

# 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

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**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

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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

וְיִשְׂמַח	וְיִקְרַב	בְּאֵלֶּה	אַתָּה	קָרְבָּן	וְיִשְׂמַח	וְיִקְרַב
And he brought	H853	of the ram	for the burnt offering	laid	and Aaron	

בְּאִיל:	רַ אֲשֶׁר	עַל	יְדֵיכֶם	אַתָּה	וּבְנָה	וְ
<b>and his sons</b>	H853	<b>their hands</b>	H5921	<b>upon the head</b>	<b>of the ram</b>	

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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