

Leviticus 8:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As he hath done this day, so the LORD hath commanded to do,
to make an atonement for you.

Analysis

As he hath done this day, so the LORD hath commanded to do, to make an atonement for you.

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 Hebrew word *kaphar* (כִּפֶּר) means 'to cover' or 'to make atonement.' The sacrificial system provided temporary covering for sin, pointing forward to Christ's perfect, once-for-all sacrifice.

The access to God's presence that Leviticus carefully regulated is now freely available through Christ's blood, tearing the veil and opening the way to God.

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 tabernacle's design parallels ancient Near Eastern temple architecture, yet its portable nature and absence of divine images distinguished it from pagan temples.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. In what ways does this verse deepen your appreciation for Christ's atoning sacrifice and the seriousness of sin?
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

רְאֵשׁ תְּעַשׂ כַּאֲשֶׁר
H834 As he hath done H6213

בַּיּוֹם הַזֶּה
H2088 this day H3117

צִוָּה בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
H6680 hath commanded H3068

לְכַפֵּר תְּעַשׂ כַּאֲשֶׁר
H5921 to make an atonement H3722

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 7:27 (Parallel theme): Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

Hebrews 7:16 (Parallel theme): Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

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