

Message #3

Leviticus 1:3-17

We need to realize that when God gave this sacrificial system to Israel, Israel was already His covenantal people. **The real goal of any offering or any sacrifice or worship is to “be accepted before the Lord” (Lev. 1:3). The goal of church, the goal of worship is not about what pleases us, it is about what pleases God.** These offerings may be broadly classified in a twofold classification: **(Classification #1)**–Soothing or Sweet Aroma Offerings –jj Burnt Offering, Grain Offering and Peace Offering; **(Classification #2)**–Non-Soothing or Non-Sweet Aroma Offerings,, and Sin and Guilt Offerings. Now the first offering we come to is the burnt offering. The burnt offering **always** featured a life that was given to God. The burnt offering described in these verses was one in which the “entire” offering was consumed. In some of the other sacrifices and offerings, only part of the offering was consumed.

TRUE PRIESTLY HOLINESS THAT TRULY WORSHIPS AND PLEASES GOD BEGINS WHEN SIN IS COMPLETELY FACED BY THE BELIEVER AND COMPLETELY FORGIVEN BY GOD THROUGH A BLOOD SACRIFICE.

If you and I really want to blossom in our relationship with God, we cannot be dabbling around with sin. We must face it and get God’s forgiveness and move on.

No Jew would dare think in terms of trying to approach God without offering something to God. Worship was viewed as something that was costly (II Sam. 24:24). **The main thought in Levitical worship was not what can I get from God, but what can I give to God. The idea that God immediately presents, with this first offering is this–there must be atonement made for sin by pouring out the blood of an innocent victim if one is to have any meaningful relationship with Me.** To blossom in one’s relationship with God, sin must be dealt with–God’s way, not man’s way. **Now here is a very critical point to remember in these Levitical offerings–these offerings were to be offered by a people who were already God’s people.** These Levitical offerings are offerings that a redeemed people offer to God. Now we know that the “Burnt Offerings” point to Jesus Christ–Hebrews 10:4-10; Mark 12:3. But these Levitical offerings do not point to Christ so much in redemption as they do in sanctification. In other words, Leviticus gives us insight as to how the sacrifice of Jesus Christ which saves us continually is the basis for our fellowship and communion with God. The blood of Jesus Christ is that which enables us to worship God.

BURNT OFFERING TYPE #1 – The burnt offering from the herd . 1:3-9

Now the goal of this offering is stated at the end of **verse 3** and that “he may be accepted before the LORD.” The Hebrew word “accepted” (rat-sah) is one that means “to be delighted” “to be pleasing” (Gesenius, p. 778). In other words, this burnt offering could actually move God to delight in a person or to be pleased with a person. Naturally, one who pleased God would be in a position to move God.

(Observation #1) - The person must offer it individually . **1:3a**

(Observation #2) - The offering was a male without defect . **1:3b**

(Observation #3) - The offering had to be offered at God's spot . **1:3c**

(Observation #4) - The offerer must put his hand on the head of the offering. **1:4**

The Hebrew word “lay” (samak) is one that means to press or lean. The worshipper was not just to touch the animal, he was to lean on it. This act symbolized the transfer of sins from the worshipper to the sacrifice and that the worshipper is acknowledging that this animal is taking his place.

(Observation #5) - The offerer must slay the young bull . **1:5a**

It was not enough that one just bring the offering to the priest—the offerer had to personally connect himself to the sacrifice.

(Observation #6) - The priests must sprinkle the blood of the animal at the exact spot God demanded. **1:5**

You and I can face our dirty, messy sin, but in order for that sin to be forgiven, “the Priest” must be involved. The blood was to only be handled by the priests. They were to sprinkle the blood on all four sides of the altar (v. 11). **What this shows us is that the blood was THE most sacred and solemn element in the sacrifice.**

(Observation #7) - The offerer must skin and cut the animal into pieces. **1:6**

Skinning and quartering or flaying the sacrifice was something unique to the “whole burnt offering sacrifice.” What does this mean? Well, the skin torn from the animal indicates a complete exposure of the inside of the animal. The cutting of the meat to pieces indicates what was exposed demanded the wrath of God.

(Observation #8) - The priests must arrange the fire, wood and animal on the altar. **1:7-8**

(Observation #9) - The offerer must wash all of the entrails with water. **1:9a**

The worshipper had to even clean the despicable parts in order to have it be acceptable to God. If one is to worship God, everything must be clean.

(Observation #10) - The priest must offer the smoke of the burnt offering to the Lord as a soothing aroma. **1:9b**

The idea behind soothing aroma is the idea that God is satisfied with the offering. The offering brings a sweet tranquility and peace between God and the worshipper. The foul smell of sin, which in most cases is odorless to all others, is not odorless to God.

BURNT OFFERING TYPE #2 – The burnt offering from the flock. 1:10-13

The offering of the sheep became the most common burnt offering sacrifice in Israel's system of worship. In fact, when one reads Nehemiah, the city walls of Jerusalem actually contained a special sheep gate because so many were brought, bought and sacrificed (Neh. 3:1, 31-32). The Lamb without blemish is a well-known metaphor pertaining to Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:14; I Pet. 1:19).

1. The one who wants to be right with God must offer the offering personally. **1:10a**
2. The offering is to be a male without defect. **1:10b**
3. The offerer is to slay the animal on the north side of the altar. **1:11a**
4. The priests are to sprinkle the blood around on the altar. **1:11b**
5. The offerer must cut the offering into pieces separating the head and fat. **1:12a**
6. The priests are to arrange these parts on the altar which is burning. **1:12b**
7. The offerer must wash the entrails and legs. **1:13a**
8. The priest must offer it up on the altar. **1:13b**

BURNT OFFERING TYPE #3 – The burnt offering of the birds. 1:14-17

The process in the bird offering is this:

1. The offerer must bring his offering of turtledoves or young pigeons. **1:14**
2. The priest is to bring the offering to the altar. **1:15a**
3. The priest is to wring off the head of the bird and offer it up in smoke on the altar. **1:15a**
4. The priest is to drain out the blood on the side of the altar. **1:15c**
5. The priest is to take away its crop and feathers and throw it to the east side of the altar where the ashes of other offerings are kept. **1:16**
6. The priest is to tear the bird by its wings and offer it up as an offering to the Lord. **1:17**

Can we not see in these offerings the work of Jesus Christ? His body was broken, His blood was shed and He took upon Him our sin and God's wrath. He is the Priest who continually makes it possible for us to worship and fellowship with God.

If we are to enter into deep fellowship with God and worship of God, the blood of Jesus Christ must be applied to every area of our lives. There can be no hidden closets, no foul smell of sin. All must be washed clean by the blood of THE LAMB.