

Discipleship:
An
Introduction to
Systematic Theology and
Apologetics

The Doctrines of Redemption: The Law

The Heights Church May 28, 2017

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Burnt Offerings (Leviticus 1)

- **The first burnt offering can be found when Noah set foot again on dry ground after the flood. (Genesis 8:20-21)**

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.

- **The burnt offering is the first one described in Leviticus, and it is the one most frequently performed – every day in the morning” and “at twilight” (Numbers 28:4).**
- **It is unique in that it is the only offering that was burned up completely (except for the animal’s skin)**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Burnt Offerings (Leviticus 1)

- The Hebrew word for *burnt offering* is (*ōlâ*), occurring 287 times in the Old Testament, and means *ascent*.
- It was the smoke of the burning sacrifice that ascended to the Lord, as “an aroma pleasing to the Lord”.
- The burnt offering symbolized the entire surrender to God of the individual or congregation.
- God’s acceptance of the of the burnt offering signified the renewal and sanctification of the entire person and consecration to a life pleasing to God.
- The burnt offering did not atone for or forgive sins.
- Because Israel was in a covenant of grace with God the burnt offering could only be offered by a covenant keeping Jew.

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Burnt Offerings (Leviticus 1)

- **However, Gentile believers who had not committed significant sins could offer a burnt offering without being fully admitted into the covenant.**
- **Anyone who had forfeited his covenant rights by sin had to first offer a sin offering before they could make a burnt offering.**
- **The Lord provided a way for everyone to bring this offering to Him, by either accepting a bull (the most valuable), or a male lamb or goat, or a dove or pigeon (for the poor). “It was offered to God to secure the acceptance of the offerer.”**
- **The person who brought the animal offering must kill, skin and cut up the offering, but the Priest must bring the offering to God.**
- **Bird offerings were handled only by the Priest.**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Burnt Offerings (Leviticus 1)

- **Burnt offerings were always males (young bull, a ram, male lamb or male goat). In the case of poverty when turtledoves or pigeons were substituted either sex could be used.**
- **Besides a burnt offerings every morning and evening, double burnt offering were given on each Sabbath.**
- **Burnt offerings were also required at:**
 - 1. New Moon**
 - 2. Passover**
 - 3. Pentecost**
 - 4. Feast of Booths**
 - 5. Feast of Trumpets**
 - 6. Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Burnt Offerings (Leviticus 1)

- **Special burnt offerings were made for:**
 - 1. Consecration of Priests**
 - 2. Purification of women**
 - 3. Cleansing of lepers**
 - 4. Removal of other ceremonial uncleanness**
 - 5. Accidental breach of a Nazarite vow**
 - 6. Conclusion of a Nazarite vow**
 - 7. Freewill burnt offerings were made on solemn occasions (dedication of the Tabernacle – Numbers 7 and Dedication of the Temple – 1 Kings 8:64)**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Burnt Offerings (Leviticus 1)

- **The offering process:**

- 1. The offerer lead the victim (bull, goat or sheep*) to the alter, laid hands on it to consecrate it and then killed it.**
- 2. The officiating priest sprinkled the blood on the alter.**
- 3. The hind legs and intestines were washed and placed on the alter along with the cut up flesh. Except for the hide, the entire animal was burned on the alter.**
- 4. The officiating priest kept the hide.**
- 5. If the offering was a pigeon, the priest wrung its' neck, let the blood flow beside the alter, threw the crop and feathers on the ash heap next to the alter and burned the remainder.**

***Smaller cattle, sheep and goats also required a grain and drink offering. Sheep and goats had to be a male without blemish.**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Burnt Offerings (Leviticus 1)

- **The burnt offering represented Christ offering himself without spot.**
- **Burnt offerings are pleasant (soothing) aromas to God because they represent Christ's perfections and perfect devotion to the Father's will.**
- **Offerings that represent Christ as the bearer of the offerer's sin are not a pleasant aroma to God.**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Burnt Offerings (Leviticus 1)

The burnt offering is substitutionary (Christ dies for the believer) and atoning (Christ redeems).

- **Cattle represent his patient endurance as Savior.** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:5-8)
- **Sheep represent his unresisting submission to death.** He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. (Isaiah 53:7)

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Burnt Offerings (Leviticus 1)

Goats represent his bearing of the offerer's sin. For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: And he was numbered with the transgressors. For what is written about me has its fulfillment. (Luke 22:37)

Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of **many**, and makes intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:12)

Turtledove or pigeons symbolize his innocence and poverty. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, **innocent**, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. (Hebrews 7:26)

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became **poor**, so that you by his poverty

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Grain and Drink Offerings (Leviticus 2)

- **Grain and drink offerings have two primary meanings.**
 1. **They are analogous to tithes (first fruits and the bread of the Presence). God is sovereign and bountiful in his bestowal of earthly blessings so they dedicate to God the best of his gifts.**
 - **Flour – main support of life**
 - **Oil – symbol of richness**
 - **Wine – symbol of vigor and refreshment**
 2. **They are a symbol of the spiritual food Israel sought from their spiritual labor (good works).**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Grain Offerings (Leviticus 2)

- The Hebrew word for *grain offering*, occurs 211 times in the Old Testament. It means *gift, present, tribute, offering, grain offering*, and is derived from a verb root that either means *to give or lend*.
- There were two basic ways to make the offering:
 1. Partly of unground roasted ears of grain and partly of fine flour. Oil was poured on the grain, incense added and the mixture seasoned with salt.
 2. The grain offering could also be made into cakes and cooked in an oven, griddle or pan before offering it. It had to be prepared of fine flour, oil seasoned with salt and without yeast. An omer of flour was used and made into ten cakes except for the High Priests daily offering of twelve cakes.

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Grain Offerings (Leviticus 2)

- **The grain offering was offered daily at 3 p.m., when the evening offering was presented, while the Israelites assembled in the outer court for prayer.**
- **After the priest had burnt a handful, the rest was given to the priests to eat and constituted an important part of the food available to them.**
- **The grain and drink offerings could be public or private and could be brought by themselves or with burnt or peace offerings BUT never with sin or guilt offerings.**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Grain Offerings (Leviticus 2)

- **The drink offering was always wine.**
- **The first recorded occurrence of a drink offering was that given by Jacob in Genesis 35:14, right after God changed his name to Israel.**

And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he had spoken with him, a pillar of stone. He poured out a drink offering on it and poured oil on it.

- **Drink offerings were also included with burnt and grain offerings in God-ordained sacrifices, including the morning and evening sacrifices of Exodus 29:40.**
- **One-quarter hin, of wine was poured out into the altar fire for each lamb sacrificed (Numbers 15:4-5). A ram sacrifice required one third of a hin (Numbers 15:6), and a bull required one half (Numbers 15:10).**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Grain Offerings (Leviticus 2)

- **Twice Paul refers to himself as being poured out as a drink offering.**
- Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. (Philippians 2:17)
- For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (2 Timothy 4:6-7)

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Grain Offerings (Leviticus 2)

- **The public grain offerings were the 12 loaves of the bread of the Presence, the omer of wheat on the second day of Passover, and the two wave loaves at Pentecost.**
- **There were four private offerings prescribed by the Law.**
 1. **Daily grain offering of the High Priest baked into 12 cakes (Leviticus 6:14-18)**
 2. **Consecration of priests (Leviticus 6:20)**
 3. **Substitution for a sin offering in the case of poverty (Leviticus 5:11-12)**
 4. **Jealously (Numbers 5:15)**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Grain Offerings (Leviticus 2)

- **The priest brought the grain offering in on a silver or golden plate and then transferred it to a holy vessel. He put oil and frankincense on it. Standing at the SE corner of the alter he took the handful to be burned laid frankincense on it, salted it and placed it on the alter.**
- **The rest of the offering belonged to the priest except that offerings of the High Priest and the consecration of priests were entirely burned.**
- **Every grain offering was accompanied by a drink offering.**
- **There was also a daily grain offering wholly to be consumed by the fire. It was offered for priests from the day of their ordination and illustrated the high priest's sinfulness and need for daily forgiveness.**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Grain Offerings (Leviticus 2)

- **The elements offered in the grain offering have symbolic meaning from the NT perspective. The offering represents Christ's human perfections tested by suffering.** Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal." (John 6:27)
 - **Fire = testing by suffering unto death**
 - **Frankincense = aroma of His life toward the Father**
 - **Absence of leaven = His character as the "Truth"**

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Grain Offerings (Leviticus 2)

- **Ultimately, Jesus became the bread of life who was offered to God for us, and who is all the nourishment we need for life.**

Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. (John 6:32-35)

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Grain Offerings (Leviticus 2)

- In the New Testament the Greek word commonly used for *sacrifice* is the same used to translate the Hebrew word for *grain offering* in the Septuagint.
- As the Israelites brought their best wheat kernels as an offering to the Lord, we are to show the same dedication and worship to the Lord.
- And as the offering was to be holy, without honey or yeast, we are to be holy to the Lord; and as it had to be seasoned with salt, so are we to be the “salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:3).

The Old Testament Sacrificial System -Grain Offerings (Leviticus 2)

- **There are two probable reasons why yeast and honey were forbidden.**
 - 1. Yeast and honey would be prone to ferment and decay thus changing the nature of the offering,**
 - 2. Leaven and honey were used in pagan worship practices in the ancient Near East, so they were prohibited in the Israelite religion.**