

# 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

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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 **נִפְרָא** (chuqqot, 'ordinances') are divine statutes, unchangeable standards. The burnt offering (**הַלְּאָה**, olah) signifies complete consecration; blood sprinkling (**זָרָעַ**, 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

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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

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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

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וְאָמַרְתָּ	אֶל	בָּנִי	אָדָם	כִּי	אָמַרְתָּ	אָדָם	ה	אָדָם	אָמַרְתָּ	אָדָם	יְהוָה	אָדָם	יְהוָה	
<b>And he said</b>	H413	<b>unto me Son</b>	H1121	<b>of man</b>	H3541	<b>And he said</b>	H559	<b>the Lord</b>	H136	<b>GOD</b>	H3069			
H559		H120		H3117		H6213								
אַל	לֹא	וְתִּשְׁעַת	מִזְבֵּחַ	בַּיּוֹם	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	
H428		H2708	H4196		H3117									
אַל	לֹא	וְתִּשְׁעַת	מִזְבֵּחַ	בַּיּוֹם	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	
<b>These are the ordinances</b>	H2708	<b>of the altar</b>	H4196	<b>in the day</b>	H3117	<b>when they shall make</b>	H6213							
H5927		H5930		H2236		H1818								
לְבַעַל	לְבַעַל	עַל	הַעֲלֵה	עַל	לְזִיר	לְזִיר	לְזִיר	לְזִיר	לְזִיר	לְזִיר	לְזִיר	לְזִיר	לְזִיר	
<b>it to offer</b>	H5921	<b>burnt offerings</b>	H5930	<b>thereon and to sprinkle</b>	H2236	<b>blood</b>	H1818							

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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