

Psalms 116:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.

Analysis

I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving (זְבַח תְּהִלָּה, zevach todah)—The psalmist responds to God's deliverance with a todah offering, one of the five Levitical sacrifices (Lev 7:12-15). Unlike sin offerings, this was a voluntary sacrifice of gratitude, often accompanied by public testimony of God's faithfulness. The verb אָשִׁיב (ashiv, "I will pay/render") connects to verse 14, showing covenant faithfulness: vows made in distress must be fulfilled in deliverance.

And will call upon the name of the LORD (וְבָשָׂמִים יְהִי אֶלְעָלָה)—Public invocation of Yahweh's covenant name completes the todah ritual. This isn't private prayer but public proclamation "in the courts of the LORD's house" (v. 19). Hebrews 13:15 echoes this: "the sacrifice of praise... the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name"—the New Covenant todah that supersedes animal offerings.

Historical Context

This psalm reflects post-exilic temple worship (note the emphasis on Jerusalem in v. 19). The todah sacrifice was central to Israel's worship, combining ritual offering with verbal testimony. Participants shared the sacrificial meal, creating communal celebration of God's deliverance. Jesus instituted the Eucharist as a todah meal, transforming thanksgiving sacrifice into remembrance of ultimate deliverance.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does viewing worship as "sacrifice" challenge modern consumeristic approaches to church attendance?
2. What public testimony of God's faithfulness might the Lord be calling you to share as your "sacrifice of thanksgiving"?

Interlinear Text

לֹא	אֶלְעָבֵד	בְּךָ	תָּמִיד	הַ	וּבְשָׂם	יְהִי	הָ
H0	I will offer	to thee the sacrifice	of thanksgiving	upon the name	of the LORD		
	H2076	H2077	H8426	H8034		H3068	
אֶלְעָבֵד							
and will call							
	H7121						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 50:14 (Parallel theme): Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:

Psalms 107:22 (Sacrifice): And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.

Leviticus 7:12 (Sacrifice): If he offer it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes mingled with oil, of fine flour, fried.

Hebrews 13:15 (Sacrifice): By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Psalms 116:13 (References Lord): I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD.

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