

Leviticus 5:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shall he bring it to the priest, and the priest shall take his handful of it, even a memorial thereof, and burn it on the altar, according to the offerings made by fire unto the LORD: it is a sin offering.

Analysis

Then shall he bring it to the priest, and the priest shall take his handful of it, even a memorial thereof, and burn it on the altar, according to the offerings made by fire unto the LORD: it is a sin offering.

This verse falls within the section on **Guilt Offerings**. The guilt offering (**אַשָּׁם**, **asham**) addressed specific trespasses requiring both sacrifice and restitution, emphasizing sin's relational damage.

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

Every sacrifice and ritual in Leviticus points forward to Jesus Christ, who fulfills the entire sacrificial system as both perfect sacrifice and eternal high priest.

Historical Context

The guilt offering (**אַשָּׁם**, **asham**) addressed specific trespasses requiring both sacrifice and restitution, emphasizing sin's relational damage. 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. In what ways does this verse deepen your appreciation for Christ's atoning sacrifice and the seriousness of sin?
2. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
3. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?

Interlinear Text

וְיִבְיאֵה	אֵל	בְּכָה	וְיִקְרְבֶּן	בְּכָה	מִמְּנָה
Then shall he bring	and the priest	shall take	and the priest		
H935	H413	H3548	H7061	H3548	H4480
וְאֵת קָרְבָּנָתָה	אַתָּה	וְיִרְאֶה	וְיִהְעַט	בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	וְאֵת
his handful	of it even a memorial	thereof and burn	it on the altar		
H4393	H7062	H853	H234	H6999	H4196
לְעֵד	אֲשֶׁר	יְהִי	עַל	אֲתָה	
	according to the offerings made by fire	unto the LORD	it is a sin offering		
H5921	H801	H3068	H2403		
הַזָּהָר					
H1931					

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 4:35 (Creation): And he shall take away all the fat thereof, as the fat of the lamb is taken away from the sacrifice of the peace offerings; and the priest shall burn them upon the altar, according to the offerings made by fire unto the LORD: and the priest shall make an atonement for his sin that he hath committed, and it shall be forgiven him.

Leviticus 2:9 (Creation): And the priest shall take from the meat offering a memorial thereof, and shall burn it upon the altar: it is an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.

Leviticus 2:2 (Creation): And he shall bring it to Aaron's sons the priests: and he shall take thereout his handful of the flour thereof, and of the oil thereof, with all the frankincense thereof; and the priest shall burn the memorial of it upon the altar, to be an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD: