

1 Samuel 6:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD, and the coffer that was with it, wherein the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone: and the men of Beth-shemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto the LORD.

Analysis

And the Levites took down the ark of the LORD, and the coffer that was with it, wherein the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone: and the men of Beth-shemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto the LORD.

The Levites' involvement introduces proper order into the proceedings. Only Levites, specifically Kohathites, were authorized to handle the Ark (Numbers 4:15), suggesting at least some adherence to Mosaic regulations. The Ark and its accompanying coffer of golden offerings were placed on the great stone, creating an improvised sanctuary. The phrase 'burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices' indicates multiple offering types - 'olot' (burnt offerings) representing complete dedication and 'zevachim' (peace offerings) enabling communal celebration. The repeated offerings throughout 'the same day' suggest extended, joyful worship. Yet the narrator's careful distinction between Levites handling the Ark and 'men of Beth-shemesh' offering sacrifices hints at procedural irregularities that will soon bring tragic consequences.

Historical Context

The Kohathite Levites were specifically assigned to carry the Ark and most holy objects (Numbers 4:4-15). Their presence at Beth-shemesh, a Levitical city, explains how the Ark could be properly handled. The peace offerings allowed worshipers to eat portions of the sacrifice, making this a covenant meal celebrating the Ark's return.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why does Scripture carefully note the Levites' role in handling the Ark?
2. How does proper procedure in worship honor God's holiness while enabling genuine celebration?

Interlinear Text

בְּאַרְכָּת	וְ	אֶת	לִיהְיוֹן	אֶת	בְּאַרְכָּת	וְ	בְּלֹויִם
And the Levites	took down	H853	the ark	of the LORD	H853	and the coffer	
H3881	H3381	H727	H3068	H712			
בְּ	בְּ	כְּלֵי	בְּ	כְּלֵי	בְּ	כְּלֵי	
אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	בְּ	אֲשֶׁר	בְּ	אֲשֶׁר	
H834	H854	H834	H0	that was with it wherein the jewels	H3627	of gold	
						H2091	
בֵּית	וְאֶת	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ
בֵּית	אֶת	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ
were and put	H413	stone	them on the great	H376	H0	of Bethshemesh	
H7760	H68	H1419		H1053			
בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ
בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ
offered	burnt offerings	and sacrificed	sacrifices	the same day	H1931		
H5927	H5930	H2076	H2077	H3117			
לִיהְיוֹן:							
of the LORD							
H3068							

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