

Leviticus 2:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As for the oblation of the firstfruits, ye shall offer them unto the LORD: but they shall not be burnt on the altar for a sweet savour.

Analysis

As for the oblation of the firstfruits, ye shall offer them unto the LORD: but they shall not be burnt on the altar for a sweet savour.

This verse falls within the section on **Grain Offerings**. The grain offering (מִנְחָה, minchah) was a tribute offering acknowledging God's provision and expressing devotion through the fruits of human labor.

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 grain offering (מִנְחָה, minchah) was a tribute offering acknowledging God's provision and expressing devotion through the fruits of human labor. Leviticus was given to Israel at Mount Sinai, shortly after the tabernacle's construction described in Exodus. The name 'Leviticus' (from Latin Leviticus, referring to the Levites) reflects its focus on priestly duties, though the Hebrew title Wayyiqra ('And He called') emphasizes God's initiative in revealing these laws. The first seven chapters detail the five main offerings, providing both worshiper instructions and priestly procedures. 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

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?
2. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?
3. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?

Interlinear Text

קָרַבְתָּ	רֵאשִׁית יִתְּ	תִקְרַב יְבוֹ	אֶתְּ מִ	לִיהוָה הֵ
As for the oblation	of the firstfruits	ye shall offer	H853	them unto the LORD
H7133	H7225	H7126		H3068
וְאֵל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ מִ	לֹא	יֵעָל וְ	לֶרֶחַם יִ
H413	on the altar	H3808	but they shall not be burnt	savour for a sweet
	H4196		H5927	H7381 H5207

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 23:19 (References Lord): The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God. Thou shalt not seethe a kid in his mother's milk.

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