

Twelve Lessons

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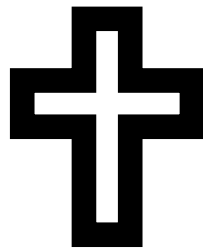
The Book of Leviticus

(Studies of the 5 Offerings and 7 Feasts)

Written & Compiled

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THE BURNT OFFERING – LESSON 1

Introduction: The First 7 chapters of Leviticus deal with the Five Offerings. The Five Offerings speak of access to God. Since these five offerings symbolize the Lord Jesus Christ, it reiterates that no one can gain access to God apart from Him – Heb. 7:25

1. Purpose, Theme, and Title

a. Purpose

- 1) A code of laws for Israel to regulate their lives and show their “difference” from other nations.
- 2) Leviticus reveals the holiness of God. Leviticus stresses His holiness and insists that His people be holy.
- 3) Leviticus outlines a system of sacrifices that reveals God’s way of salvation.
- 4) Quoted or referred to over 100 times in the New Testament.

b. Theme – How an elect, holy people should worship a holy God.

c. Title – The Hebrew title for Leviticus is *vayikra* (“and He called”) – “Leviticus” means “pertaining to the Levites.” The Levites were the members of Aaron’s family who were not ordained as priests but were responsible to help the priests in the service of the tabernacle (Num. 3:1-13).

2. Key Words

a. “Holy” – used 87 times – Lev. 11:44 *“I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy.”* Lev. 11:45 *“Ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”* I Peter 1:15-16 *“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”*

1) “Holy” – that which is set apart and marked off, that which is different.

2) The word “sanctification” describes the process of growing to become more like Christ, and “holy” describes the result of that process.

b. “Atonement” – used 49 times

c. “Sacrifice” – (counting “offering” and “oblation”) used 300 times.

3. Key verse – Lev. 17:11 – *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”*

a. Scofield’s note – The value of the “life” is the measure of the value of the “blood.” This gives the blood of Christ its inconceivable value. When it was shed the sinless God-man gave His life. “It is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats could take away sins” (Heb. 10:4). It is not blood in the veins of the sacrifice, but the blood upon the altar which is efficacious. The Scripture knows nothing of salvation by the imitation or influence of Christ’s life, but only by that life yielded up on the cross.

b. There is another heresy that teaches Christ death alone, without the blood being shed, was the payment demanded and accepted by God. If this were true, then why would God demand that they shed and apply the blood of the Old Testament sacrifice? Why would God allow Christ to die such a horrible death? Why not let His life be taken in another way, if that were so? The answer is that the life is in the blood. In other words, in order for Christ to truly “make atonement” He had to shed His blood.

3. Chapter 1 – Notice the repetition of the phrases “before the Lord” and “unto the Lord,” which are found seven times in this first chapter of Leviticus (vs. 2-3, 5, 9, 13-14, 17). The phrase “sweet savour” is used three times in this chapter (vs. 9, 13, 17) and eight times in chapters 1-3, and it means “a fragrant aroma.”

Lesson Goals:

1. To discover the different types of animals used in the burnt offering.
2. To understand the process by which the burnt offering was offered.
3. To see the significance of the order in the parts used in the burnt offering.

Definitions of Important Terms/Phrases:

1. Offering – That which is presented in divine service; an animal or a portion of bread or corn, or of gold and silver, or other valuable articles, presented to God as an atonement for sin, or as a return of thanks for his favors, or for other religious purpose; a sacrifice; an oblation. In the Mosaic economy, there were burnt-offerings, sin-offerings, peace-offerings, trespass-offerings, thank-offerings, wave-offerings, and wood-offerings.
2. Sacrifice – An offering made to God by killing and burning some animal upon an altar, as an acknowledgment of his power and providence, or to make atonement for sin, appease his wrath or conciliate his favor, or to express thankfulness for his benefits.

3. Blemish – Any mark of deformity; any scar or defect that diminishes beauty, or renders imperfect that which is well formed.

Things to Consider: The Burnt Offering in Leviticus chapter 1 typifies Christ offering Himself without spot to God in delight to do His Father's will even in death. This offering was totally consumed by the fire. This was a sweet savour offering and Jesus is pictured in this offering as a man giving to God what satisfies God. Also, it pictures Jesus, in His life and His death, perfectly accomplishing the will of God. This was something SWEET to Jehovah.

I. THREE OFFERINGS – First three represent access through worship – John 14:6 – “*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*”

A. In the Peace Offering we see Jesus as the Way.

B. In the Meat Offering we see Jesus as the Truth.

C. In the Burnt Offering we see Jesus as the Life.

D. New Testament Scripture – Heb. 10:7 – “*Lo, I come, to do Thy will O God*” – Eph. 1:6 – “*accepted in the beloved*”

II. THE OFFERING – There were five animals used for sacrifice.

A. Different Grades of Offerings

1. The Priest was required to bring the highest grade – a young bullock – Lev. 4:13-14
2. The congregation was required to bring a bullock – Lev. 4:13-14
3. The ruler brought a he-goat – Lev. 4:22-23
4. The common person could bring either a she-goat (Lev. 4:27-28) or a lamb (Lev. 4:32).
5. The poor person brought two turtledoves, two young pigeons (Lev. 5:7) or a meal-offering (Lev. 5:11)
 - a. Why the Different Grades? The magnitude of the sin depends on the person who commits it.
 - b. David's sin with Bathsheba was “scarlet” because it made the enemies of God to “blaspheme.”
 - c. At the same time, the poorest of persons will not have his sins overlooked or ignored.
 - d. It is interesting to note that this was the sacrifice of Joseph and Mary in Luke 2:24 – They were poor in contradiction to the claims of the Charismatic that preaches a prosperity gospel.

B. From the Herd – Lev. 1:3-9 – A bullock without blemish – devoted service

1. The Bullock patiently, willingly, and enduringly plowed the field.
2. This Offering is a substitution in that we did not do this kind of service.
3. The Bullock also pictures Christ as the burden bearer – Is. 53:4

C. From the Flock – Lev. 1:10-12 – A Sheep or Goat without Blemish

1. The Sheep pictures Christ as the Submissive, Silent one – Is. 53:7
2. The Goat pictures Christ as the Sinless One – Is. 53:8 – A goat never slips.
3. The Goat pictures Christ as the Sin-Bearer – The Sinless one bearing the sins of another. Lev. 16:21-22 – “*And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited.*”

D. From the Birds – Lev. 1:14-17 – Two turtledoves or young pigeons without blemish.

1. The turtledoves and young pigeons represent devoted sacrifice – Giving all you have.
2. The turtledoves picture Christ as the Gentle One – Is. 42:3 – “*Bruised reed shall he not break*” and a “*smoking flax shall he not quench.*”
3. The pigeons picture Christ as the Enduring One – Is. 53:11 – Homing instinct – Will not quit flying till reaches home. A pigeon and a turtledove mate only once time in a life time – Christ has only one bride.

E. The Three Different Grades of Animals

1. Bullock – Speaks of the labour of Christ – No one ever laboured like He did.
2. Lamb – Speaks of the un murmuring submission – No one ever submitted like He did.
3. Dove – Speaks of the innocence of Christ – No one was ever so guiltless as He.

III. THE OFFERER – Lev. 1:2-7 – The whole purpose in the Burnt Offering, the offerer comes for acceptance as a worshipper who has already experienced salvation.

A. Presentation – The offerer must bring the sacrifice himself – vs. 2

B. Identification – Laying on of hands – vs. 4 – Signified acceptance and identified him with his offering.

1. By this act, the offerer and the offering became one and this oneness secured for the offerer all the acceptableness of the offering. I John 4:17 – “*as he is, so are we in this world.*” I John 5:20 – “*we are in him that is true.*”
 - a. The man who is not “in” Christ is in his sins. There is no middle ground: you must be either in Christ

or out of Him. There is no such thing as being partly in Christ. If there is a single hair's breadth between you and Christ, you are in an actual state of wrath and condemnation; but, on the other hand, if you are in Him, then you are "as He is" before God, and so accounted in the presence of infinite holiness.

b. Scriptures – I Cor. 6:17 – *"But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit."* Eph. 1:6 – *"he hath made us accepted in the beloved."* Eph. 5:30 – *"For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones."* Col. 2:10 – *"And ye are complete in him."*

2. But further, there is no such thing as progress in justification. The believer is not more justified today than he was yesterday; nor will he be more justified tomorrow than he is today.

C. Admission – Slaughter – vs. 5 – signifies that the sinner regards himself as the cause of the Saviour's death.

D. Application – vs. 5-6 – The offerer watches the Priest as he sprinkles the blood in God's prescribed manner, and lay the sacrifice in its several parts upon the altar. Looking at God's mercy – should cause us to present ourselves to God – Rom. 12:1

E. Consummation – vs. 7 – The sacrifice would be consumed by fire. A part of every sacrifice was to be burnt but this was the only one wholly burnt – according to vs. 9 *"and the priest shall burn all on the altar."*

1. Fire says that God's judgment utterly condemns sin.

2. Fire says that God is a Holy God and will only approve that which is Holy.

3. Fire says that God purifies anything coming into His presence.

4. Fire utterly consuming the sacrifice – pictures Jesus utterly consuming our sins at Calvary by suffering the awful fires of God's judgment.

5. The ashes – Lev. 1:16 – The ashes proved that the fire has said, "It is enough", "It is finished."

IV. THE ORDER – Lev. 1:4-9 – There is significance in the order in which the several parts of the sacrifice are mentioned. They each speak of some action that the Lord Jesus did for me in His saving work.

A. The Head – "He sought me" – That a Holy God would "think" of us and "plan" for us.

B. The Blood – "He bought me" – I Cor. 6:20, I Peter 1:18,19

C. The Skin – "He clothed me" – Isaiah 61:10 *"He hath clothed me...He hath covered me"*

D. The Parts – "He knows me" – Jer. 17:9,10 *"I the LORD search the heart..."*

E. The Fat – "He desires me" – to be healthy, vigorous

F. The Inwards – "He perfects me" – my motives and affections

G. The Legs – "He cleanses me" – The infinite depths of His sacrifice for us are beyond human understanding.

V. THE OUTCOME

A. Acceptance – Man in bringing Christ before God represents a worshipper without sin, and in his sinless offering offers for acceptance that which is received as a sweet savour by the Lord.

B. Appreciation – If this burnt offering is for acceptance as a worshipper, then the varieties of animals would represent different measures of spiritual appreciation that comes with:

1. Cost – the more I see the Cost of Calvary – the Deeper the Appreciation.

2. Maturity – the more Mature – the Deeper the Appreciation

3. Knowledge – the more Knowledge – the Deeper the Appreciation

4. Experience – the more we go through – the Deeper the Appreciation

C. Acknowledgement – Leviticus 6:8-13 points out that the priest offered a burnt offering the first thing each morning, so that every other sacrifice during the day was offered on the foundation of the burnt offering