

Leviticus and the Sacrificial System

Lesson 2 – Introduction to the Sacrifices

Introduction

Sacrifice has the idea of; creating/maintaining communion with God, establishing the concept of substitutionary atonement and that blood is required to forgive sin (**Lev 17:11; Heb 9:22**). Sacrifice was never meant to be a mindless ritual (**Psa 51:16-17**), it was supposed to involve the worshipper in a very intimate and honest way with his God. When we think of sacrifice, we often include the idea of deprivation, self-denial, or giving up things, but this does not seem to have been the original idea. This concept seems to have been added by David (**2 Sam 24:24**). The places, methods, rituals, materials, participants, and purposes were all spelled out in detail.

Read Deuteronomy 12:5-7

1. Where is the place the people were to seek the LORD?

2. What were the eight things the people were to bring?

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| 1. | 3. | 5. | 7. |
| 2. | 4. | 6. | 8. |

3. What two things were the people to do

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | 2. |
|----|----|

Types and Shadows

The sacrifices/offerings, appointed times, and priesthood of Leviticus were types and shadows of Christ. **Heb 9:23; 10:1** speak of the sacrifices (plural) that Jesus fulfilled; each one prefigured in some way what Christ would accomplish. **Gal 3:24** tells us that the Law (including all the ritual of the sacrifice) was a tutor to lead us to the Christ. Part of the way that was accomplished was through type and shadow.

1. What is the difference between a type and a shadow (See **Rom 5:14; Col 2:17**)?

2. What can we learn from the following passages?

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| 1. (John 1:29) | 3. (1 Peter 1:19-20) |
| 2. (Acts 2:23) | 4. (Revelation 13:8) |

General Overview of the Sacrifices

Each sacrifice had a distinct purpose and ritual. They used elements from the animal and vegetable world. Animals had to be tame, domesticated. Wild, predatory, defective and unclean animals were forbidden. Vegetation had to be cultivated grains or permitted foods. The drink offering associated with the meal or grain offering was always composed of wine. Sacrifice and offering has been part of mankind's relationship with God since **Gen 4:3-5**. The Law of Moses codified them and added sacrifices for sin preparing the world for Christ.

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Read **Leviticus 1:14; 22:17:28**. What are the rules for animals to be offered?

1. Animals can come from the _____ or the _____.
2. What kind of birds were acceptable?
3. List some of the defects that were not allowed.
4. How old did an animal have to be before being acceptable?
5. What could not be offered on the same day?

Leviticus 1-7 describes five sacrifices/offerings and instructions for the priests.

Identify the sacrifices/offerings:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The Levitical sacrifices can be divided into two major categories. Identify them?

1. Voluntary consecration offerings / worship sacrifices
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
2. Mandatory cleansing offerings / atonement sacrifices
 1. _____
 2. _____

Two phrases are used to describe the sacrifices and offerings in Leviticus. Discuss each:

1. **A Soothing Aroma:** Used 16 times (NASB) all but one time (4:31) refer to the burnt, meal, or peace offerings.
2. **Most Holy:** Used 12 times (NASB).

In addition to the offerings listed in **Leviticus 1-7**, there are two others:

1. Passover – **Ex 12:1-11**
 1. What kind of animal could be offered; how old did it have to be?
 2. What day and time was it killed?
2. Red Heifer – **Numbers 19:1-10**
 1. What was the purpose of the red heifer?
 2. How much of the heifer was to be burned?
 3. Where was the red heifer burned?
 4. What can we infer from **Hebrews 9:13-14**?