

Leviticus 16:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD,
that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is
upon the testimony, that he die not:

Analysis

And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not:

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.

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

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

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?
2. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?
3. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?

Interlinear Text

וְהָיָה	לִפְנֵי	הָאֵשׁ	עַל	הַקֶּטֶר	אֶת	וְנָתַן
the LORD	before	upon the fire	H5921	of the incense	H853	And he shall put
H3068	H6440	H784		H7004		H5414
עַל	אֲשֶׁר	הַכִּפֹּת	אֶת	הַקֶּטֶר	עַנַּן	וְכָסָהּ
H5921	H834	the mercy seat	H853	of the incense	that the cloud	may cover
		H3727		H7004	H6051	H3680
יָמוּת:	וְלֹא	הָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה	וְהָיָה
that he die	H4191					
						that is upon the testimony
						H5715

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 25:21 (Grace): And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.

Exodus 30:1 (Parallel theme): And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it.

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