
Leviticus 3:16

NIV *The priest shall burn them on the altar as food, an offering made by fire, a pleasing aroma. All the fat is the LORD's.*

KJV *And the priest shall burn them upon the altar: it is the food of the offering made by fire for a sweet savour: all the fat is the LORD's.*

Amplified *The priest shall burn them on the altar as food, offered by fire, for a sweet and satisfying fragrance. All the fat is the Lord's.*

Knuth *The priest shall burn these pieces on the altar, as a food offering of pleasing aroma, made by fire. All of the fat belongs to God.*

1 Introduction to Leviticus

1. Leviticus is a book filled with rules and regulations regarding worship and the priesthood. The only narrative portion of the book is the appointment of Aaron and his sons as the first priests.
2. Aaron was from the tribe of Levi, and the Levites were responsible for religious ceremonies.
3. Read Leviticus 11:44-45. This is the major theme of Leviticus.

The word "holy" appears more often in Leviticus than in any other book of the Bible.

2 Providing Context

1. Read Leviticus 7:15.
2. Chapter 3 describes a peace, or fellowship, offering. This is one of five offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt), but it is the only offering where the offerer might eat a part.
3. Read Leviticus 3:12-17.
4. Verses 1-5 deal with peace offerings of cattle, verses 6-11 deal with peace offerings of sheep, and 12-16 deal with peace offerings of goats.

The fellowship offering was a meal with God. The rules and regulations for cattle, sheep, and goats, are virtually identical, with the primary difference being that the sheep had fatty tails, which were also to be burned.

3 Burning Fat?

1. The "burn" described in the verse actually means "cause to smoke".
2. Read Genesis 8:20-21.
3. Read Ephesians 5:2.
4. What is the significance of the word "fragrant" in this verse?

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5. Read Numbers 18:12 and Psalm 81:16. The word "best" or "finest" in these verses is based on the same Hebrew word (*cheleb*) as "fat" in this verse.
 6. What can we say, then, about the sacrifice described in this verse?
 7. Read Romans 12:1.

When we think of all the importance and symbolism in a sacrificial offering, we very rarely think about the pleasing aroma. Christ wasn't just a sacrifice, but one that was extremely pleasing to God.

This sacrifice was not only the fatty part of the animal, but it was considered the finest part.

The OT sacrifices of dead animals were very pleasing to God. Think about how pleasing our living sacrifice can be.