

Leviticus 14:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall kill the lamb of the trespass offering, and the priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering, and put it upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot:

Analysis

And he shall kill the lamb of the trespass offering, and the priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering, and put it upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot:

This verse falls within the section on **Cleansing from Skin Diseases**. Elaborate cleansing ritual for healed lepers, involving birds, blood, and multiple offerings, symbolizing restoration.

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. Ritual purity laws taught Israel to distinguish between clean and unclean, holy and common, training them in discernment and reverence for God's presence. 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.

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

Historical Context

Elaborate cleansing ritual for healed lepers, involving birds, blood, and multiple offerings, symbolizing restoration. Chapters 11-15 address ritual purity, teaching Israel to distinguish clean from unclean. These laws served multiple purposes: promoting health, teaching spiritual lessons about sin's defilement, and separating Israel from pagan practices. Archaeological evidence shows Canaanite worship involved practices Israel's laws explicitly prohibited. Israel received these laws while encamped at Sinai, before entering Canaan. The laws prepared them for life in the promised land, distinguishing them from Canaanite practices and establishing their identity as God's holy nation. The portable tabernacle, central to Levitical worship, accompanied them through wilderness wanderings and eventually found permanent form in Solomon's temple. Archaeological discoveries at sites like Ugarit reveal Canaanite religious practices Israel's laws explicitly rejected, confirming the Bible's historical reliability and the distinctiveness of Israelite worship.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

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. How can you develop greater spiritual discernment in distinguishing what honors God from what defiles?

Interlinear Text

וְשַׁחַט	אֶת	בָּשָׂרֶת	תְּאַשֵּׁם	וְלֹקֶת	בְּפַהּן
And he shall kill	H853	the lamb	of the trespass offering	shall take	and the priest
	H7819	H3532	H817	H3947	H3548
מִזְבֵּחַ	תְּאַשֵּׁם	וְלֹקֶת	עַל	אֶזְרָחַ	
some of the blood	H817	of the trespass offering	and put	H5921	it upon the tip
	H1818	H5414	H5921	H8571	ear
רְמִטָּה	בְּיַמְרִיתָן	עַל	בְּקַנְעָן	יָדָה	
of him that is to be cleansed	H2891	of his right	H5921	and upon the great toe	hand
	H3233	H3233	H931	H3027	
בְּיַמְרִיתָן	בְּקַנְעָן	כָּל	כָּל	בְּיַמְרִיתָן	
of his right	H5921	and upon the great toe	H7272	of his right	
	H3233	H931	H3233		

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