

Numbers 6:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the priest shall take the sodden shoulder of the ram, and one unleavened cake out of the basket, and one unleavened wafer, and shall put them upon the hands of the Nazarite, after the hair of his separation is shaven:

Analysis

The priest taking the boiled shoulder of the ram, along with unleavened cakes and wafers, and placing them upon the Nazirite's hands before waving them demonstrates partnership in the offering. The Nazirite didn't merely watch the priest offer; he participated by holding the offering during the wave. This teaches that worship involves active participation, not passive observation. The shoulder represents strength and service, fitting for one who has demonstrated commitment through the Nazirite vow.

Historical Context

The wave offering involved horizontal movement before the Lord, symbolizing presentation for divine acceptance. The shoulder was typically the priest's portion, but in this ritual, the Nazirite held it along with the bread before it was waved and then given to the priest, showing partnership in holy things.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does the Nazirite's active participation in the wave offering teach about engaged worship?
2. How does the shoulder representing strength connect to the strength required for faithful devotion?
3. In what ways does partnership with the priest in offering prefigure our union with Christ our High Priest?

Interlinear Text

וְלָקַח ח	וְהַכֹּהֵן ו	אֶת	הַזֵּרַע	בְּשֵׁלָה	מִן	הָאֵיל	וְחֵלֶת
shall take	And the priest	H853	shoulder	the sodden	H4480	of the ram	cake
H3947	H3548		H2220	H1311		H352	H2471
מֵאֲחַד	אֶחָד ד	מִן	הַסֵּל	וַיִּקַּח יֶקֶת	מֵאֲחַד	אֶחָד ד	
unleavened	and one	H4480	out of the basket	wafer	unleavened	and one	
H4682	H259		H5536	H7550	H4682	H259	
וַיִּנָּתֶן	עַל	כַּפֵּי י	הַנָּזִיר	אַחֲרָיו	וְהִתְגַּלַּח		
and shall put	H5921	them upon the hands	of the Nazirite	after	is shaven		
H5414		H3709	H5139	H310	H1548		
אֶת	נִזְרוֹ:						
H853	the hair of his separation						
	H5145						

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 7:30 (Parallel theme): His own hands shall bring the offerings of the LORD made by fire, the fat with the breast, it shall he bring, that the breast may be waved for a wave offering before the LORD.

1 Samuel 2:15 (Parallel theme): Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.

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