

Ezekiel 45:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All the people of the land shall give this oblation for the prince in Israel.

Analysis

All the people of the land shall give this oblation for the prince in Israel—

The Hebrew *kol-am ha'aretz* (כל-עם הארץ, "all the people of the land") emphasizes universal participation in supporting the prince's liturgical function. Unlike ancient Near Eastern systems where kings taxed subjects for personal enrichment, here the people voluntarily contribute (יִהְיֶה, *yihyu*, "shall be/give") to enable their representative to offer on their behalf.

The prince (נֶשֶׁר, *nasi*, literally "one lifted up") mediates between people and priesthood—he's not a priest himself but provides the sacrifices priests offer. This arrangement prevents both royal usurpation of priestly duties (Uzziah's error, 2 Chronicles 26:16-21) and priestly poverty. The people's gifts to the prince create a chain of worship: people → prince → priests → God. This foreshadows Christ as our ultimate mediator (1 Timothy 2:5) who both represents us before God and provides the sacrifice (Himself) that reconciles us.

Historical Context

Israel's monarchy often treated subjects as resources to exploit (1 Kings 12:1-15). By making the prince dependent on the people's voluntary contribution, Ezekiel's vision restructures power—the ruler serves the people's worship rather than the people serving the ruler's ambition. This revolutionary model influenced later Jewish understanding of righteous governance.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the people provisioning the prince's offerings invert typical power structures?
2. In what ways does Christ as our Prince and Mediator fulfill this vision of representative worship?

Interlinear Text

בָּזָאת בְּתִרְוָתָה כְּלָמָד בְּעַמְּךָ אֶל יְהִי רָצֶן כִּי שְׁבָרָאֵל לְבָשָׂר יְהִי כִּי שְׁבָרָאֵל
H3605 All the people H1961 shall give this oblation H2063
H5971 H776 H413 H8641
for the prince in Israel H5387 H3478

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 16:1 (Parallel theme): Send ye the lamb to the ruler of the land from Sela to the wilderness, unto the mount of the daughter of Zion.

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