

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 (חַטָּאת, 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 (חַטָּאת, 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	אֶת	קְהֵל הַ	זִקְנֵי יִ	יִסְמְכוּ
H5921	H853	H5712	H2205	H5564
their hands		of the congregation	And the elders	shall lay
H3027				
אֶת	וְשָׁחַט	יְהוָה:	לִפְנֵי יִ	הַפָּר
H853	H7819	H3068	H6440	H6499
	shall be killed	the LORD	before	and the bullock
				H7218
		יְהוָה:	לִפְנֵי יִ	הַפָּר
		H3068	H6440	H6499
		the LORD	before	and the bullock

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.
