

Leviticus 16:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail:

Analysis

And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail:

This verse falls within the section on **Day of Atonement**. The most sacred day in Israel's calendar, when the high priest entered the Holy of Holies to make atonement for all Israel's sins.

The five main offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt) addressed different aspects of relationship with God, all fulfilled in Christ's comprehensive sacrifice. Every sacrifice and ritual in Leviticus points forward to Jesus Christ, who fulfills the entire sacrificial system as both perfect sacrifice and eternal high priest.

Historical Context

The most sacred day in Israel's calendar, when the high priest entered the Holy of Holies to make atonement for all Israel's sins. The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) described in chapter 16 became Israel's most sacred day. Only on this annual day could the high priest enter the Holy of Holies, making atonement for the entire nation. This ceremony, still observed in Judaism, found ultimate fulfillment in Christ's entrance into heaven itself (Hebrews 9:11-12). 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. 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

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?
2. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?
3. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

Interlinear Text

וְלָקַח	וּמֵלֵא	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	גִּחְלִי	אֵשׁ	מֵעֹלֹת
And he shall take	full	a censer	coals	of burning	H5921
H3947	H4393	H4289	H1513	H784	
הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	מִלְפָּנֵי	יְהוָה	וּמֵלֵא	חֲפָצֵי	קֶטֶר
from off the altar	before	the LORD	full	and his hands	incense
H4196	H6440	H3068	H4393	H2651	H7004
סֶמֶךְ	בָּזָק	וְהָבִי	מִבֵּית	לְפָרֹכֶת:	
of sweet	beaten small	and bring	it within	the veil	
H5561	H1851	H935	H1004	H6532	

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 10:1 (References Lord): And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.

Numbers 16:46 (Sacrifice): And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the LORD; the plague is begun.

Exodus 31:11 (Parallel theme): And the anointing oil, and sweet incense for the holy place: according to all that I have commanded thee shall they do.

Numbers 16:18 (Parallel theme): And they took every man his censer, and put fire in them, and laid incense thereon, and stood in the door of the tabernacle of the congregation with Moses and Aaron.

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?