

Leviticus 9:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He slew also the bullock and the ram for a sacrifice of peace offerings, which was for the people: and Aaron's sons presented unto him the blood, which he sprinkled upon the altar round about,

Analysis

He slew also the bullock and the ram for a sacrifice of peace offerings, which was for the people: and Aaron's sons presented unto him the blood, which he sprinkled upon the altar round about,

This verse falls within the section on **Priests Begin Their Ministry**. Aaron's first official sacrifices as high priest, culminating in God's glory appearing and fire consuming the offerings.

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. Leviticus 17:11 declares 'the life of the flesh is in the blood,' establishing blood's sacred role in atonement, pointing to Christ's blood shed for redemption.

Hebrews 9-10 explains how Christ's once-for-all sacrifice supersedes the repeated Levitical offerings, providing permanent cleansing from sin.

Historical Context

Aaron's first official sacrifices as high priest, culminating in God's glory appearing and fire consuming the offerings. 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 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

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. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?

Interlinear Text

אָתָּה	וְשָׂמֵחַ	בְּשִׂיר	וְאַתָּה	בְּאֶלְעָזֶר	בְּבַחַד
He slew	also the bullock	the ram	and the ram	for a sacrifice	
H853	H7794	H853	H352	H2077	
וְשָׂלֵם יְמִם	אֲשֶׁר	לְעֵד	בְּנֵי	בְּמִצְאָה	אֶבֶר
of peace offerings	which was for the people	presented	sons	and Aaron's	
H8002	H834	H5971	H4672	H1121	H175
אָתָּה	בְּדִם	אֵלֵיךְ	וְיִרְקַּח	עַל	בְּמִזְבֵּחַ
unto him the blood		which he sprinkled		upon	upon the altar
H853	H1818	H413	H2236	H5921	H4196

סְבִיבָה:
round about
H5439

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 1:20 (Blood): And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Romans 5:1 (Peace): Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: