

Ezekiel 45:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And upon that day shall the prince prepare for himself and for all the people of the land a bullock for a sin offering.

Analysis

And upon that day shall the prince prepare for himself and for all the people of the land a bullock for a sin offering—The נֶשֶׁךְ (nāšî', 'prince') offers for himself and all the people of the land a בָּשָׂר חַטֹּאת (kol-'am hā'ārēš, 'all the people of the land') a בָּשָׂר חַטֹּאת (par haṭṭāt, 'bull for sin offering').

The prince's role differs from Mosaic high priest but includes representative sacrifice. His offering covers himself and the nation, demonstrating corporate responsibility. This foreshadows Christ, the ultimate Prince/Messiah (Isaiah 9:6, Ezekiel 34:24, 37:25), who offered Himself for His people (Hebrews 7:27, 9:28). Unlike earthly princes needing sin offerings for themselves, Christ was sinless (Hebrews 4:15), offering only for others. Ezekiel's prince points to but doesn't fully fulfill Messiah's perfect priesthood.

Historical Context

Passover required sin offerings (Numbers 28:22), but Mosaic law doesn't specify a prince's role. Ezekiel introduces a millennial prince (not king David, as he has sons—46:16) who leads worship but isn't divine. Interpretations vary: literal Davidic descendant in millennium, symbolic representation of Christ, or Messiah Himself. Regardless, the principle stands: leaders represent people before God, foreshadowing Christ's mediatorial work.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Who is the 'prince' in Ezekiel's vision—Messiah, Davidic descendant, or symbolic figure?
2. How does the prince offering for himself differ from Christ's sinless self-offering?
3. What does representative sacrifice teach about leadership and mediation?

Interlinear Text

כַּל	וְבָעֵד	בְּعֵד	וְ	בְּהֵא	וְ	בְּנֵשִׁיאָה	וְעַשֵּׂה	הַנֶּשֶׁר	
prepare	shall the prince	And upon that day				H1931	H1157	H1157	H3605
H6213	H5387	H3117							

פְּנֵי	רְאֵזֶל	בְּאַתְּ	עַל	מִזְבֵּחַ
for himself and for all the people	of the land	a bullock	for a sin offering	
H5971	H776	H6499	H2403	

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 4:14 (Sin): When the sin, which they have sinned against it, is known, then the congregation shall offer a young bullock for the sin, and bring him before the tabernacle of the congregation.