

Ezra 3:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel.

Analysis

The foundation ceremony's formal character—"when the builders laid the foundation"—marks a covenant moment. The priests' liturgical vestments, trumpets, and cymbals restored Davidic worship patterns (1 Chronicles 15-16). Praising God 'after the ordinance of David king of Israel' demonstrates submitting current practice to biblical precedent. This is the regulative principle—worship must follow divine prescription, not human innovation.

Historical Context

David organized Levitical worship (1 Chronicles 23-26), establishing patterns that governed temple service. The trumpets and cymbals weren't arbitrary but divinely ordained for sacred assembly. Maintaining these forms through seventy years without temple required oral tradition and committed teaching. The ceremony's formality dignified the foundation-laying as sacred, not merely functional construction.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does praising God 'after the ordinance of David' teach about balancing historical worship forms with contemporary expression?
2. How does formal liturgy serve to focus attention on God rather than performers or congregational feelings?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּסַּד	וְיַעֲשֵׂה	בְּבָנָיו	אֶת	הַיּוֹם	הַיּוֹם	הַיּוֹם
laid the foundation	And when the builders		H853	of the temple	of the LORD	
H3245	H1129			H1964		H3068
בָּנִים	וְפָרָשָׂת	מִלְבָשׁ	וְתַּחַת	בְּחִזְצָרָה	וְלִפְנֵי	בָּנִים
they set	the priests	in their apparel	with trumpets	and the Levites	the sons	
H5975	H3548	H3847	H2689	H3881		H1121
אַסְף	בְּמַצְלָת	לִפְלָל	אֶת	הַיּוֹם	עַל	אַד
of Asaph	with cymbals	to praise	H853	of the LORD	H5921	after the ordinance
H623	H4700	H1984		H3068		H3027
שְׁבָאֵל:	מֶלֶךְ	לְהִיאָה				
of David	king	of Israel				
H1732	H4428	H3478				

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 4:10 (References Lord): For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.