

# Ezekiel 44:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in controversy they shall stand in judgment; and they shall judge it according to my judgments: and they shall keep my laws and my statutes in all mine assemblies; and they shall hallow my sabbaths.

## Analysis

**And in controversy they shall stand in judgment**—Levitical priests' judicial role: בְּרִיב (bērîb, 'in dispute/controversy'), הִעְמָדָה לְשִׁפְט (hēmmâh ya'amdû lēshāphōt, 'they shall stand to judge'). Priests decided legal cases according to תֹּרְהָה (tôrâh, 'law/instruction').

**And they shall judge it according to my judgments**—בְּמִשְׁפָּטִי יְשִׁפְטָהוּ (bēmishpāṭay yishpēṭuhû, 'according to my judgments they shall judge it'). Not human wisdom but divine law governs. **And they shall keep my laws and my statutes in all mine assemblies; and they shall hallow my sabbaths**—Priests model Torah obedience: תּוֹרָתִי (tôrōtay, 'my laws'), חֻקָּתִי (huqqôtay, 'my statutes'), מָעֵדִי (mô'āday, 'my appointed times'), שַׁבְּתוֹתִי (shabbētôtay, 'my sabbaths'). Their comprehensive obedience demonstrates covenant faithfulness, pointing to Christ who perfectly fulfilled the law (Matthew 5:17) and now mediates new covenant (Hebrews 8:6).

## Historical Context

Levitical priests served as judges (Deuteronomy 17:8-9, 21:5, 2 Chronicles 19:8-11). Their judicial authority, combined with teaching and ritual roles, made them central to Israelite society. After exile (586-538 BC), Ezekiel's vision (573 BC)

promised restored priesthood. While second temple period saw this partially fulfilled, ultimate fulfillment awaits Messiah's kingdom where Christ, our High Priest, judges perfectly.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does priestly judicial authority demonstrate the unity of law and worship?
2. What does judging 'according to my judgments' teach about objective moral standards?
3. How is Christ's priestly role as judge (John 5:22) foreshadowed in Ezekiel?

## Interlinear Text

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וְעַל רִבְעָה הַפָּה יַעֲמֹד וְיַשְׁפֹּט הַוְּנָדָע  
H5921 And in controversy H1992 they shall stand H5975 and they shall judge H8199

בְּמִשְׁפָּט וְיַשְׁפֹּט הַוְּנָדָע אֶת תּוֹרַת יְהוָה  
it according to my judgments and they shall judge H853 my laws H8451

וְעַל מִקְרָנִי בְּכָל מִזְבֵּחַ וְיַשְׁמֹר רְאֵת אֶת  
and my statutes H3605 in all mine assemblies H4150 and they shall keep H8104

שְׁבָתוֹת וְיִקְדְּשָׁו  
my sabbaths and they shall hallow H7676 H6942

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Chronicles 23:4** (Judgment): Of which, twenty and four thousand were to set forward the work of the house of the LORD; and six thousand were officers and judges:

**Ezekiel 22:26** (Word): Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.