

Ezekiel 43:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto me, Son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD;
These are the ordinances of the altar in the day when they
shall make it, to offer burnt offerings thereon, and to sprinkle
blood thereon.

Analysis

God commands: 'Son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; These are the ordinances of the altar in the day when they shall make it, to offer burnt offerings thereon, and to sprinkle blood thereon.' The altar's ordinances regulate sacrifice, emphasizing that worship follows divine prescription, not human innovation. The Hebrew **חֻקֹּת** (chuqqot, 'ordinances') are divine statutes, unchangeable standards. The burnt offering (**עֹלָה**, olah) signifies complete consecration; blood sprinkling (**זָרַק**, zaraq) effects atonement. 'In the day when they shall make it' indicates these regulations apply from the altar's first use—proper worship starts correctly, not evolves into correctness. Reformed theology emphasizes the regulative principle: worship according to Scripture alone. The altar points to Christ's cross—the one sufficient sacrifice (Hebrews 10:10-14).

Historical Context

The altar was worship's centerpiece—where sacrifice occurred, atonement was made, and God met His people. Solomon's bronze altar was massive: 20 cubits square, 10 cubits high (2 Chronicles 4:1). Detailed regulations governed altar construction (Exodus 27:1-8, 38:1-7) and use (Leviticus 1-7). The 'day when they shall make it' indicates consecration ceremonies (Exodus 29:36-37, Leviticus 8:11). Burnt offerings involved complete consumption of the animal, symbolizing total

devotion. Blood sprinkling effected ritual cleansing and atonement (Leviticus 17:11). Post-exilic altar construction followed these patterns (Ezra 3:2-6). Christ fulfilled all sacrificial typology—His once-for-all offering (Hebrews 9:26-28) makes animal sacrifices obsolete. Yet the principle remains: approach God through prescribed means (Christ alone), not human alternatives.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Do you worship according to Scripture's ordinances or cultural preferences and personal feelings?
2. How seriously do you view Christ's altar (the cross) as the exclusive means of approaching God?
3. What does beginning correctly ('in the day when they shall make it') teach about establishing right worship patterns from the start?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	אֵל י	בֶּן	אָדָם	כֹּה	אָמַר	אֲדֹנָי י	יְהוָה ה
And he said	H413	unto me Son	of man	H3541	And he said	the Lord	GOD
H559		H1121	H120		H559	H136	H3069
אֵל לָה	חֻקּוֹת	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	בֵּי יוֹם	הַעֲשׂוֹת וְ			
H428	These are the ordinances	of the altar	in the day	when they shall make			
	H2708	H4196	H3117	H6213			
לְהַעֲלֹת	עָלָיו	עוֹלֹת ה	וְלִזְרֹק	עַל יוֹ	דָּם:		
it to offer	H5921	burnt offerings	thereon and to sprinkle	H5921	blood		
H5927		H5930	H2236		H1818		

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 40:29 (Sacrifice): And he put the altar of burnt offering by the door of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the meat offering; as the LORD commanded Moses.

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