

Leviticus 8:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he slew it; and Moses took the blood, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about with his finger, and purified the altar, and poured the blood at the bottom of the altar, and sanctified it, to make reconciliation upon it.

Analysis

And he slew it; and Moses took the blood, and put it upon the horns of the altar round about with his finger, and purified the altar, and poured the blood at the bottom of the altar, and sanctified it, to make reconciliation upon it.

This verse falls within the section on **Consecration of Aaron and Sons**. The ordination ceremony established the Aaronic priesthood, involving washing, anointing, and sacrifice—prefiguring Christ's priesthood.

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.

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 ordination ceremony established the Aaronic priesthood, involving washing, anointing, and sacrifice—prefiguring Christ's priesthood. Chapters 8-10 describe

the priesthood's consecration and early ministry. Aaron and his sons received special anointing for their mediatorial role between God and Israel. The tragic account of Nadab and Abihu (ch. 10) demonstrates that approaching God requires reverence and obedience. 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

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. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?

Interlinear Text

וַשָּׁח ט	וָקַח ח	מֹשֶׁה ה	אֶת	הַדָּם	וַיָּתֵן	עַל
And he slew	took	it and Moses	H853	the blood	and put	H5921
H7819	H3947	H4872		H1818	H5414	
קָרְנֵי	הַמִּזְבֵּיחַ	סָבִיב	בְּאֶצְבָּעוֹ	וַיְחַטֵּא	אֶת	
it upon the horns	of the altar	round about	with his finger	and purified	H853	
H7161	H4196	H5439	H676	H2398		
הַמִּזְבֵּיחַ	וְאֶת	הַדָּם	יָצַק	אֶל	יְסוֹדוֹ	הַמִּזְבֵּיחַ
of the altar	H853	the blood	and poured	H413	at the bottom	of the altar
H4196		H1818	H3332		H3247	H4196
וַיְקַדֵּשׁ הוּ	לְכַפֵּר	עָלָיו:				
and sanctified	it to make reconciliation	H5921				
H6942	H3722					

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 4:7 (Blood): And the priest shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar of sweet incense before the LORD, which is in the tabernacle of the congregation; and shall pour all the blood of the bullock at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.