

- **\*Read Leviticus 1:1,2\*** Leviticus is often referenced as the Book of Sacrifice, and just two verses into this book we come to understand this as being a very appropriate title. The first 7 chapters of the book are devoted to the laws concerning the sacrifices that were to be made by the Children of Israel. The rest of the book is devoted to teaches concerning the priesthood, laws of purity and holiness, the main feast within the Israelite culture, and civil laws that would govern the people.
- Let's be honest for just a second...the book of Leviticus can be quite a dry read at times. Being thousands of years and a different covenant removed from the writings of this book...we can sometimes not see the value of giving time to reading through this 3rd book of the Old Testament. However, I think that giving the time to read through and gain some understanding of these things can be very helpful. One of the areas of Leviticus that can be good for our knowledge would be that of the sacrifices that were to be offered by the Israelites. We can especially come to understand some type-antitype typology concerning the sacrifices and Jesus. We can also see the consistent nature of God towards what He requires from His people throughout every age. This evening we will give a few minutes of consideration to the 5 sacrifices that are found within Leviticus.

## **I. 5 Sacrifices Found In Leviticus**

### **A. Burnt Offering (Leviticus 1:3-17)**

- 1) Free will offering that is given based upon the ability of the individual.
- 2) The components of this offering include bulls, rams, goats, turtledoves, and pigeons. All of these components were to be offered without blemish. They were to be the best of the herd or flock.
- 3) The offerer was to bring the offering to the doorway of the Tabernacle where the sacrifice was to take place.
- 4) The purpose of this offering was for the offerer to declare his devotion and dedication to God.

### **B. Grain Offering (Leviticus 2:1-16)**

- 1) Another free will offering that is based upon the ability of the offerer.
- 2) The offerer would give fine flour mixed with oil, frankincense & salt. These things would made into unleavened cakes or wafers with oil spread on them. They would be offered up on the alter as a soothing aroma to the Lord. **(2:9)**
- 3) First fruits (fresh heads of grain) could also be offered up as a grain offering. They were covered with oil and incense and was offered up as a memorial portion. **(2:15,16)**
- 4) This offering was made as a dedication to God for the efforts of sowing and the blessings of the fruit that was gathered from their efforts.

### **C. Peace Offering (Leviticus 3:1-17)**

- 1) A free will offering that is given based upon the ability of the individual.
- 2) An ox, cow, sheep, or goat could be used for this sacrifice. Like the Burnt offering, the offerer would take the offering to the door of the tabernacle and perform the sacrifice there.
- 3) This offering was made as a means of a communal meal with God. it was a showing of peace and thanksgiving to God for His generosity towards His people.

### **D. Sin Offering (Leviticus 4:1-35)**

- 1) Required for any person who has sinned and is in need of purification.
- 2) The offering depended upon who it was that was guilty of sin:
  - a) Priest or whole assembly sins: Bull
  - b) Leader sins: goat
  - c) Common people sin: female goat or lamb
  - d) Poor person sins: 2 turtledoves/pigeons
  - e) Very poor person sins: portion of fine
- 3) The purpose of these sacrifices was so that atonement was made for the person who had committed sin.

### **E. Guilt Offering (Leviticus 5-6:7)**

- 1) Required for any person who sins in such a way that restitution is demanded.
- 2) A ram without defect was the component of the sacrifice. Also, 1/5 restitution was to be given to the priest as a penalty for the damage that was incurred.
- 3) This sacrifice served as a means of atonement and restoration for the sin committed against a neighbor.

## II. 3 Things We Learn About Sacrifice From Leviticus

### A. God demands sacrifice from His people.

- 1) This was not the first time that we see God having His people perform and offer up sacrifices to Him. All the way back in the beginning, we find Cain and Abel offering up sacrifices to God. **(Gen. 4:1-4)** Later on, we find Noah offering up sacrifices to God after he and His family get off the ark. **(Gen. 8:20,21)** Sacrifice was a constant part of the lives of God's people during the Patriarchal time period.
- 2) Obvious, as we move into the time period of the Law of Moses we see sacrifices being a major part of their lives and service to God, but did sacrifice end with the Law of Moses?
- 3) While offering literal sacrifices of animals or grain or flour might not be in the life of the Christian... Jesus does demand that His followers present their lives as sacrifices before Him. **(Rom. 12:1)**
- 4) Our worship is also seen as a sacrifice that is offered up to God. **(Heb. 13:15)**
- 5) No matter the time period, God's people have always sacrificed to God as a means of devotion & praise.

### B. Sacrifice costs something.

- 1) Sacrifice takes true effort and costs the offerer something. This is understood when we consider the fact that OT sacrifices were to be of animals that were without blemish. When the best was given to God then He was pleased...but when the people gave less than their best then God was greatly angered and He felt disrespected.
- 2) To truly understand how God feels about sacrifice that was less than best or didn't require the person to actually give up something then let's consider **Malachi 1:6-14**.
- 3) Even as Christians, our sacrifice costs us ourselves. We give up our own desires and standards of living in order to conform to those of His Son. **(Rom. 12:2)** Serving Jesus requires that we sacrifice of ourselves in order to honor and respect Him.

### C. The sacrifices of Leviticus point towards the sacrifice of Jesus.

- 1) Jesus offered Himself as a whole burnt offering on the cross. **(Ephesians 5:2 & Heb. 9:14)**
- 2) Jesus referred to Himself as the bread of life. **(John 6:35)** As the bread of life, He was given as a sacrifice for us.
- 3) Jesus gave himself as a peace offering so that there might be peace between us and God through His sacrifice. **(Rom. 5:1)**
- 4) Jesus was given on the cross as the perfect offering that would cleanse us of our sin. **(Heb. 9:11,12)**
- 5) The sacrifice of Jesus served as the offering to cleanse us of our trespasses. **(II Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13)**

The purposes of the Levitical sacrifices were integral to the lives of the Israelites. They played a role that could not be replaced by anything else and they solidified their covenant with God. While we might not be required to offer these literal sacrifices, let's not take for granted the reason for such. Jesus, being the perfect sacrifice, fulfilled the purposes of these sacrifices for us and He is worthy of our praise and thanks for His great efforts. May God be praised for His infinite wisdom and His perfect provisions for our needs that we ourselves could not fulfill. May we give of ourselves each and everyday to show our understanding and appreciate for everything He has done for us.