

Ezra 6:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them were pure, and killed the passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.

Analysis

The purification statement—'For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them were pure'—emphasizes ritual cleanness prerequisite for Passover service. The phrase 'all of them' stresses comprehensive purity—no half-measures or compromise. Their collective purification ('together') demonstrates community commitment to holiness. The Levites' slaughtering Passover lambs 'for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves' shows comprehensive provision for covenant community.

Historical Context

Levitical law required ritual purity for temple service and Passover participation (Numbers 9:6-14, 2 Chronicles 30:17-20). The purification process involved washing, waiting periods, and prescribed rituals. That 'all of them' achieved purity suggests careful preparation and community commitment. Levites slaughtering for the entire community showed servant leadership—they facilitated others' worship while maintaining their own participation. This contrasted with Hezekiah's Passover where many were unprepared (2 Chronicles 30:17-20).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does comprehensive purification demonstrate that access to God requires meeting His holiness standards, not just sincere intentions?
2. What does Levitical servant leadership in slaughtering for others teach about spiritual leadership as enabling others' worship?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	הִטְהָר ו	הַכֹּהֲנִים	וְהַלְוִיִּם	כָּאֶחָד	כָּל מ
H3588	were purified	For the priests	and the Levites	together	H3605
	H2891	H3548	H3881	H259	
	טְהוֹרֵם	וַיִּשְׁחָט ו	הַפֶּסַח	לְכָל	בְּנֵי י
	all of them were pure	and killed	the passover	H3605	for all the children
	H2889	H7819	H6453		H1121
	הַגּוֹזֵל ה	וְלְאַחֵיהֶם	הַכֹּהֲנִים	וְלָהֶם:	
	of the captivity	and for their brethren	For the priests	H1992	
	H1473	H251	H3548		

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 35:11 (Parallel theme): And they killed the passover, and the priests sprinkled the blood from their hands, and the Levites flayed them.

Hebrews 7:27 (Parallel theme): Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

2 Chronicles 29:34 (Parallel theme): But the priests were too few, so that they could not flay all the burnt offerings: wherefore their brethren the Levites did help them, till the work was ended, and until the other priests had sanctified themselves: for the Levites were more upright in heart to sanctify themselves than the priests.

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