

Leviticus 4:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the priest that is anointed shall bring of the bullock's blood to the tabernacle of the congregation:

Analysis

And the priest that is anointed shall bring of the bullock's blood to the tabernacle of the congregation:

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 Aaronic priesthood mediated between God and Israel, offering sacrifices and maintaining the tabernacle. This prefigured Christ's superior priesthood after the order of Melchizedek. Leviticus 17:11 declares 'the life of the flesh is in the blood,' establishing blood's sacred role in atonement, pointing to Christ's blood shed for redemption.

The New Testament reveals that Christ's sacrifice accomplishes what the Levitical system could only symbolize—complete forgiveness and restoration of relationship with God.

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. The tabernacle's design parallels ancient Near Eastern temple architecture, yet its portable nature and absence of divine images distinguished it from pagan temples.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
2. How can you use this verse to worship God more fully, obey Him more faithfully, or love others more sacrificially?
3. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

Interlinear Text

וְהָבָה יְהוָה	וְהָכֵה לְ	וְהָמָשׁ יְהוָה	וְהָמַדּוּ	וְהָפָר	וְהָאֵל
shall bring	And the priest	that is anointed	blood	of the bullock's	H413
H935	H3548	H4899	H1818	H6499	
אֶל הָאֵל	וְהָמָשׁ יְהוָה				
to the tabernacle	of the congregation				
H168	H4150				

