

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 cleanliness 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

כָּל מִכָּאָבֶן וּמִלְוֵי מִבְּכָרֶן יְמִינֵי הַטּוֹבָר וְכֵן
H3588 were purified H2891 H3548 H3881 H259 H3605 together

בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לְכָל בְּפַסְחָה וְבְהַוּרִים יְמִינֵי וְשִׁלְטָת וְבְתַּהוּרִים
H3605 for all the children H1121 H6453 H7819 H2889 all of them were pure and killed the passover

וְלֹא כִּי מִבְּכָרֶן יְמִינֵי בְּגֹאֵל הַבָּנִים וְלֹא כִּי מִבְּכָרֶן יְמִינֵי בְּגֹאֵל הַבָּנִים
H1992 H3548 H251 H1473 of the captivity and for their brethren For the priests

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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