

Leviticus 8:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he brought the ram for the burnt offering: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram.

Analysis

And he brought the ram for the burnt offering: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram.

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 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 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. Ancient sacrificial texts from cultures surrounding Israel demonstrate the widespread practice of animal sacrifice, but Israel's system uniquely emphasized moral atonement over magical efficacy.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

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

וַיָּבֵא	אֶת	הָאֵילָן:	הָעֹלָה	וַיִּסְמַךְ	אֶהֱרָן
And he brought	H853	of the ram	for the burnt offering	laid	and Aaron
H7126		H352	H5930	H5564	H175
וּבָנָיו	אֶת	יְדֵיהֶם	עַל	רֹאשׁ	הָאֵילָן:
and his sons	H853	their hands	H5921	upon the head	of the ram
H1121		H3027		H7218	H352

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 8:2 (Sacrifice): Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, and the anointing oil, and a bullock for the sin offering, and two rams, and a basket of unleavened bread;

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