

Leviticus 8:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he washed the inwards and the legs in water; and Moses burnt the whole ram upon the altar: it was a burnt sacrifice for a sweet savour, and an offering made by fire unto the LORD; as the LORD commanded Moses.

Analysis

And he washed the inwards and the legs in water; and Moses burnt the whole ram upon the altar: it was a burnt sacrifice for a sweet savour, and an offering made by fire unto the LORD; as the LORD commanded Moses.

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. What Leviticus portrayed through types and shadows, Christ fulfilled in reality through His incarnation, perfect life, atoning death, and resurrection.

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. Archaeological discoveries at sites like Ugarit reveal Canaanite religious practices Israel's laws explicitly rejected, confirming the Bible's historical reliability and the distinctiveness of Israelite worship.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?
2. How does understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?
3. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶת־פֶּקֶד רַבָּה וְאֶת־פֶּקֶד רַבָּה
H853 the inwards H853 and the legs And he washed in water burnt
H7130 H3767 H7364 H4325 H6999

מֹשֶׁה: אֶת־כָּל־מְשֻׁחָה
Moses H853 H3605 the whole ram upon the altar it was a burnt sacrifice
H4872 H352 H4196 H5930 H1931

לְרִיחַ נִיחַת אֲשֶׁר־הַוָּא הַיְהָיָה כְּאֶשֶׁר־
savour for a sweet and an offering made by fire H1931 as the LORD H834
H7381 H5207 H801 H3068 H834

מֹשֶׁה: אֲתָה יְהִי־הַצּוֹן
commanded as the LORD H853 Moses
H6680 H3068 H4872

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 5:2 (Sacrifice): And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Exodus 29:18 (Creation): And thou shalt burn the whole ram upon the altar: it is a burnt offering unto the LORD: it is a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD.