

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

וְיַעֲשֶׂת	אֶת	רִתְּנֵת	בְּקָרְבָּן	עַל	פָּאָשׁ	לִפְנֵי	הָנָהָרָה
And he shall put	H853	of the incense	H7004	H5921	upon the fire	H784	before
H5414					H6440		H3068
וְיִכְסַבֵּת	אֶל	עַל	רִתְּנֵת	אֶת	בְּקָרְבָּן	עַל	אֲשֶׁר
may cover	that the cloud	of the incense	H853	the mercy seat	H3727	H834	H5921
H3680	H6051	H7004					
וְיַעֲשֶׂת	אֶל	רִתְּנֵת	בְּקָרְבָּן	אֶת	בְּקָרְבָּן	אֶל	אֲשֶׁר
that is upon the testimony	H3808	that he die	H4191				
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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