

Message #12**Leviticus 7:8-19**

In the book of Hebrews, there is a statement concerning worship that often times has been overlooked—“Let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; for our God is a consuming fire” (Heb. 12:28-29). The obvious point is that when we come to worship God and thank God, we need to take this very seriously. God demands that we worship Him with a sense of reverence and awe. He does not want sloppy worship. I am afraid that the emphasis today is on spontaneity rather than preparation. But if we are to worship God properly, there must be reverential thought and preparation.

This is specifically true when it comes to the subject of offerings. I am convinced that too many times very little thought is given to what will be given. Rather than people actually thinking about their offerings and thinking in terms of this being a form of reverential worship, one just sporadically throws into the offering plate whatever is decided on the spur of the moment.

GOD PROVIDES CONSISTENTLY AND GENEROUSLY FOR HIS PRIESTHOOD THROUGH THE OFFERINGS OF HIS PEOPLE AND THIS IS ACTUALLY A FORM OF WORSHIP.

Let me see if I can put into perspective what we have here—If God’s people continually give to God because they are thankful for all God has done and has given them, then He will bless them and at the same time generously provide for His ministers. I doubt seriously that we often consider God’s provisions for His ministers to actually be forms of worship, but they are. Of course as in anything it may be misused and abused, but when God’s people continually give because they recognize what God has given to them and they in turn provide for God’s ministers, they enter into a worship that truly does please God.

OFFERING PROVISION #1 – The provision from the burnt offering. **7:8**

We may recall that in the burnt offering the entire offering was burned on the altar. However, the skin was not burned. The hide was taken off the animal prior to the sacrifice (1:6). Now the officiating priest had first rights to the benefits of the offering which, in this case was the skin. We may recall that the order of who presided over tabernacle responsibilities as priest was determined by Lot (i.e. Luke 1:8-9; I Chron. 24:5, 31). Whoever the priest was, he received wonderful compensation from God for his ministry. Skins of animals could be sold to generate income or they could be used for a variety of things—clothing, tents, footwear, etc. This was the way God provided for His priest.

OFFERING PROVISION #2 – The provision from the grain offering. **7:9-10**

(Type #1) - The cooked grain offering. **7:9**

(Type #2) - The uncooked grain offering. **7:10**

OFFERING PROVISION #3 – The provision from the peace offering. **7:11-19**

In the peace offering, not only did the priests get a portion but so did the people.

(Offering Type #1) - The thanksgiving peace offering. **7:11-15**

(Step #1) - The offerer was to offer unleavened cakes or wafers. **7:12**

(Step #2) - The offerer was to offer leavened cakes of bread. **7:13**

How do we explain this? As we have said, leaven represents evil. The picture here is that peace with God offering thanks to God does not depend on our perfection. Our dependency is on the perfections of Jesus Christ.

(Step #3) - The offerer shall present one of each offering to the Lord as a thanksgiving offering and it shall belong to the officiating priest. **7:14**

(Step #4) - The flesh of the thanksgiving offering is to be eaten the day of the sacrifice. **7:15**

(Offering Type #2) - The vow or freewill offering. **7:16-19**

(Step #1) - The offerer was to eat it on the day of his offering. **7:16a**

(Step #2) - The offerer could eat any leftovers on the next day after his offering. **7:16b**

(Step #3) - Any leftovers from this offering had to be burned on the third day. **7:17**

(Step #4) - The offerer could not eat any leftovers on the third day. **7:18**

If any flesh from the peace offering were eaten on the third day:

- 1) The offerer would not be accepted.
- 2) The offerer would not be counted or reckoned by God to mean anything.
- 3) The offerer would do an offensive thing to God.
- 4) The offerer would bear his own iniquity.

Why was God so harsh about the third day? I have read many things, but my conclusion is because on the third day His Son would come back to life from the dead. The sacrifice came back to life on the third day and every time this animal sacrifice was applied, it spoke to that very issue of Christ's resurrection. Every matter related to God is through Jesus Christ!

(Step #5) - Any flesh that touches anything unclean shall not be eaten. **7:19a**

(Step #6) - Any person who was clean could partake of the offering. **7:19b**