

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 (bĕrîb, 'in dispute/controversy'), הֵמָּה יַעֲמִדוּ לְשֹׁפֵט (hēmmāh ya‘amdû lĕshāphōt, 'they shall stand to judge'). Priests decided legal cases according to תוֹרָה (tôrāh, 'law/instruction').

And they shall judge it according to my judgments—בְּמִשְׁפָּטַי יִשְׁפְּטוּהוּ (bĕmishpāṭay yishpĕtuhû, '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'), חֻקֹּתַי (ḥuqqōtay, 'my statutes'), מוֹעֲדַי (mô‘ăday, 'my appointed times'), שַׁבְּתוֹתַי (shabbĕtōtay, '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

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

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

וְעַל H5921	בְּיָב H7379	וְהָמָּה H1992	יַעֲמִדוּ H5975	וְשֹׁפְטֵי הוּא H8199
And in controversy		they shall stand	and they shall judge	
בְּמִשְׁפָּטֵי י H4941	וְשֹׁפְטֵי הוּא H8199	וְאֵת תּוֹרַתִּי H853	וְאֵת H853	
it according to my judgments	and they shall judge	my laws		
וְחֻקֵּי H2708	בְּכָל H3605	מוֹעֲדֵי י H4150	וְשָׁמְרוּ H8104	וְאֵת H853
and my statutes	in all mine assemblies	and they shall keep		
שַׁבָּתוֹתֵי י H7676	וְקִדְּשׁוּ: H6942			
my sabbaths	and they shall hallow			

Additional Cross-References

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.