

Leviticus 3:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat thereof, and the whole rump, it shall he take off hard by the backbone; and the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards,

Analysis

And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat thereof, and the whole rump, it shall he take off hard by the backbone; and the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards,

This verse falls within the section on **Peace Offerings**. The peace offering (**שְׁלָמִים**, shelamim) celebrated fellowship with God and community, with portions shared between God, priests, and worshipers.

The five main offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt) addressed different aspects of relationship with God, all fulfilled in Christ's comprehensive sacrifice. What Leviticus portrayed through types and shadows, Christ fulfilled in reality through His incarnation, perfect life, atoning death, and resurrection.

Historical Context

The peace offering (**שְׁלָמִים**, shelamim) celebrated fellowship with God and community, with portions shared between God, priests, and worshipers. 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. The Israelite dietary laws in Leviticus 11 have no exact parallel in surrounding cultures, though some ancient cultures had food taboos, suggesting unique revelation rather than borrowed customs.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?
2. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?
3. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?

Interlinear Text

וְהִקְרַרְתָּ	בְּחֵ	מִן־בְּחֵ	בְּשַׁלְמִים	אֲשֶׁר־הַ
And he shall offer	of the sacrifice	of the peace offering	an offering made by fire	
H7126	H2077	H8002		H801
לְיְהוָה	בְּכָל־הַ	בְּחֵלֶב	תָמִימָה	לְעַמְתָּה
unto the LORD	and all the fat	rump	thereof and the whole	hard
H3068	H2459	H451	H8549	H5980
בְּקֻבָּעַ	וְאַתָּה	יִסְרַךְ	בְּחֵלֶב	אֲתָה
by the backbone	it shall he take off	H853	and all the fat	that covereth
H6096	H5493		H2459	H3680
בְּקָרְבָּן	כָּל	וְאַתָּה	רְאֵשׁ	עַל
that is upon the inwards	H853	H3605	H2459	H834
H7130				H5921
בְּקָרְבָּן				
that is upon the inwards				
H7130				

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 29:22 (Parallel theme): Also thou shalt take of the ram the fat and the rump, and the fat that covereth the inwards, and the caul above the liver, and the two kidneys, and the fat that is upon them, and the right shoulder; for it is a ram of consecration:

Leviticus 9:19 (Parallel theme): And the fat of the bullock and of the ram, the rump, and that which covereth the inwards, and the kidneys, and the caul above the liver: