

Ezekiel 45:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the first month, in the first day of the month, thou shalt take a young bullock without blemish, and cleanse the sanctuary:

Analysis

Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the first month, in the first day of the month, thou shalt take a young bullock without blemish, and cleanse the sanctuary—Annual sanctuary cleansing: בָּרִאשׁוֹן בְּאַחֲד לְחַנּוּשׁ (bārîshôn bē'ehād lahōdesh, 'in the first [month], on the first of the month')—Nisan 1, beginning the religious year (Exodus 12:2).

פָּר בֶּן-בָּqār tāmîm, 'a bull, son of cattle, without blemish') purges הַמִּקְדָּשׁ (hammiqdāsh, 'the sanctuary'). This differs from Mosaic law's Yom Kippur cleansing (seventh month, Leviticus 16). Ezekiel's vision adds a new year purification, demonstrating heightened holiness standards in millennial temple. Beginning the year with cleansing emphasizes that approach to God requires continual purification—a principle fulfilled in Christ's ongoing intercession (Hebrews 7:25) and believers' continual confession (1 John 1:9).

Historical Context

Mosaic calendar began with Nisan (Exodus 12:2), though civil year began with Tishri. Major festivals (Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits) occurred in Nisan. Ezekiel adds an annual sanctuary cleansing on Nisan 1, not found in Levitical law. This innovation demonstrates that millennial worship, while rooted in Mosaic patterns, includes new elements—anticipating new covenant's 'newness' while honoring old covenant's foundations.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. Why does Ezekiel add a cleansing not in Mosaic law?
2. What does beginning the year with sanctuary purification teach about priorities?
3. How does continual Old Testament cleansing point to Christ's perpetual intercession?

Interlinear Text

כִּי אָמַר אֱלֹהִים בְּרָא שָׁמָן בְּאָמֵן דָּבָר
H3541 Thus saith the Lord H3068 In the first month in the first
H559 H136 H7223 H259

לְחֵגֶשׁ תָּקַרְבָּנָה בָּרָבֵן בָּנֵן בְּקָרְבָּנָה תָּמִימָן
day of the month thou shalt take bullock a young H1241 without blemish
H2320 H3947 H6499 H1121 H1241 H8549

וְחַטְאָתֶךָ תִּמְלִיכֶנָּה
and cleanse H853 the sanctuary
H2398 H4720

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 16:16 (Temple): And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.

Hebrews 9:14 (References God): How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Exodus 12:2 (Parallel theme): This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

Ezekiel 43:22 (Parallel theme): And on the second day thou shalt offer a kid of the goats without blemish for a sin offering; and they shall cleanse the altar, as they did cleanse it with the bullock.

Leviticus 22:20 (Parallel theme): But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you.

Leviticus 16:33 (Temple): And he shall make an atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make an atonement for the tabernacle of the congregation, and for the altar, and he shall make an atonement for the priests, and for all the people of the congregation.

Ezekiel 43:26 (Parallel theme): Seven days shall they purge the altar and purify it; and they shall consecrate themselves.