

Ezekiel 44:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the first of all the firstfruits of all things, and every oblation of all, of every sort of your oblations, shall be the priest's: ye shall also give unto the priest the first of your dough, that he may cause the blessing to rest in thine house.

Analysis

And the first of all the firstfruits of all things, and every oblation of all, of every sort of your oblations, shall be the priest's—Firstfruits: ראשית כל־בכורי כל (rē'shît kol-bikkûrê khol, 'first of all firstfruits of all') belong to כֹהֵן (kōhēn, 'priest'). The repetition of 'all' (כל, kol—used 5 times) emphasizes totality.

Firstfruits acknowledged God's ownership of all harvests (Exodus 23:19, 34:26, Deuteronomy 26:1-11). Giving first and best demonstrated faith that God would provide the rest. Priests receiving firstfruits reinforced that God's ministers receive priority. **Ye shall also give unto the priest the first of your dough, that he may cause the blessing to rest in thine house**—עֲרִיסֹתֵיכֶם (ārîsôtêkhēm, 'your dough') given to priests brings בְּרָכָה (bērākḥāh, 'blessing') to homes. Generosity to God's servants invites God's blessing—a principle Jesus affirmed (Luke 6:38).

Historical Context

Firstfruits offerings (Leviticus 23:9-14, Deuteronomy 26:1-11) began harvest seasons, dedicating the increase to God before personal use. Archaeological evidence shows ancient Israel practiced firstfruits religiously. When post-exilic Israel neglected these offerings, God rebuked them through Malachi (3:8-10).

Ezekiel's vision restores firstfruits priority, demonstrating that honoring God first ensures His blessing. Jesus, 'firstfruits of resurrection' (1 Corinthians 15:20, 23), guarantees believers' resurrection.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does giving 'first' (not leftovers) teach about priorities and faith?
2. How does firstfruits generosity 'cause blessing to rest' in homes?
3. How is Christ as 'firstfruits of resurrection' (1 Corinthians 15:20) related to firstfruits offerings?

Interlinear Text

וְרֵאשִׁית יִתְּן כָּל בֶּכֹר וְרֵי וְכָל כֹּל ל
And the first H7225 H3605 **of all the firstfruits** H1061 H3605 H3605

תְּרוֹמַת וְתִיבָה מִכָּל כֹּל ל תְּרוֹמַת וְתִיבָה מִכָּל
of all of every sort of your oblations H8641 H3605 H3605 **of all of every sort of your oblations** H8641

וְתָתַן וְרֵאשִׁית יִתְּן וְיֵהָיָה לְכֹהֵן עֲרֶסְוֹתֵיכֶם
shall be the priest's H3548 H1961 **And the first** H7225 **of your dough** H6182 **ye shall also give** H5414

בֵּיתְךָ אֵל לְהִנָּח יָמָיו לְכֹהֵן
shall be the priest's H3548 **to rest** H5117 **that he may cause the blessing** H1293 H413 **in thine house** H1004

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 18:4 (Parallel theme): The firstfruit also of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him.

2 Chronicles 31:10 (Sin): And Azariah the chief priest of the house of Zadok answered him, and said, Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat, and have left plenty: for the LORD hath blessed his people; and that which is left is this great store.

Exodus 13:2 (Parallel theme): Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine.

Exodus 23:19 (Parallel theme): The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

Exodus 22:29 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me.

Exodus 13:12 (Parallel theme): That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD'S.

James 1:18 (Parallel theme): Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Numbers 3:13 (Parallel theme): Because all the firstborn are mine; for on the day that I smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hallowed unto me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast: mine shall they be: I am the LORD.