

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 בַּשְּׁבִיעָה בַּחֹדֶשׁ (bashiv'āh bahōdesh, 'on the seventh of the month') for שֹׁגֵה (shōgeh, 'one who errs/sins unintentionally') and פֶּתִי (petî, '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**—וְכִפַּרְתֶּם אֶת־הַבַּיִת (wěkhippartem '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

וְכִי	תַעֲשֶׂה	בַּשְּׁבַע	בַּח דָּשׁ	מֵא יֵשׁ	שָׁנָה
H3651	And so thou shalt do	the seventh	day of the month	for every one	that erreth
	H6213	H7651	H2320	H376	H7686
וּמִפִּי תִי	וְכִפֹּרֶתָ	אֶת	הַבַּיִת:		
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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