

Leviticus 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD.

Analysis

If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD.

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

The five main offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt) addressed different aspects of relationship with God, all fulfilled in Christ's comprehensive sacrifice. What Leviticus portrayed through types and shadows, Christ fulfilled in reality through His incarnation, perfect life, atoning death, and resurrection.

Historical Context

The burnt offering (הַלְּעֵד, 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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
3. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?

Interlinear Text

תְּמִימָם	מִם	זָכָר	רֵאשִׁית	מִן	קָרְבָּנוֹת	עַל	הַ	אָם
be a burnt sacrifice	If his offering	of the herd	a male	without blemish				
H518	H4480	H1241	H2145	H8549				
H5930	H7133							
יְקַרְבֵּן	מִזְבֵּחַ	אֶל	פָּתַח	אֶל	יְקַרְבֵּן	יְקַרְבֵּן	יְקַרְבֵּן	
he shall offer	at the door	of the tabernacle	of the congregation	he shall offer				
H7126	H413	H6607	H168	H7126				
לְפָנָי	לְפָנָי	לְפָנָי	לְפָנָי	לְפָנָי	לְפָנָי	לְפָנָי	לְפָנָי	לְפָנָי
it of his own voluntary will	before	the LORD						
H853	H7522	H6440	H3068					

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 15:21 (Sacrifice): And if there be any blemish therein, as if it be lame, or blind, or have any ill blemish, thou shalt not sacrifice it unto the LORD thy God.

Hebrews 9:14 (Parallel theme): How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Exodus 12:5 (Parallel theme): Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

Ephesians 5:27 (Parallel theme): That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Deuteronomy 17:1 (Sacrifice): Thou shalt not sacrifice unto the LORD thy God any bullock, or sheep, wherein is blemish, or any evilfavouredness: for that is an abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Hebrews 7:26 (Parallel theme): For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Ephesians 2:18 (Parallel theme): For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

Genesis 22:8 (Sacrifice): And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

John 1:36 (Parallel theme): And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

2 Corinthians 9:7 (Parallel theme): Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

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