

Ezekiel 44:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And after he is cleansed, they shall reckon unto him seven days.

Analysis

And after he is cleansed, they shall reckon unto him seven days—After defilement, וְאַחֲרֵי טְהוֹרָתוֹ (wě'ahăřê tohōrātô, 'and after his cleansing'), שְׁבַע יָמִים (shiv'at yāmîm yispērû-lô, 'seven days they shall count for him'). The seven-day purification after corpse contact (Numbers 19:11-12) ensures complete cleansing before resuming priestly service.

This waiting period demonstrates that defilement, even permitted for family, requires thorough purification. Holiness is not negotiable; restoration is possible but requires process. The seven-day pattern (completeness) shows that partial cleansing insufficient—perfection required. Christ's purification of believers is instantaneous (positionally) but progressive (experientially)—justified immediately (Romans 5:1), sanctified continually (Philippians 2:12-13), glorified ultimately (Romans 8:30).

Historical Context

Corpse contamination purification required red heifer ashes mixed with water (Numbers 19), applied on third and seventh days. Without this ritual, the unclean person was 'cut off' from Israel (Numbers 19:13, 20). Ezekiel's vision maintains these requirements, showing that even in Messiah's kingdom, holiness is paramount. Christ Himself underwent John's baptism (though sinless) to 'fulfill all righteousness' (Matthew 3:15), respecting purification principles.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does the seven-day purification period teach about holiness requiring completeness?
2. How do ritual purification laws foreshadow Christ's cleansing from sin?
3. What is the relationship between positional sanctification (instant) and progressive sanctification (process)?

Interlinear Text

וְאַחֲרַי	טִהַרְתָּ	שִׁבְעַת	יָמִים	יִסְפְּרוּ	לֹ:
And after	he is cleansed	unto him seven	days	they shall reckon	H0
H310	H2893	H7651	H3117	H5608	

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