

Ezekiel 45:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it shall be the prince's part to give burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, and in the new moons, and in the sabbaths, in all solemnities of the house of Israel: he shall prepare the sin offering, and the meat offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to make reconciliation for the house of Israel.

Analysis

The prince's responsibility—"to give burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, and in the new moons, and in the sabbaths... to make reconciliation for the house of Israel"—indicates royal funding of public worship. The Hebrew קָפֵר (kipper, 'make reconciliation') means atonement, covering sin. While priests offered sacrifices, the prince provided them—demonstrating leadership's role in facilitating worship, not usurping priestly functions. This balance maintains priesthood's mediatorial role while requiring royal support. Reformed theology sees civil magistrate's duty to honor God publicly (though not coerce conscience or usurp church authority). The prince bearing worship costs models servant leadership—using resources for God's glory and people's spiritual welfare. Ultimately, Christ our Prince offered Himself as sacrifice (Hebrews 9:14), making eternal reconciliation.

Historical Context

David organized temple worship (1 Chronicles 23-26) and provided resources (1 Chronicles 29:2-5). Solomon built the temple with royal resources (1 Kings 6-7). Hezekiah restored worship, providing animals for sacrifices (2 Chronicles

29:20-24, 31:3). Josiah funded Passover celebration (2 Chronicles 35:7-9). Conversely, wicked kings like Manasseh and Ahaz corrupted worship (2 Kings 16:10-18, 21:1-9). The feasts (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles), new moons (monthly celebrations), and Sabbaths (weekly rest) structured Israel's worship calendar (Leviticus 23). The prince provisioning these maintains public worship without royal usurpation of priestly duties. This distinction prevented the priest-king confusion that corrupted pagan systems. New Testament emphasizes Christ fulfilling all sacrifices (Hebrews 10:1-18), yet believers support gospel ministry financially (1 Corinthians 9:13-14, Galatians 6:6).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How generously do you provide resources for public worship and gospel ministry versus consuming everything on personal preferences?
2. What does the prince's responsibility for worship costs teach about Christian stewardship as royal priesthood?
3. How do you maintain proper boundaries between supporting ministry and usurping pastoral/ecclesiastical authority?

Interlinear Text

וְעַל

H5921

And it shall be the prince's part

H5387

הַבָּשָׂר יְאָ

וְעַל הַ

H1961

קָרְבָּן

and the burnt offering

H5930

וְמִנְחָת הַ

and meat offerings

H4503

וְבָרְכָה

and drink offerings

H5262

בְּחַגִּים

in the feasts

H2282

וּבְחַדְשִׁים

and in the new moons

H2320

וּבְשַׁבָּת וְתִ

and in the sabbaths

H7676

בְּכָל

H3605

מָועֵד וְ

H4150

בֵּית

H1004

וְשַׁבָּאֵל:

H1931

יְעַשׂ הַ

he shall prepare

H6213

אֶת

H853

פְּנֵי אֶת

H2403

פְּנֵי הַ

and meat offerings

H853

אֶת

קָרְבָּן

and the burnt offering

H5930

וְאֶת

H853

בְּשִׁלְמָה

H8002

לְכַפֵּר

and the peace offerings

H3722

בְּעֵד

H1157

וְשַׁבָּאֵל:

for the house

H1004

בֵּית

of Israel

H3478

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 66:23 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

2 Chronicles 31:3 (Sacrifice): He appointed also the king's portion of his substance for the burnt offerings, to wit, for the morning and evening burnt offerings, and the burnt offerings for the sabbaths, and for the new moons, and for the set feasts, as it is written in the law of the LORD.

Hebrews 13:10 (Sacrifice): We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle.

Ezekiel 43:27 (Sacrifice): And when these days are expired, it shall be, that upon the eighth day, and so forward, the priests shall make your burnt offerings upon the altar, and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, saith the Lord GOD.

2 Chronicles 30:24 (Parallel theme): For Hezekiah king of Judah did give to the congregation a thousand bullocks and seven thousand sheep; and the princes gave to the congregation a thousand bullocks and ten thousand sheep: and a great number of priests sanctified themselves.

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