

Leviticus 10:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The heave shoulder and the wave breast shall they bring with the offerings made by fire of the fat, to wave it for a wave offering before the LORD; and it shall be thine, and thy sons' with thee, by a statute for ever; as the LORD hath commanded.

Analysis

The heave shoulder and the wave breast shall they bring with the offerings made by fire of the fat, to wave it for a wave offering before the LORD; and it shall be thine, and thy sons' with thee, by a statute for ever; as the LORD hath commanded.

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 five main offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt) addressed different aspects of relationship with God, all fulfilled in Christ's comprehensive sacrifice. The New Testament reveals that Christ's sacrifice accomplishes what the Levitical system could only symbolize—complete forgiveness and restoration of relationship with God.

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. 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

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?
2. How does understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?
3. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?

Interlinear Text

אֶשׁר	עַל	תְּנַוֵּךְ	הַתְּרֻמֶּת	הַשְׁלֹׁשׁ	וְקָרְבָּן
shoulder	The heave	breast	and the wave	H5921	with the offerings made by fire
H7785	H8641	H2373	H8573		H801
וְקָרְבָּנִים	לִפְנֵי	תְּנַוֵּךְ	הַתְּרֻמֶּת	לִפְנֵי	יְהוָה:
of the fat	shall they bring	to wave	and the wave	before	as the LORD
H2459	H935	H5130	H8573	H6440	H3068
לְבָנָךְ	וְלֶבֶנֶךְ	יְהוָה	אֶתְכֶם	לְפָנָךְ	
לְבָנָךְ	וְלֶבֶנֶךְ	וְלֶבֶנֶךְ	H854	with thee by a statute	
H1961	H0	H1121		H2706	
כָּאֵשׁ	רְצָוָה	יְהוָה:	אֶתְכֶם		
for ever	H834	hath commanded	as the LORD		
H5769		H6680	H3068		

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 7:34 (Sacrifice): For the wave breast and the heave shoulder have I taken of the children of Israel from off the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and have given them unto Aaron the priest and unto his sons by a statute for ever from among the children of Israel.

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