

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 כִּפֹּר (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	הַנָּשׁ יֵא	יְהִי ה	הַעֹלָה	
H5921	And it shall be the prince's part	H1961	and the burnt offering	
	H5387		H5930	
וּבְחֻדָּשִׁים	בַּחֲגֵי יָם	וְהִנְסֹךְ	הַמִּנְחָה	
and in the new moons	in the feasts	and drink offerings	and meat offerings	
H2320	H2282	H5262	H4503	
הוא יִשְׂרָאֵל:	בֵּית	מוֹעֵד י	בְּכָל	וּבַשַּׁבָּת וְ
H1931	for the house	in all solemnities	H3605	and in the sabbaths
	H1004	H4150		H7676
וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה
he shall prepare	the sin offering	and meat offerings		
H6213	H2403	H4503		
וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה
and the burnt offering	and the peace offerings	to make reconciliation		
H5930	H8002	H3722		
וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה	וְעַתָּה
for the house	of Israel			
H1004	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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