

Leviticus 8:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he brought the other ram, the ram of consecration: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram.

Analysis

And he brought the other ram, the ram of consecration: 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.

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 texts like the Code of Hammurabi show that law codes were common in the ancient Near East, but biblical law uniquely grounded ethics in God's character rather than merely social convention.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
2. How does this verse point to Christ, and how does that deepen your faith and gratitude?
3. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּבִיאוּ	אֶת	הָאֵילָן	הַשֵּׁנִי	הָאֵילָן	הַמִּלֻּאִים	וַיִּסְמְכוּ
And he brought	H853	of the ram	the other	of the ram	of consecration	laid
H7126		H352	H8145	H352	H4394	H5564
אֶת־	וּבְנֵי	אֶת	יְדֵיהֶם	עַל	רֹאשׁ	הָאֵילָן
and Aaron	and his sons	H853	their hands	H5921	upon the head	of the ram
H1175	H1121		H3027		H7218	H352

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 8:2 (Parallel theme): 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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