

Ezekiel 46:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said he unto me, These are the places of them that boil, where the ministers of the house shall boil the sacrifice of the people.

Analysis

Then said he unto me, These are the places of them that boil, where the ministers of the house shall boil the sacrifice of the people—These are בֵּית הַמְבַשְּׁלִים (bêt hamměbashshělim, 'house of the boilers') where מְשָׁרְתֵי הַבַּיִת (měshārětê habbayit, 'ministers of the house') prepare זֶבַח הָעָם (zevah hā'ām, 'sacrifice of the people').

'Ministers of the house'—likely Levitical assistants (not priests). Their service—cooking people's sacrifices—was essential but not priestly. This demonstrates ministry hierarchy: all roles necessary, but distinct. New Testament parallel: Christ's body has many members with different functions (Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31)—all essential, none inferior. The 'ministers' boiling sacrifices served God as truly as priests offering sacrifices. Faithful service in any role honors God. No task is menial when done for His glory.

Historical Context

Levites assisted priests with various temple tasks: music, gatekeeping, maintenance, and apparently food preparation (1 Chronicles 23:24-32, Ezra 8:20). While priests performed altar rituals, Levites handled logistics. Ezekiel's vision maintains this division of labor, showing that organized, role-specific service facilitates worship. The principle continues: churches function best when members serve according to their gifts (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does 'ministers' (not priests) cooking sacrifices teach about diverse roles in service?
2. How does role differentiation in temple service relate to spiritual gifts in the church?
3. Why is no service role inferior if done faithfully for God?

Interlinear Text

אָמַר	אֵלַי	אֵלֶּה	הֵב יְהוָה	יְבַשְׁלוּ
Then said	H413	H428	he unto me These are the places	of them that boil
H559			H1004	H1310
אֲשֶׁר	יְבַשְׁלוּ	שָׁם	מִשְׁכַּת יְהוָה	
H834	of them that boil	H8033	where the ministers	
	H1310		H8334	
הֵב יְהוָה	אֶת	זֶבַח	הָעָם:	
he unto me These are the places	H853	the sacrifice	of the people	
H1004		H2077	H5971	

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 46:20 (Sacrifice): 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.

