

Leviticus 6:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out.

Analysis

The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out.

This verse falls within the section on **Priestly Instructions for Offerings**. Detailed regulations for priests administering the sacrificial system, emphasizing holiness and proper handling of sacred things.

The five main offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt) addressed different aspects of relationship with God, all fulfilled in Christ's comprehensive sacrifice. The access to God's presence that Leviticus carefully regulated is now freely available through Christ's blood, tearing the veil and opening the way to God.

Historical Context

Detailed regulations for priests administering the sacrificial system, emphasizing holiness and proper handling of sacred things. 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 Israelite dietary laws in Leviticus 11 have no exact parallel in surrounding cultures, though some ancient cultures had food taboos, suggesting unique revelation rather than borrowed customs.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?
2. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?
3. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?

Interlinear Text

אֵשׁ	תָּמִיד	תֹּקֵן	עַל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	לֹא	תִכָּבֵד:
The fire	shall ever	be burning	H5921	upon the altar	H3808	it shall never go out
H784	H8548	H3344		H4196		H3518
