

Leviticus 7:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the priest shall burn the fat upon the altar: but the breast shall be Aaron's and his sons'.

Analysis

And the priest shall burn the fat upon the altar: but the breast shall be Aaron's and his sons'.

This verse falls within the section on **Further Offering Regulations**. Additional laws concerning offerings, including prohibitions on eating fat and blood, establishing boundaries for holy things.

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.

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

Historical Context

Additional laws concerning offerings, including prohibitions on eating fat and blood, establishing boundaries for holy 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 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

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. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?
3. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?

Interlinear Text

בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	שָׂרֵה	בְּכֶתֶת	אֶת	לְבָב	לְבָב	בְּמִזְבֵּחַ	שָׂרֵה	בְּכֶתֶת	וְקִרְבָּן	בְּקִרְבָּן
shall burn	And the priest		H853	the fat	upon the altar		H1961	but the breast		H2373
H6999	H3548			H2459						

לְאַבְרָהָם
shall be Aaron's and his sons

H175 H1121

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 7:34 (Sacrifice): For the wave breast and the heave shoulder have I taken of the children of Israel from off the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and have given them unto Aaron the priest and unto his sons by a statute for ever from among the children of Israel.

Leviticus 3:11 (Sacrifice): And the priest shall burn it upon the altar: it is the food of the offering made by fire unto the LORD.

Leviticus 3:16 (Sacrifice): And the priest shall burn them upon the altar: it is the food of the offering made by fire for a sweet savour: all the fat is the LORD'S.

Leviticus 3:5 (Sacrifice): And Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is upon the wood that is on the fire: it is an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.

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