

Leviticus 23:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

Analysis

Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement: it shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

This verse falls within the section on **Appointed Feasts**. God's sacred calendar including Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, marking redemption and agricultural blessings.

The central theme of Leviticus is God's holiness and the call for His people to be holy. The Hebrew word qadosh (קָדוֹשׁ) means 'set apart' or 'sacred,' emphasizing both separation from sin and consecration to God's purposes. The Hebrew word kaphar (כַּפֵּר) means 'to cover' or 'to make atonement.' The sacrificial system provided temporary covering for sin, pointing forward to Christ's perfect, once-for-all sacrifice. The five main offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt) addressed different aspects of relationship with God, all fulfilled in Christ's comprehensive sacrifice.

The holiness demanded in Leviticus becomes possible through Christ, who both satisfies God's righteous requirements and transforms believers by His Spirit.

Historical Context

God's sacred calendar including Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, marking redemption and agricultural blessings. Chapters 17-27, often called the 'Holiness Code,' expand covenant obligations beyond ritual to encompass all of life—sexuality, economics, justice, and relationships. The repeated refrain 'I am the LORD' grounds these laws in God's character and covenant relationship with Israel. 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. 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 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's holiness, as revealed in this verse, shape your understanding of worship, obedience, and daily living?
2. In what ways does this verse deepen your appreciation for Christ's atoning sacrifice and the seriousness of sin?
3. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?

Interlinear Text

בְּעַשׂ	וְרָא	אֵת	לְחַדֵּשׁ	הַשְׁבִיעִי	בְּזִהְבָבָה	וְ	וְ
Also	on the tenth		month	day of this seventh		H2088	there shall be a day
H389	H6218		H2320	H7637			H3117
וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ
לְכָמֵד	יְהִי	הַ	לְ	דָשָׁ	מִזְבֵּחַ	וְאַתָּה	וְאַתָּה
of atonement	H1931		convocation		it shall be an holy	H1961	H0
H3725			H4744		H6944		
וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ
וְעַבְתִּתְ	מְ	אַתָּה	וְקִרְבָּתְ	מְ	נִפְשְׁתִיכְ	מְ	וְ
unto you and ye shall afflict	H853		your souls	H5315	and offer	H7126	
H6031							
אַשְׁר	הָ	לִיהְיוֹה					
an offering made by fire		unto the LORD					
H801		H3068					

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 30:10 (Holy): And Aaron shall make an atonement upon the horns of it once in a year with the blood of the sin offering of atonements: once in the year shall he make atonement upon it throughout your generations: it is most holy unto the LORD.

Leviticus 16:15 (Sacrifice): Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat:

Leviticus 16:24 (Holy): And he shall wash his flesh with water in the holy place, and put on his garments, and come forth, and offer his burnt offering, and the burnt offering of the people, and make an atonement for himself, and for the people.

Isaiah 58:5 (References Lord): Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread

sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?

Zechariah 12:10 (Parallel theme): And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Leviticus 25:9 (Parallel theme): Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land.

Leviticus 16:11 (Sacrifice): And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself:

Ezra 8:21 (Parallel theme): Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

James 4:9 (Parallel theme): Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.