

Ezekiel 43:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And on the second day thou shalt offer a kid of the goats without blemish for a sin offering; and they shall cleanse the altar, as they did cleanse it with the bullock.

Analysis

And on the second day thou shalt offer a kid of the goats without blemish for a sin offering—After altar consecration begins (v. 18-21), day two requires שְׂעִיר־עַזִּים תָּמִים (sé'îr-'izzîm tâmîm, 'a male goat without blemish') for הַטָּהָרָה (haṭṭârâh, 'sin offering').

And they shall cleanse the altar, as they did cleanse it with the bullock—The purification (חִטָּה, hîṭṭâh, 'cleanse/purge') process continues. Seven days of offerings (vv. 25-26) sanctified the millennial temple's altar. This extended consecration exceeds Mosaic law (Exodus 29:36-37—also seven days, but different details), suggesting heightened holiness in Messiah's kingdom. Even in a sinless age, altar purification remains—perhaps memorial or pedagogical, reminding redeemed humanity of sin's costliness and atonement's necessity.

Historical Context

Altar consecration was central to tabernacle (Exodus 29) and Solomonic temple (2 Chronicles 7). Ezekiel's vision, given during exile (573 BC), assured exiles that worship would resume. The elaborate seven-day consecration with multiple offerings demonstrated that God's presence among His people required thorough sanctification—a principle fulfilled ultimately in Christ's once-for-all sacrifice (Hebrews 10:10-14).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why does altar consecration require seven days of offerings?
2. How do Old Testament altar purifications point to Christ's perfect sacrifice?
3. Will millennial temple include actual sacrifices, or are these symbolic?

Interlinear Text

וַיְהִי	בַּיּוֹם	יְהוָה	שְׁנַיִם	שְׁעִיר	עַזְיָם	תָּמִים
day	And on the second	thou shalt offer	a kid	of the goats	without blemish	
H3117	H8145	H7126	H8163	H5795		H8549
לְמַטֵּת	אֵת	חַטָּאת	אֶת	בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	כָּאֵשׁ	ר
for a sin offering	and they shall cleanse		H853	the altar		H834
H2403		H2398		H4196		
חַטָּאת	1	בְּפִרְבָּן				
and they shall cleanse	it with the bullock					
H2398		H6499				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 43:20 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt take of the blood thereof, and put it on the four horns of it, and on the four corners of the settle, and upon the border round about: thus shalt thou cleanse and purge it.

