

Ezekiel 46:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said he unto me, This is the place where the priests shall boil the trespass offering and the sin offering, where they shall bake the meat offering; that they bear them not out into the utter court, to sanctify the people.

Analysis

Then said he unto me, This is the place where the priests shall boil the trespass offering and the sin offering, where they shall bake the meat offering; that they bear them not out into the utter court, to sanctify the people—This location for cooking אֲשָׁם ('āshām, 'guilt offering'), חַטָּאת (ḥaṭṭā't, 'sin offering'), and baking מִנְחָה (minḥāh, 'grain offering') prevents carrying them into הַחֵיצוֹן הַהוּא (heḥāṣēr haḥîṣônāh, 'the outer court').

לְקַדְּשׁ אֶת-הָעָם (ləqaddēsh 'et-hā'ām, 'to sanctify the people')—concern is preventing unintended consecration. Holy things transferred holiness by contact (Exodus 29:37, Ezekiel 44:19), which could endanger unprepared people (2 Samuel 6:6-7—Uzzah). Separating holy food preparation from public areas protected people from dangerous holiness. This demonstrates that God's holiness, while desirable, can harm the unprepared—a principle fulfilled in Christ, who makes believers holy without danger through His mediating work (Hebrews 10:10, 14).

Historical Context

Levitical law required priests to eat sin/guilt offerings in holy places (Leviticus 6:26, 7:6). Grain offerings were similarly consumed by priests (Leviticus 2:3, 10). Ezekiel specifies preparation locations to prevent contaminating outer court or

endangering laity through holiness transfer. This careful regulation demonstrates that approaching God requires proper boundaries—fulfilled in Christ who mediates access safely.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does holiness transferring by contact teach about God's dangerous holiness?
2. How do boundaries protecting people from holiness relate to Christ's mediating work?
3. Why can holiness be dangerous to unprepared people?

Interlinear Text

שָׁם	וַיִּבְשְׁלוּ	אֵשׁ ר	הַמָּקוֹם	זֶה	אֵלַי	וַיֹּאמֶר
H8033	H1310	H834	H4725	H2088	H413	H559
	shall boil		This is the place	he unto me	Then said	
אֵשׁ ר	הַחֵטֹא	אֶת	וְאֶת	הָאֵשׁ	אֶת	הַכֹּהֲנִים
H834	H2403	H853	H853	H817	H853	H3548
	and the sin offering		the trespass offering		where the priests	
אֶל	הוֹצִיָּא	לְבִלְתִּי	הַמִּנְחָה	אֶת	וַיֹּאמְרוּ	
H3318	H3318	H1115	H4503	H853	H644	
	that they bear		the meat offering		where they shall bake	
הָעָם:	אֶת	לְקַדְּשׁ	הַחִיצוֹנָה	הָ	הַחֵצֵר	ר
H5971	H853	H6942	H2435		H2691	
the people		to sanctify	them not out into the utter		court	

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 35:13 (Sacrifice): And they roasted the passover with fire according to the ordinance: but the other holy offerings sod they in pots, and in caldrons, and in pans, and divided them speedily among all the people.

Ezekiel 44:29 (Sin): They shall eat the meat offering, and the sin offering, and the trespass offering; and every dedicated thing in Israel shall be their's.

Ezekiel 44:19 (Parallel theme): And when they go forth into the utter court, even into the utter court to the people, they shall put off their garments wherein they ministered, and lay them in the holy chambers, and they shall put on other garments; and they shall not sanctify the people with their garments.

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