

Leviticus, Chapters 1-7

Offerings and Sacrifices

The Burnt Offering – Read Leviticus 1:1-9 *Worship and devotion to God, atonement for sin in general*

1. Often referred to as the “holocaust offering” because *everything* is burnt on the altar. It is offered up, as *an aroma pleasing to the Lord* (v.9). It is the only offering in which everything is burned on the altar.
2. It is a voluntary offering in worship to the Lord. Nobody was to be excluded from worship for lack of an offering.
3. Those able to would bring a bull, a sheep or a goat without any defect. The poor could bring a bird.
4. The worshiper places his or her hand on the offering to transfer guilt and then slaughters the animal.
5. The sacrifice’s blood is spilled; its “life” is poured out before God on behalf of the worshiper. Look up: Hebrews 9:22
6. The offering makes an aroma pleasing to the Lord. Look up: Ephesians 5:1-2

Atonement: restoration of fellowship with God; purging of sin, brings about peace with God. (1 John 1:9)

The Grain Offering – Read Leviticus 2:1-3 *Recognition of God’s goodness and provision*

1. Voluntary offering of grain prepared with oil and salt; never with yeast (a symbol of sin – Matthew 16:6). Salt is a preservative and signifies that the covenant of God cannot be destroyed or decay (v.13).
2. The priest placed some of it on the altar to be burned and kept the rest as provisions for the spiritual leaders.
3. God expects his people to bring him gifts and to support those who serve him (1 Corinthians 9:14, 1 Timothy 5:17–18).
4. Jesus is the Bread of Life offered on our behalf to God. (John 6:32-35). As the grain was crushed to make this sacrifice, so Jesus the living bread, was crushed for all who believe. By partaking of the living bread of Christ, we become offerings in Him acceptable and pleasing to God. Look up: John 6:51

The “Shalom” Fellowship/Peace Offering – Read Leviticus 3:1-2; 16 *Fellowship with God*

1. Unlike the other sacrifices, this meal is shared (minus the fat) among the gift-giver, his family, and the priests.
2. Despite our views today, the fat of the offering was viewed as giving the best portions of the sacrifice to God.
3. Without a sacrifice of death for sin, the worshiper cannot approach God. Look up: Romans 5:1-2

The Sin Offering – Read Leviticus 4:1-3; 13-14; 22-23; 27-28; 5:1-6 *Payment for sins of neglect, or thoughtlessness*

1. This was a mandatory sacrifice also called a *purification offering*; to cleanse the worshiper from sin.
2. God designated instructions for the priest, whole community, tribal leader, and ordinary person. The sacrifice for the high priest and whole community (v.3;13) was the most valuable animal: *a young bull without defect*. Look up: James 3:1
3. The sacrifice included all sins, shortcomings, and accidental failings of their daily lives. It also cleansed those ritually unclean for reasons other than sinning.
4. When a person was guilty of the sins described in chapter 5:1-4, he or she was commanded to confess the sin.
5. God is showing the people that sin was inevitable, and he graciously facilitates their means of gaining forgiveness. Look up: Romans 3:23, Matthew 26:28

The Guilt Offering – Read Leviticus 5:14-19, 6:1-7 *Payment for sins against God & others*

1. Similar in ritual and meaning to the sin offering; this applied when a person had violated the Lord’s commands against the Tabernacle, the holy things or his neighbor. The offering required a lamb plus restitution and an additional 20% .
2. Sin creates a debt that must be paid. Guilt requires confession and reparation to the wronged party.
3. When we sin against members of the Body of Christ, we sin against the Lord. We must seek his forgiveness and those we wronged. Consider the account of Zacchaeus and the Lord’s command to restore fellowship with a person before making an offering to the Lord. Look up: Read Matthew 5:23-24

Jesus fulfills all of the above offerings in his death on the cross (Isaiah 53). Jesus came into the world to fulfill the law (Matthew 5:17). The new covenant provides atonement, forgiveness of sin, communion and fellowship with God, and acceptance into heaven. Jesus paid our debt and is the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him (Hebrews 5:9).

Read Hebrews 9:9-15

When you were dead in your sins, ...God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, ... he took it away, nailing it to the cross. – Colossians 2:13-14