

Leviticus 4:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands upon the head of the bullock before the LORD: and the bullock shall be killed before the LORD.

Analysis

And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands upon the head of the bullock before the LORD: and the bullock shall be killed before the LORD.

This verse falls within the section on **Sin Offerings**. The sin offering (**תְּעִטָּה**, chattat) provided atonement for unintentional sins, addressing the defilement sin causes in God's holy presence.

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

Historical Context

The sin offering (**תְּעִטָּה**, chattat) provided atonement for unintentional sins, addressing the defilement sin causes in God's holy presence. 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 texts like the Code of Hammurabi show that law codes were common in the ancient Near East, but biblical law uniquely grounded ethics in God's character rather than merely social convention.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?
2. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?
3. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

Interlinear Text

עַל יָדֶיךָ מִן־אֶת־סְמִיכָה

shall lay And the elders of the congregation

H5564

H2205

בְּעֵד הַ

אַתָּה

עַל יָדֶיךָ מִן־אֶת־סְמִיכָה

their hands

H5921

H853

H3027

רְאֵשׁ הַפָּר לְפָנֶיךָ יְהוָה אֲתָּה וְשָׁמַעַת

upon the head and the bullock before the LORD shall be killed

H7218

H6499

H6440

H3068

H853

H7819

לְפָנֶיךָ יְהוָה הַפָּר רְאֵשׁ

and the bullock before the LORD

H6499

H6440

H3068

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 1:4 (Parallel theme): And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org