

Deuteronomy 27:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt build the altar of the LORD thy God of whole stones: and thou shalt offer burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD thy God:

Analysis

Thou shalt build the altar of the LORD thy God of whole stones: and thou shalt offer burnt offerings thereon unto the LORD thy God. Whole stones reinforces the unhewn requirement - the stones must be complete and unaltered. Fragmented or modified stones are inappropriate for God's altar, teaching that human brokenness and manipulation cannot serve as foundation for worship.

The designation altar of the LORD thy God emphasizes ownership - this is God's altar built according to His specifications. Though Israel constructs it, the altar belongs to God and must conform to His design, not human preferences.

The purpose offer burnt offerings thereon indicates this altar serves sacrificial worship. Burnt offerings represented complete consecration - the entire animal consumed by fire, symbolizing total dedication to God. The unhewn altar hosts offerings of complete surrender.

Reformed theology sees the burnt offering as type of Christ's complete self-offering. He gave Himself wholly to God in perfect obedience, providing the complete consecration we cannot achieve.

Historical Context

Burnt offerings ('olah - that which ascends) were entirely consumed on the altar with nothing reserved for human consumption. This represented complete dedication and atonement for sin.

The Mount Ebal altar would be the first altar in the Promised Land, making it foundational for Israel's worship in their new home.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does the requirement for 'whole' unhewn stones teach about foundations for worship?
2. How does the altar belonging to God shape how it must be constructed?
3. What does the burnt offering symbolize about complete consecration to God?
4. How does Christ as burnt offering fulfill the type of complete self-giving?
5. Why must worship foundations be unaltered by human manipulation?

Interlinear Text

אֲבָנֵי יִם	שְׁלֵמוֹת	תִּבְנֶה	אֶת	מִזְבֵּחַ	לַיהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ:
stones	of whole	Thou shalt build	H853	the altar	of the LORD	thy God
H68	H8003	H1129		H4196	H3068	H430
וְהִעַלְתָּ	עָלָיו	עֹלֹת	לַיהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ:		
and thou shalt offer	H5921	burnt offerings	of the LORD	thy God		
H5927		H5930	H3068	H430		

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