

GRAIN OFFERING

LEVITICUS CHAPTER 2

The grain offering was unique in that it was the only one of the five that was bloodless. This together with the fact that it was often associated with the burnt offering (see Num 15v1-16; 28v4-5; 2 kings 16v13,15) led the early Rabbis to believe that the grain offering was simply the poor man's burnt offering. Such a conclusion is entirely wrong. The grain offering was an offering in its own right and could be offered independently of the others (Lev 2v14). It is also described as an offering "most holy" to the LORD. It must never be looked upon as inferior to the rest.

The variety that God Prescribes

The grain offering could be made in a number of different ways;

V1-3 Cereal Offerings of uncooked grain.

V4-10 Cooked cereal Offerings. In an oven (4), on a griddle (5), or in a deep pan (7)

V14-16 Offering of the first fruits at harvest time. Green heads of roasted grain.

Ingredients

Oil = symbol of sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. Oil and perfume together are often symbols of joy and gladness (see Isa 61v3, S of S 3v6, 4v6). Salt (v13) served as a reminder of the binding nature of the covenant relationship that existed between God and His people. Yeast and Honey were both forbidden. These cause fermentation and no corruption was to enter the worship of God.

Ritual

Once again the worshipper was to play an active part in public worship, selecting and mixing the ingredients to present to the priest. Only a small portion was burnt by the priest on the altar, the rest was consumed by the priests in the sanctuary.

O.T Significance

The name for the offering (minhah) is the general word for a "gift", particularly one offered by an inferior to a superior. The sacrifice of Cain and Abel are both called a "minhah" to the Lord (Gen 4v3-5). In non religious usage it referred to the "tribute" paid by a vassal to his overlord (Judges 3v15-18, 2 kings 17v3). This cereal offering also served a practical purpose of providing the priests with food.

N.T Significance

1. Points to Christ In the grain offering Christ is seen as the corn of wheat which fell into the ground and died that He might bring forth much fruit. He was also the corn of wheat which went through the crushing mill of Gethsemane and the fierce oven of Calvary to become the bread of life, the sustenance of his people. Participating in the Lord's supper is like the significance of the memorial portion. It is a reminder of the new - covenant blessings and obligations. He is also the "first fruits" guaranteeing the ingathering of the complete harvest and the Christian's bodily resurrection (1Cor 15v20-23).

2. Points to the worship of the believer The burnt offering signified the consecration of self. The grain offering signified the consecration of gifts. It is an acknowledgment that all that we have is the property and possession of the LORD and is to be devoted to the glory of God and the benefit of our fellow man. (Heb 13v15,16; Philip 4v18; 1 Cor 9v13,14)