Leviticus 9:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> And Moses said unto Aaron, Go unto the altar, and offer thy
> sin offering, and thy burnt offering, and make an atonement
> for thyself, and for the people: and offer the offering of the
> people, and make an atonement for them; as the LORD
> commanded.

Analysis

And Moses said unto Aaron, Go unto the altar, and offer thy sin offering, and thy burnt offering, and make an atonement for thyself, and for the people: and offer the offering of the people, and make an atonement for them; as the LORD 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 Hebrew word kaphar (כָּפַר) 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 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.
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. The Israelite dietary laws in Leviticus 11 have no exact parallel in surrounding cultures, though some ancient cultures had food taboos, suggesting unique revelation rather than borrowed customs.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

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 Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
3. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?

Interlinear Text

וַֽיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁ ה אֶל אַהֲרֹ ׀ ן קְרַ ב אֶל הַמִּזְבֵּ חַ וַעֲשֵׂ ה
said — And Moses — H413 — unto Aaron — Go — H413 — unto the altar — and offer
H559 — H4872 — — H175 — H7126 — — H4196 — H6213

אֶת חַטָּאתְךָ וְאֶת עֹ לָתֶ ךָ וְכַפֵּ ר
H853 — thy sin offering — H853 — and thy burnt offering — and make an atonement
— H2403 — — H5930 — H3722

קָרְבַּ ׀ ן אֶת וַעֲשֵׂ ה הָעָם וּבְעַ ד בַּעַדְךָ
the offering — H853 — and offer — for thyself and for the people — H1157 — H1157
H7133 — — H6213 — H5971

כַּאֲשֶׁ ר בַּעֲדָ ם וְכַפֵּ ר הָעָם
H834 — H1157 — and make an atonement — for thyself and for the people
— — H3722 — H5971

יְהֹוָה: צִוָּ ה
for them as the LORD — commanded
H3068 — H6680

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 5:3 (Sin): And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.

Hebrews 5:1 (Sin): For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:

Hebrews 9:7 (Parallel theme): But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:

Leviticus 4:3 (Sin): If the priest that is anointed do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the LORD for a sin offering.