

Leviticus 4:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar which is before the LORD, that is in the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall pour out all the blood at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Analysis

And he shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar which is before the LORD, that is in the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall pour out all the blood at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of 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 sins cause in God's holy presence.

The five main offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt) addressed different aspects of relationship with God, all fulfilled in Christ's comprehensive sacrifice. 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.

What Leviticus portrayed through types and shadows, Christ fulfilled in reality through His incarnation, perfect life, atoning death, and resurrection.

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

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?
2. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?
3. What does this verse teach about the seriousness of sin, the cost of redemption, or the beauty of holiness?

Interlinear Text

וְיִתְבָּשֵׂל	בְּפָנָי	עַל	קְרָנֶת	מִזְבֵּחַ	אֲשֶׁר
H4480	all the blood	And he shall put	H5921	upon the horns	of the altar
H1818		H5414		H7161	
לִפְנֵי	אֲשֶׁר	רְאֵה	אֶל	מִזְבֵּחַ	אֲתָּה
which is before	the LORD	H834	of the tabernacle	of the congregation	H853
H6440		H3068		H4150	
כָּל	בְּפָנָי	וַיְשַׁפֵּר	אֶל	מִזְבֵּחַ	
H3605	all the blood	and shall pour out	H413	at the bottom	of the altar
H1818		H8210		H3247	
בְּעֵל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	אֲשֶׁר	בְּתֵחַ	אֶל		
of the burnt offering	H834	which is at the door	of the tabernacle		
H5930		H6607	H168		
מִזְבֵּחַ					
of the congregation					
H4150					

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