

Exodus 29:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt burn the whole ram upon the altar: it is a burnt offering unto the LORD: it is a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

Analysis

The burnt offering represents complete dedication to God—the entire animal consumed by fire, ascending as sweet savor to the LORD. This prefigures Christ's total self-offering, holding nothing back, His life completely devoted to God's glory. The fire consuming the offering pictures divine acceptance—God receives Christ's sacrifice with pleasure. Our worship, offered through Christ, also ascends as fragrant offering acceptable to God.

Historical Context

The burnt offering (עֹלָה, olah, 'that which ascends') was one of Israel's primary sacrifices, representing voluntary dedication to God. Unlike sin offerings (which addressed guilt), burnt offerings expressed worshipful consecration.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How did Christ give Himself 'completely' (burnt offering) rather than partially?
2. What does it mean that your worship ascends to God 'through Christ'?

Interlinear Text

וְהִקְטַרְתָּ	אֶת	כָּל	הָאֵלֶּל	הַמִּזְבֵּיחַ	עַל
And thou shalt burn	H853	H3605	the whole ram	upon the altar	it is a burnt offering
H6999			H352	H4196	H5930
וְאֵלֶּי	לִיהוָה	רִיחַ	נִיחֻם	אֵשׁ	
H1931	unto the LORD	savour	it is a sweet	an offering made by fire	
	H3068	H7381	H5207	H801	
לִיהוָה	הוא:				
unto the LORD	H1931				
H3068					

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 8:21 (References Lord): And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.