

# Leviticus 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall cut it into his pieces, with his head and his fat:  
and the priest shall lay them in order on the wood that is on  
the fire which is upon the altar:

## Analysis

---

**And he shall cut it into his pieces, with his head and his fat: and the priest shall lay them in order on the wood that is on the fire which is upon the altar:**

This verse falls within the section on **Burnt Offerings**. The burnt offering (עֹלָה, olah) represents complete consecration to God. Unlike other offerings, it was entirely consumed on the altar, symbolizing total dedication.

The Aaronic priesthood mediated between God and Israel, offering sacrifices and maintaining the tabernacle. This prefigured Christ's superior priesthood after the order of Melchizedek. The five main offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt) addressed different aspects of relationship with God, all fulfilled in Christ's comprehensive sacrifice.

Hebrews 9-10 explains how Christ's once-for-all sacrifice supersedes the repeated Levitical offerings, providing permanent cleansing from sin.

## Historical Context

---

The burnt offering (עֹלָה, olah) represents complete consecration to God. Unlike other offerings, it was entirely consumed on the altar, symbolizing total dedication. Leviticus was given to Israel at Mount Sinai, shortly after the tabernacle's construction described in Exodus. The name 'Leviticus' (from Latin Leviticus,

referring to the Levites) reflects its focus on priestly duties, though the Hebrew title Wayyiqra ('And He called') emphasizes God's initiative in revealing these laws. The first seven chapters detail the five main offerings, providing both worshiper instructions and priestly procedures. Ancient Near Eastern cultures had various sacrificial systems, but Israel's sacrificial worship was unique in its ethical foundation, monotheistic framework, and emphasis on atonement rather than appeasement. Unlike pagan rituals focused on manipulating deities, Israel's sacrifices acknowledged God's sovereignty and sought reconciliation based on His gracious provision. Ancient sacrificial texts from cultures surrounding Israel demonstrate the widespread practice of animal sacrifice, but Israel's system uniquely emphasized moral atonement over magical efficacy.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

---

1. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
2. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?
3. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?

## Interlinear Text

---

וְנָתַח	אֹתוֹ	לְנִתְּחָיו	וְאֵת	רֹאשׁוֹ	וְאֵת	פֶּדֶרוֹ
And he shall cut	H853	it into his pieces	H854	with his head	H853	and his fat
H5408		H5409		H7218		H6309
וְשָׁבְרוּ	הַכֹּהֵן	עַל	אֶת־	הָעֵצִים	אֲשֶׁר	עַל
shall lay them in order	and the priest	H853	H5921	on the wood	H834	H5921
H6186	H3548			H6086		
הָאֵשׁ	אֲשֶׁר	עַל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ:			
that is on the fire	H834	H5921	which is upon the altar			
H784			H4196			

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)