

# Leviticus 9:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they put the fat upon the breasts, and he burnt the fat upon the altar:

## Analysis

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**And they put the fat upon the breasts, and he burnt the fat upon the altar:**

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 five main offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt) addressed different aspects of relationship with God, all fulfilled in Christ's comprehensive sacrifice. The holiness demanded in Leviticus becomes possible through Christ, who both satisfies God's righteous requirements and transforms believers by His Spirit.

## Historical Context

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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.

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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?
2. What practical steps can you take this week to apply the principles taught in this verse?
3. How does this verse help you understand both God's justice and His mercy in salvation?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיִּשֶׂא יָמֹוֹ	אֶת	הַחֵלֶב יָם	עַל	הַחֲזֹוֹת	וַיִּקְטֹר	הַחֵלֶב יָם
And they put		the fat		upon the breasts	and he burnt	the fat
H7760	H853	H2459	H5921	H2373	H6999	H2459

הַמִּזְבֵּחַ:

upon the altar

H4196