

Leviticus 9:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the breasts and the right shoulder Aaron waved for a wave offering before the LORD; as Moses commanded.

Analysis

And the breasts and the right shoulder Aaron waved for a wave offering before the LORD; as Moses commanded.

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.

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

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 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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 – Faith and works

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

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. How does understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?

Interlinear Text

אָבָרְ | הַנִּיְףְ | הַמִּיְנְ | שְׁוִקְ | וְאַתְ | בְּמִזְ | וְתִ | וְאַתְ |

H853 **And the breasts** H853 **shoulder** **and the right** **waved** **Aaron**

H2373 H7785 H3225 H5130 H175

משה: צו ה כאש ר יהו ה לפנֵי תנוף ה

for a wave offering before the LORD H834 **commanded as Moses**

H8573 H6440 H3068 H6680 H4872

