

# The Burnt Offering

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## Leviticus 1

- I. Salvation is not just about the forgiveness of sins – that is an obvious fact we can discern from the laws of the sacrifices.
  - A. The sacrifices were not all designed to picture only the death of a Savior, but also the consecration, the peace, the fellowship with God, the thankful heart and attitude of the one whose sins were forgiven.
  - B. By studying the different sacrifices and offerings as they are presented in the law we can also get a better understanding of sin and its different aspects and effects, and therefore see it more from God’s perspective than ours.
    - 1. There are different offerings for sin and therefore different messages are conveyed about sin and its cure.
  - C. The sacrifices and offerings of the ceremonial law were designed and ordained by God to show the way of salvation.
    - 1. They were figures and shadows – they did not have any power other than that.
    - 2. They were meant to impress upon the minds the way of salvation to those who participated, as well as those who observed.
    - 3. They were presented in order and each one had its meaning and message to mankind.
  - D. The law of sacrifice and offerings given by God to Moses was very different from that of the heathen and the idolaters then and now.
  - E. All the sacrifices were aimed at the heart, and were required to come from the heart.

2 Corinthians 8:12 For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.

- 1. The sacrifices were only acceptable to God when brought with a willing heart, and a mind that was willing to be completely submitted to God.
    - 2. The purpose was to affect the heart of man – not the heart of God.
    - 3. God does not have to be convinced, or persuaded, or have anything about Him changed or altered for man to be reconciled to him.
    - 4. It is man that is selfish, proud, depraved, lost, blind, and at odds with God.
    - 5. It is man who must be altered, changed, enlightened, and rid of the hostility and contempt he has toward God.
- II. The burnt offering pictures total consecration.
  - A. It is the first offering mentioned in this book of the law.
  - B. It is not an offering for sin but an offering of consecration – giving up and giving all to God.
  - C. The burnt offering represents ME and all that I am, all that I have, and all that I love.

- D. The first subject to be dealt with is that a person must lay all he has on the altar and watch as the fire is put to it.
- E. The burnt sacrifice was a “whole burnt offering” – it was the whole animal, not just a part of it.
  - 1. Nothing was carried away – it was all burnt up on the altar at that one time.
- F. It represents the entire surrender of a man’s being and life to God.
  - 1. His own selfish will must be sent up in smoke.
  - 2. His own ideas and opinions must be laid on the altar and submitted to the fire of God.
  - 3. The affections of his heart must also be submitted to the fire.
  - 4. Whatever plans and dreams he has must also be put on the altar.
  - 5. It is ALL of him.
- G. The burnt offering was completely consumed on the altar – it was burnt until there was nothing left.
- H. The first act in coming to God is to lay all that all you are, and all that you have, on that altar to be burnt up and gone forever – the old man is dead.
  - 1. It is a complete surrender and yielding to God the whole of your being and your life.
- I. Likewise, Jesus declared that the first step in becoming his disciple was to deny self.

Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

- J. The burnt offering was not the end, or the entirety of being right with God – it was only the beginning – the first step in that direction.
  - 1. One of the Scribes asked Jesus which was the first commandment, to which Jesus responded:

Mark 12:29-31 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Mark 12:33-34 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

- 2. By saying this, Jesus confirmed that the man was on the right track in his thinking and his understanding.
- 3. The Scribe understood that God had more in mind than just giving, sacrificing, and denying self.
- 4. The whole burnt offerings represented something, but there was something more to be understood and more work to be done in the soul.
- 5. To be reconciled to God requires more than a whole burnt offering.

1 Corinthians 13:3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

- 6. We have nothing to give, but that is not the point – the idea is that we give up what we have and release our grip on what our heart is so attached to.

7. We cannot love God and love the world, also.
- K. There must be a deliberate choice to give our all to God, and this ceremony represents what must take place in our heart and mind before we can approach God with other offerings and sacrifices.
- L. We must come to the altar with all that we have and offer the whole thing on the altar and watch it burn completely up.
  1. There is no way of taking it back – it is gone.
  2. It is such a commitment that what is burnt up cannot be recovered again.

III. The burnt offering is a sweet savour unto the Lord.

- A. 21 times in Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, the burnt offering is said to be a “sweet savour” to the Lord.
- B. Those words obviously convey the idea that it is pleasing to God.
- C. It means “restful, pleasant; delight:—sweet odor or fragrance.
- D. It isn’t the smell of the burning carcass, but the fragrance of the heart that is yielding to God.
- E. It is what the offering signifies – not the offering itself.
- F. The fragrance is coming before God from the heart of the creature that is left – not the one that just burned up on the altar.
- G. So our reward for yielding to God is the knowledge that He is pleased with us, because we have crossed over the line and stop alienating ourselves from Him.
- H. It is the first step toward God and the first step toward being forgiven, reconciled, and born again.

Mark 8:34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

John 3:10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

- I. The sinning religion and easy-believism of this generation is owed largely to the lack of teaching and the ignorance in the pulpits of the law of God.
- J. Salvation has been reduced to an intellectual assent to a set of 4 or five facts about you being a sinner and Jesus dying for you, and all the law of God and the understanding it was designed to give is thrown out the window and ignored.
- K. There must be a foundational understanding of what God has taken thousands of years to reveal to man about the way of redemption and reconciliation to God.
- L. So this will be a very profitable study for all of us, myself included.