

Ezekiel 43:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Seven days shall they purge the altar and purify it; and they shall consecrate themselves.

Analysis

Seven days shall they purge the altar and purify it; and they shall consecrate themselves—After seven days, the altar is fully purged (יִכַּפְּרוּ, yěkhappěrû, 'they shall atone for/purge') and purified (וְטִהַרְוּ, wěṭihărû, 'and they shall purify/cleanse'). **And they shall consecrate themselves**—וּמִלֵּא יָדָיו (ûmil'û yādāyw, 'and fill his hands')—idiom for priestly consecration (Exodus 28:41, 29:9).

The verse concludes altar consecration, transitioning to regular worship (v. 27). The completion of purification enables ongoing sacrifices. Similarly, Christ's finished work ('It is finished'—John 19:30) consecrated believers as royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9), enabling continual worship. Ezekiel's vision demonstrates that worship requires thorough preparation, pointing to Christ's comprehensive atonement that makes perpetual access to God possible.

Historical Context

Altar/priestly consecration was essential before worship could begin—seen in tabernacle (Exodus 29), Solomonic temple (1 Kings 8), and post-exilic restoration (Ezra 3:2-3). Ezekiel's vision (573 BC), given to exiles whose temple was destroyed, promised worship would resume. This was partially fulfilled in 516 BC (second temple) and awaits ultimate fulfillment in Messiah's kingdom, whether millennial temple or new creation.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does 'filling hands' (consecration) teach about priesthood requirements?
2. How does altar purification enabling worship parallel Christ's atonement enabling prayer?
3. What is the relationship between Old Testament consecration and New Testament 'sanctification'?

Interlinear Text

שִׁבְעַת	יָמֵי	יִכְפְּרוּ	אֶת	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	וְ	יִטְהַר	וְ	אֶת
Seven	days	shall they purge	H853	the altar		and purify	H853	
H7651	H3117	H3722		H4196		H2891		
	וְ	מִלְּא	וְ	יָדוּ				
	it and they shall consecrate themselves	H3027						
	H4390							

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