

Ezekiel 44:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They shall eat the meat offering, and the sin offering, and the trespass offering; and every dedicated thing in Israel shall be their's.

Analysis

They shall eat the meat offering, and the sin offering, and the trespass offering—Priestly provision: מִנְחָה (minḥāh, 'grain offering'), חַטָּאת (ḥaṭṭā't, 'sin offering'), אֲשָׁם ('āshām, 'guilt/trespass offering'). Portions of offerings became priests' food (Leviticus 6:14-7:36), so worship sustained those who served.

And every dedicated thing in Israel shall be theirs—כָּל־הֶרֶם (kol-ḥērem, 'every devoted thing'). Items dedicated to God (Leviticus 27:21, 28) belonged to priests. This provision system made priests dependent on the people's faithfulness: if Israel worshiped, priests ate; if apostasy reigned, priests starved. This mutual dependence fostered covenant community. New Testament parallel: ministers supported by congregations (1 Corinthians 9:13-14, Galatians 6:6, 1 Timothy 5:17-18). Those who serve the altar share the altar.

Historical Context

Priestly portions (Leviticus 6-7) included grain offerings, sin/guilt offerings (except fat and entrails), firstfruits (Exodus 23:19), and devoted items. This system ensured priests focused on ministry without agricultural labor. When Israel apostatized, priests suffered (Malachi 3:8-10). Ezekiel's vision restores proper worship economics, demonstrating that supporting ministers is worship obligation, not optional generosity.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does priestly dependence on offerings teach about the relationship between worship and provision?
2. How does the principle 'those who serve the altar share the altar' apply to modern ministry support?
3. What happens to spiritual leadership when congregations neglect their material support?

Interlinear Text

הַמִּנְחָה	וְהַחֹטֵאֵת	וְהַזָּאֵשׁ	הַמֶּה
the meat offering	and the sin offering	and the trespass offering	
H4503	H2403	H817	H1992
וְיֹאכְלוּ	וְכָל	הַכֹּהֲנִים	בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל
They shall eat	and every dedicated thing	in Israel	
H398	H3605	H2764	H3478
			לַיהוָה
			H0
			H1961

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 18:14 (References Israel): Every thing devoted in Israel shall be thine.

Leviticus 27:21 (Parallel theme): But the field, when it goeth out in the jubile, shall be holy unto the LORD, as a field devoted; the possession thereof shall be the priest's.

Leviticus 27:28 (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding no devoted thing, that a man shall devote unto the LORD of all that he hath, both of man and beast, and of the field of his possession, shall be sold or redeemed: every devoted thing is most holy unto the LORD.

Leviticus 6:29 (Parallel theme): All the males among the priests shall eat thereof: it is most holy.

Leviticus 6:26 (Sin): The priest that offereth it for sin shall eat it: in the holy place shall it be eaten, in the court of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Leviticus 7:6 (Parallel theme): Every male among the priests shall eat thereof: it shall be eaten in the holy place: it is most holy.

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