

Ezekiel 46:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there was a row of building round about in them, round about them four, and it was made with boiling places under the rows round about.

Analysis

And there was a row of building round about in them, round about them four, and it was made with boiling places under the rows round about—The corner courts had טור (ṭûr, 'a row') of structures סָבִיב (sābîb, 'round about') with מִבְשָׁלוֹת (mēbashshēlôt, 'boiling places') built in.

These were kitchen facilities for preparing sacrificial meals. Practical infrastructure enables worship: cooking areas for processing offerings. This demonstrates that sacred service requires mundane logistics. God concerns Himself with both altar and kitchen, worship and work. New Testament parallel: deacons serving tables (Acts 6:1-6) freed apostles for prayer and teaching—both ministries essential. Practical service is sacred when done for God's glory (Colossians 3:23-24).

Historical Context

Ancient temple complexes included kitchens for preparing sacrificial meals—archaeological evidence from multiple sites. Priests ate portions of offerings (Leviticus 6-7); worshipers ate peace offerings (Leviticus 7:15-18). These meals required cooking facilities. Ezekiel's detailed description shows that even mundane activities (cooking) within temple service are holy. This sanctifies ordinary work when done unto the Lord.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does including cooking facilities in sacred space teach about work's sacredness?
2. How does practical service (kitchens) support worship (altars)?
3. How can ordinary labor become sacred service?

Interlinear Text

וְיָ	סָבִיב:	בָּהֶם	סָבִיב:	
And there was a row	in them round about	H0	in them round about	
H2905	H5439		H5439	
לְאַרְבַּעַתָּם	וּמִבֶּשֶׁל וְזֶה	עָשָׂה	מִתַּחַת	הַטֵּייר וְזֶה
them four	with boiling places	and it was made	H8478	under the rows
H702	H4018	H6213		H2918
סָבִיב:				
in them round about				
H5439				