

Ezekiel 45:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And so thou shalt do the seventh day of the month for every one that erreth, and for him that is simple: so shall ye reconcile the house.

Analysis

And so thou shalt do the seventh day of the month for every one that erreth, and for him that is simple—The cleansing repeats בְּשְׁבָעָה בְּחַזְקָשׁ (bashiv‘āh bahōdesh, 'on the seventh of the month') for שָׁגֵה (shōgeh, 'one who errs/sins unintentionally') and פֶּתִּי (petī, 'simple/naive one').

This addresses unintentional sin and ignorance-based sin. Even inadvertent violations require atonement (Leviticus 4:2, 22, 27, 5:15). **So shall ye reconcile the house**—וְקִיפָּתָם אֶת-הַבָּיִת (wēkhippartem 'et-habbāyit, 'and you shall make atonement for the house'). Corporate purification covers individual failings. This demonstrates that sin—even unintentional—defiles and requires cleansing. Christ's atonement covers even unknown sins (Hebrews 9:7), providing comprehensive cleansing beyond individual awareness.

Historical Context

Unintentional sin offerings (Leviticus 4-5) recognized that ignorance doesn't eliminate guilt. Archaeological evidence shows ancient Israel took ritual purity seriously, with mikveh (ritual baths) throughout settlements. Ezekiel's vision maintains this principle: even in Messiah's kingdom, human frailty requires atonement. This underscores humanity's ongoing need for grace, fulfilled in Christ who intercedes for sins we don't even recognize (Romans 8:26-27).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Why do unintentional sins require atonement if there's no deliberate rebellion?
2. What does atonement for 'the simple' (naive) teach about responsibility and knowledge?
3. How does Christ's intercession cover sins we're unaware of?

Interlinear Text

וְעַד	מְעַשָּׂה	בְּשִׁבְעַת	הַ	בְּחֹדֶשׁ	מִאָשֶׁר	שְׁגַגְתָּה
H3651	And so thou shalt do	H7651	the seventh	H2320	day of the month	H376
	H6213					H7686
וּמְפַתֵּח	וְכִפְרַתָּה	אֶת	הַבָּיִת			
and for him that is simple	so shall ye reconcile	H853	the house			
H6612	H3722		H1004			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 19:12 (Parallel theme): Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

Ezekiel 45:15 (Parallel theme): And one lamb out of the flock, out of two hundred, out of the fat pastures of Israel; for a meat offering, and for a burnt offering, and for peace offerings, to make reconciliation for them, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 45:18 (Parallel theme): 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:

Leviticus 16:20 (Parallel theme): And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat:

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