

Leviticus 4:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the priest shall dip his finger in some of the blood, and sprinkle it seven times before the LORD, even before the vail.

Analysis

And the priest shall dip his finger in some of the blood, and sprinkle it seven times before the LORD, even before the vail.

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 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.

Hebrews 9-10 explains how Christ's once-for-all sacrifice supersedes the repeated Levitical offerings, providing permanent cleansing from sin.

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 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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
2. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
3. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?

Interlinear Text

וְיַעֲשֶׂה לְעֵד בְּעֵד וְיַעֲשֶׂה בְּעֵד וְיַעֲשֶׂה בְּעֵד
shall dip And the priest his finger H4480 in some of the blood and sprinkle
H2881 H3548 H676 H1818 H5137

פְּרִכְתָּה בְּעֵד יְהִי הַפְּנִים אֶת פְּנִים שְׁבַע
the veil before the LORD before seven times
H6532 H6440 H3068 H6471 H6440 H7651

