

A Call to Relationship: WORSHIP- free will

Main Scriptures: Leviticus 3

Supporting Scriptures: Leviticus 7:10; Lev. 7: 16 ; Leviticus 7: 28-30; Judges 20; Judges 21:1-4; Genesis 35: 1- 15; Colossians 1: 19-22; Ephesians 2:13-19, Leviticus 3:1; Genesis 18 , 19; Acts 2:46

Burnt offering: surrendering to God

Cereal offering: the life of devotion to God

Peace offering: similar to the burnt offering the smoke from the sacrifice (lev. 3:5) is considered a pleasing aroma to God

Note: these sacrifices that were given, they lived in a world where the other nations would practice similar sacrifices to their Gods. When God created Adam and Eve the first sacrifice was when they sinned they was a "skin garment" to cover them. It was their sons that provided an offering to the Lord, and the bible said Able gave the Lord a more excellent sacrifice it was a sacrifice established on faith, and from this, we can understand that the order of worship was given to Adam and his children knew what it is to worship God. In the order of sacrifices, the Burt offering was first and supported with a cereal. The burnt offering was a sacrifice from the flock/herd and the life was given for the worshipper. Blood was spilled and it allowed the worshipper to draw near to God signifying that blood is necessary as it related to mankind coming to the eternal God. That's why we understand that Cain did not follow the pattern as to how mankind should approach God it was not established on blood/faith he did his own thing. The lesson here is that God is a principled God and only what is required of us will be accepted we come to THE HOLY GOD and we can't just worship based on the feeling but he demands certain things from Us and we must rise to his level but he provides what is necessary for us to worship him.

After Able, we recognize that the generation that was there became very corrupt and God said my spirit will not always strive with Man the scripture tells us that Noah found grace in Gods eyes and God determined to wipe out his creation and save only Noah and his family and when Noah left the ark he built a sacrifice to the Lord. One family left the ark and knew the order of worship. Noah's first thing he did was to provide a burnt offering to the Lord. After a few years, the world came corrupt and only one Godly line was left - Shem

Men departed from the East and we end up in the story of Bable with Nimrod and we recognize all the religions starts with the rebellion in the tower of babel (Babylon) all the world religions have some similarities and it started from the tower of babel - most religions have a flood story and a creation story and an end of the world story. The seed of the woman - the promise coming to the world to bring healing to the relationship with God. After redeeming Israel from Egypt God is purifying Israel and he is removing all the confusion and the different ways they see in the other religions and giving them purity for a redeemed people. This is a nation in covenant relationship with God and so here we have the Holy ONE telling the people of Israel what worship is and how to worship must be done and how you will gain a positive outcome from worship done by faith and so tonight we look at the peace offering (Zivah - Shelamin) the offering of wellbeing and greeting. Shalom means peace.

This is a new class of offerings but lower than the Olah and the Minka.

When we contrast the burnt offering with the peace offering. The burnt only male but the peace - can be male or female from the herd, not a bird.

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Burnt offering: compulsory offering anyone who wants to draw near must provide a burnt offering. The peace offering is a free-will offering it is given after the burnt offering and the cereal offering it is not compulsory the worshippers do this when he desires to give it. It's a free-will offering and focuses on having peace with God. Joy and peace of mind come from knowing that God is with us with the end Goal to have acceptance by him. This we understand that worship must be structured compulsory and spontaneous. So for some folks who have difficulty doing the same thing over and over the Lord gave to Israel a tradition but then the peace offering is spontaneous its believer gets up and wants to offer a sacrifice to the Lord.

The priest must present part of this offering as a special gift and remove all the fat on the internal organs. Here the priest is presenting a part of this peace offering not so with a burnt offering. But part of the peace is offered as a special gift and it includes all the fat on the internal organs, 2 kidneys, and the lobe of the liver and this shows how specific God is about his worship we can't give God any and anything. The fat is the prized portion of that meat. God wants the best. It's burnt and it's a pleasing aroma to the Lord. When worship is done correctly we recognize it is pleasing. As the announcement from heaven - this is my son in whom I am well pleased because Jesus said he was here to do the will of His Father - fully surrendered.

This peace offering must have no defects- he wants the best.

The blood touching the alter is Holy - life is in the blood the priest must present the fat as a special gift to the Lord. The study will allow us to understand a certain species of sheep that has a fat tail and they raise that a lot in the Middle East. Even that the Lord wants... the best.

We see now another animal that is allowed to be used as a peace offering and that is the goat and I know many people don't think of the goat as the best animal for a sacrifice (Because of the term "God will divide the sheep from the goat") but we recognize with these animals, they could use both male and female not like the burnt offering that they only use male. They are prevented from using a bird and we recognize that the bird could not be used (lev. 7) because the peace offering would lead to a feast that people could come for a fellowship. There is a feast after the portion that the Lord desires is placed on the altar. So that was one of the suggestions why the bird was not used.

Leviticus 7 provides three reasons for peace offerings.

1. Expression of thanksgiving - this must be accompanied with bread without yeast, etc.(lev. 7:10)
2. Lev. 7: 16 the peace offering to fulfill a vow.
3. Free-will offering: Leviticus 7: 28-30.

These offerings were presented at the discretion of the worshiper.

Thanksgiving offering is also considered the confession offering (Judges 20)

We have here an issue between Israel and the tribe of Benjamin.

Judges 21:1-4

They vowed they would never give their daughters to the tribe of Benjamin (one tribe now missing) and early the next morning they built an altar of a burnt offering and peace offering

This offering was offered when:

1. they needed to understand what was happening or for direction,
2. The worshipper seeks deliverance from the enemy and thus gives a free-will offering along with a burnt offering.

Genesis 35: 1- 15

Jacob knows the Lord will not accept worship where the camp is not clean.

Likewise in moments of difficulties, all we need to do is lean on the Lord Jesus who has fulfilled all the sacrifices we are looking at.

After Jacob did this offering he was able to travel in peace.

Next time the peace offering is used - free-will, not seeking anything from the Lord and all these types end in a sacred meal on a joyous occasion. In the other religions, they offered these foods to their idols, all different types of sinful activities would take place. But God is renewing the minds of the people. The Lord is preparing them for the great revelation which is to come and so it is no doubt, though hard to accept, but have you seen the church established in culture and certain parts of that culture will become part of what exists in their occasion of worship (not sinful stuff) but a lot of these things, the Lord will have to prepare to take away these beliefs and give them purity. Psalm 50: 12-13, in other words, it can be seen in the minds of these people, because remember before the Lord gave this to Moses the elders of the tribes would perform the sacrifices but God took that away and made Aaron the priest. All the elders that normally would do these sacrifices no longer had that responsibility as this was given to Levites. They viewed the Lord as far away and these offerings would appease him and so the Lord is presenting what he requires for worship. Pulling away all the incorrect beliefs and putting in the correct method. God said I have no human needs. What does this mean to us? - Jesus is the fulfillment of all these sacrifices, the burnt offering is a shadow of his death, cereal offering representative of his sinless life, peace offering represents our peace with God after Jesus' death.

Romans 5:1

The only way mankind can have peace is through Christ Jesus, anyone out of this relationship, God is angry at them for rejecting him. So we understand the gift Christ is to the world.

Peace offering fore-shadows the peace we have with God because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Col. 1: 19-22; Ephesians 2:13-17, Lev. 3:1

Burnt offering - only male - a foreshadow of Christ

Peace offering - male and female because the peace of God is for everyone. He united Jews and Gentiles one new people. (Ephesians 2: 19) He is our peace (verse 14) One new man (verse 16) no longer strangers (verse 19)

Significance of the meal (remember a portion of it was set aside for the priest and the worshippers having fellowship in the presence of God) a physical reminder of the blessing of God. A symbol of peace.

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Gen 18, 19 - peace meal

Acts 2:46 - they had fellowship with each other.

The church which included Jew and Gentiles - fellowship was important - peace with God and peace with Men through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

With the Jews and the gentiles, even when Cornelio's was praying and crying out the Lord said his prayers came us as a memorial, and at the same time the Lord spoke to Peter to go down and speak to this man and at fist, Peter mentioned to the Lord - I have never had anything unclean because it was known that the Jews and gentiles did not have a relationship but it took the sacrifice of Jesus in establishing his church which is for all people to bring peace between man. And as I mentioned this was enjoyed in the presence of the Lord. The portion that was left from the peace offering was for fellowship between the breather in and the Lord. Peace is internal, (significant of the internal pieces on the altar of the Lord) Man has to have peace with God before he can have that peace with others. In this, we understand how precious the sacrifice of Jesus is, he has allowed us that we can freely come before God in spontaneous worship not giving him any and anything but be careful how we offer out thanksgiving praises and life to the Lord.