

Ezekiel 43:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt give to the priests the Levites that be of the seed of Zadok, which approach unto me, to minister unto me, saith the Lord GOD, a young bullock for a sin offering.

Analysis

God specifies: 'thou shalt give to the priests the Levites that be of the seed of Zadok, which approach unto me... a young bullock for a sin offering.' This distinguishes Zadokite priests (rewarded for faithfulness) from other Levites. The sin offering (חַטָּאת, chatat) addresses ritual impurity and unintentional sin, requiring blood atonement. Even priests needed cleansing before serving—highlighting universal sinfulness. The young bullock's value (substantial animal) demonstrates that approaching God costs—cheap grace is no grace. The phrase 'which approach unto me' (הַקְרִיבִים אֵלַי, haqqerebim elay) emphasizes privileged access requiring greater holiness. Reformed theology sees this as depicting progressive revelation: Levitical priests approached through animal sacrifice, Christ our High Priest approached through His own blood (Hebrews 9:12), believers approach through Christ's finished work (Hebrews 10:19-22).

Historical Context

Sin offerings addressed unintentional violations and ritual impurity (Leviticus 4-5). Different offerings applied to different persons: bull for high priest or whole congregation (Leviticus 4:3, 14), male goat for ruler (Leviticus 4:23), female goat or lamb for common person (Leviticus 4:28, 32). The Zadokite distinction rewards their faithfulness during Israel's apostasy (Ezekiel 44:15-16). Priestly consecration required sin offerings (Exodus 29:10-14, Leviticus 8:14-17), teaching that ministry requires atonement before service. The bullock's size and cost prevented casual

approach—meeting God demands serious preparation. Christ's sacrifice surpassed all Levitical offerings in value (precious blood of Christ, 1 Peter 1:19) and efficacy (eternal redemption, Hebrews 9:12). His once-for-all offering eliminates need for repeated sacrifices.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Do you approach God casually or with serious awareness of sin's costliness requiring atonement?
2. How does priestly need for sin offerings humble assumptions about personal righteousness?
3. What does the valuable sacrifice (young bullock) teach about the preciousness of Christ's blood securing your access to God?

Interlinear Text

וְנָתַתָּה	אֶל	הַכֹּהֲנִים	הַלְוִיִּם	אֲשֶׁר	הֵם
And thou shalt give	H413	to the priests	the Levites	H834	H1992
H5414		H3548	H3881		
מִן־בֶּעַר	צֶדֶק וְזָדוֹק	הַקֵּרֵב יִמּוֹ	אֵלַי	נֹאמַר	אֲדֹנָי
that be of the seed	of Zadok	which approach	H413	unto me saith	the Lord
H2233	H6659	H7138		H5002	H136
יְהוָה	לְשָׂרְתִי נִי	פָּר	בֶּן	בָּקָר	לְחֻטָּאתִי
H3068	unto me to minister	bullock	a young	H1241	for a sin offering
	H8334	H6499	H1121		H2403

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 40:46 (Sacrifice): And the chamber whose prospect is toward the north is for the priests, the keepers of the charge of the altar: these are the sons of Zadok among the sons of Levi, which come near to the LORD to minister unto him.

Ezekiel 44:15 (References God): But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord GOD:

Numbers 16:40 (References Lord): To be a memorial unto the children of Israel, that no stranger, which is not of the seed of Aaron, come near to offer incense before the LORD; that he be not as Korah, and as his company: as the LORD said to him by the hand of Moses.

Hebrews 7:27 (Sin): Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

1 Kings 2:35 (Parallel theme): And the king put Benaiah the son of Jehoiada in his room over the host: and Zadok the priest did the king put in the room of Abiathar.

Numbers 16:5 (References Lord): And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.