁחַט, "slew" or "slaughter") refers to the ritual killing of animals for offerings. The deliberate enumeration—**"four tables...four tables...eight tables"**—emphasizes completeness (eight being the number of new beginnings in biblical numerology).

The phrase **"whereupon they slew their sacrifices"** reminds us that worship under the old covenant required blood. Sin's penalty is death, and every sacrifice pointed forward to the ultimate Lamb of God. These eight tables testify to the severity of sin and the costliness of atonement. For Christians, this foreshadows Calvary, where Christ became both priest and sacrifice. The temple vision's inclusion of sacrificial provisions demonstrates that even millennial worship acknowledges the foundational truth: **"without shedding of blood is no remission"** (Hebrews 9:22).

Historical Context

In Solomon's temple, sacrifices were offered daily, with increased volume during festivals (2 Chronicles 7:5 records 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep at the dedication). The eight tables would have enabled multiple priests to work

simultaneously, handling the logistics of slaughter, skinning, and preparation. For the exiles, who could offer no sacrifices in Babylon, this vision rekindled hope that the entire sacrificial system—central to covenant relationship with God—would resume.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How do these sacrificial tables point you to the sufficiency of Christ's once-for-all sacrifice?
2. What does the abundance of provision for sacrifice teach about God's willingness to provide the means for approaching Him?

Interlinear Text

מִפֵּי הַשְּׁלֶחָן וְעַל אֲרֻבֵּי הַמִּזְבֵּחַ מִפֵּי הַשְּׁלֶחָן וְעַל אֲרֻבֵּי הַמִּזְבֵּחַ

Four

H702

tables

H7979

H6311

Four

H702

tables

H7979

H6311

אֲלֵיהֶם שָׁלַח הַשָּׁמֶן וְעַל אֲרֻבֵּי הַמִּזְבֵּחַ לְכָךְ תִּקַּח

on that side by the side

H3802

of the gate

H8179

eight

H8083

tables

H7979

H413

וְעַל אֲרֻבֵּי הַמִּזְבֵּחַ

whereupon they slew

H7819

