

Ezekiel 43:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt take the bullock also of the sin offering, and he shall burn it in the appointed place of the house, without the sanctuary.

Analysis

The disposal instruction—"Thou shalt also take the bullock of the sin offering, and he shall burn it in the appointed place of the house, without the sanctuary"—maintains sanctity through proper waste handling. The Hebrew מִפְּקָדָה (mipqad, 'appointed place') indicates designated location for burning sin offering remains outside the sanctuary. This disposal teaches that sin's corruption must be removed far from God's presence. The burning represents complete destruction, not merely relocation. Reformed theology sees this fulfilled in Christ who 'suffered without the gate' (Hebrews 13:11-12), bearing sin's shame outside Jerusalem's walls. The sin offering's disposal outside camp/sanctuary prefigured Christ's crucifixion at Golgotha, bearing our sins away from God's holy presence.

Historical Context

Levitical law required sin offering disposal: 'the whole bullock shall he carry forth without the camp unto a clean place, where the ashes are poured out, and burn him on the wood with fire' (Leviticus 4:12, 21). This prevented defilement from remaining in holy areas. The sin offering paradoxically became 'most holy' (Leviticus 6:25) yet required disposal outside camp—it bore sin's impurity. Archaeological evidence suggests ancient Israelite sites had designated disposal areas for sacrificial remains. Christ's crucifixion 'without the gate' fulfilled this typology—bearing sin outside the camp (city). Hebrews calls believers to 'go

forth... unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach' (Hebrews 13:13), identifying with Christ's shame and separation.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Are you willing to go 'without the camp' bearing Christ's reproach, or do you cling to respectability?
2. How does sin's disposal outside sanctuary challenge attempts to manage sin while remaining in God's presence?
3. What does proper waste disposal teach about spiritual cleanliness—removing corruption completely, not hiding it?

Interlinear Text

וְשַׁרְפֵּוּ	בְּחִטָּה אֲתָה	הַפָּר רָאשׁ אֶת	וְלֹא תִּקְרַב	תָּשִׁיב
and he shall burn	also of the sin offering	the bullock	also of the sin offering	Thou shalt take
H8313	H2403	H6499	H853	H3947
לִמְלֹדֶשׁ:	מִן־זֶה	בְּבֵית	בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	תָּשִׁיב
the sanctuary	without	of the house	in the appointed place	it in the appointed place
H4720	H2351	H1004	H4662	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 29:14 (Sin): But the flesh of the bullock, and his skin, and his dung, shalt thou burn with fire without the camp: it is a sin offering.

Leviticus 4:12 (Parallel theme): Even the whole bullock shall he carry forth without the camp unto a clean place, where the ashes are poured out, and burn him on the wood with fire: where the ashes are poured out shall he be burnt.

