

Leviticus 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall kill the bullock before the LORD: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Analysis

And he shall kill the bullock before the LORD: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

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. Leviticus 17:11 declares 'the life of the flesh is in the blood,' establishing blood's sacred role in atonement, pointing to Christ's blood shed for redemption.

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 (ֹלֶחֶם, 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. The tabernacle's design parallels ancient Near Eastern temple architecture, yet its portable nature and absence of divine images distinguished it from pagan temples.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

Interlinear Text

וַשֶּׁח ט	אֶת	בְּנֵי י	הַבֶּקֶר ר	לִפְנֵי י	יְהוָה ה	יְהִיבוּ	בְנֵי י
And he shall kill	H853	sons	H1241	before	the LORD	shall bring	sons
H7819		H1121		H6440	H3068	H7126	H1121
אֶהָרִי	הַכֹּהֲנִים	אֶת	הַדָּם	וַיִּזְרֹק ו	אֶת	הַדָּם	עַל
Aaron's	and the priests	H853	the blood	and sprinkle	H853	the blood	H5921
H175	H3548		H1818	H2236		H1818	
הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	סָבִיב	אֲשֶׁר	פֶּתַח	אֵל			
upon the altar	round about	H834	that is by the door	of the tabernacle			
H4196	H5439		H6607	H168			
מוֹעֵד:							
of the congregation							
H4150							

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 3:8 (Blood): And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and kill it before the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle the blood thereof round about upon the altar.

Leviticus 1:11 (Blood): And he shall kill it on the side of the altar northward before the LORD: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall sprinkle his blood round about upon the altar.

Leviticus 3:2 (Blood): And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and kill it at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about.

Hebrews 12:24 (Blood): And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Leviticus 3:13 (Blood): And he shall lay his hand upon the head of it, and kill it before the tabernacle of the congregation: and the sons of Aaron shall sprinkle the blood thereof upon the altar round about.

2 Chronicles 35:11 (Blood): And they killed the passover, and the priests sprinkled the blood from their hands, and the Levites flayed them.

1 Peter 1:2 (Blood): Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Exodus 29:16 (Blood): And thou shalt slay the ram, and thou shalt take his blood, and sprinkle it round about upon the altar.

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