

Psalms 51:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

Analysis

The proper sacrifices: 'Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness...then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.' After heart-repentance comes appropriate ritual. Sacrifices offered from broken, contrite hearts (v.17) are 'sacrifices of righteousness.' External worship flows from internal transformation.

Historical Context

The psalm doesn't reject sacrifice entirely but puts it in proper order: broken heart first, then joyful offering. Post-exilic readers would understand the restored temple sacrifices as following from national repentance.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What makes a sacrifice 'of righteousness'?
2. How does the sequence of heart before ritual apply to Christian worship?

Interlinear Text

אָ ז	תְּחַפֵּי י	זִבְחֵי	אֶדְקָךְ	עֹלָה ה	
H227	Then shalt thou be pleased	with the sacrifices	of righteousness	burnt offering	
	H2654	H2077	H6664	H5930	
וְכָל יל	אָ ז	יִעֲלֶה ו	עַל	מִזְבִּיחֲךָ	פָּרִים:
and whole	H227	then shall they offer	H5921	upon thine altar	bullocks
H3632		H5927		H4196	H6499

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 4:5 (Righteousness): Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.

Malachi 3:3 (Righteousness): And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

Ephesians 5:2 (Sacrifice): And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Romans 12:1 (Sacrifice): I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Psalms 118:27 (Sacrifice): God is the LORD, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar.