

Leviticus 10:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses spake unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons that were left, Take the meat offering that remaineth of the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and eat it without leaven beside the altar: for it is most holy:

Analysis

And Moses spake unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons that were left, Take the meat offering that remaineth of the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and eat it without leaven beside the altar: for it is most holy:

This verse falls within the section on **Nadab and Abihu's Unauthorized Fire**. The tragic death of Aaron's sons for offering unauthorized fire demonstrates the severity of approaching God improperly.

The central theme of Leviticus is God's holiness and the call for His people to be holy. The Hebrew word *qadosh* (קֹדֶשׁ) means 'set apart' or 'sacred,' emphasizing both separation from sin and consecration to God's purposes. 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.

What Leviticus portrayed through types and shadows, Christ fulfilled in reality through His incarnation, perfect life, atoning death, and resurrection.

Historical Context

The tragic death of Aaron's sons for offering unauthorized fire demonstrates the severity of approaching God improperly. Chapters 8-10 describe the priesthood's consecration and early ministry. Aaron and his sons received special anointing for their mediatorial role between God and Israel. The tragic account of Nadab and Abihu (ch. 10) demonstrates that approaching God requires reverence and obedience. 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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's holiness, as revealed in this verse, shape your understanding of worship, obedience, and daily living?
2. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
3. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּדֶבֶר	מֹשֶׁה	אֶל	אַהֲרֹן	וְאֶל	אֶלְעָזָר	וְאֶל
spake	And Moses	H413	unto Aaron	H413	and unto Eleazar	H413
H1696	H4872		H175		H499	
וְאֶל־	אֶת־	קָח	וְ	הַמִּנְחָה	הַ	אֶת־
and unto Ithamar	his sons	that remaineth	Take	H853	the meat offering	
H385	H1121	H3498	H3947		H4503	
אֶל־	צֶלֶ	מִצַּחֲ	וְ	אָכַל	וְ	הַ
that remaineth	made by fire	of the LORD	and eat	it without leaven	beside	
H3498	H801	H3068	H398	H4682	H681	
הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	כִּי	קֹדֶשׁ	יִם	קֹדֶשׁ	יִם	הוּא
the altar	H3588	for it is most	for it is most	H1931		
H4196		H6944	H6944			

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 21:22 (Holy): He shall eat the bread of his God, both of the most holy, and of the holy.