

SACRIFICES/OFFERINGS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: THEIR IMPORTANCE

by

H. D. Williams, M.D., Ph.D.

Hebrews 9:22 *“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”*

The **dedication** to the will of God by the Lord Jesus Christ and the meaning of the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross of Calvary is typologically portrayed in the five major offerings in the Old Testament (Ex. 20:24, 29, Lev. 1:1-7:38, etc.). Also, they portray the attitude that all believers in the God of the Bible should have as they approach Him in holiness (separation unto God), thankfulness, joy, fellowship, and contriteness.

(Some of the material is from Way of Life Encyclopedia, HDW.)

| <u>OFFERING</u> | <u>RELATED TO CHRIST</u> | <u>RELATED TO THE BELIEVER</u> |
|--|---|---|
| (Whole) Burnt Offering (voluntary) Sweet savor (taste, sometimes described as a smell also because of the necessity of smell for taste and the typological meaning in Scripture of smell as discernment) | Emphasizes Christ's total devotion and/or dedication to the will of God by offering Himself up on the altar of the Cross as THE spotless, sinless Lamb of God. Consumed, totally burnt-up to do the will of God. (Lev. 1:9, Mat. 3:17, 26:39, Phil. 2:5-11, Jn. 4:34, 6:38, 6:40, 8:50, 17:4, 18:11, Heb. 9:11-14, 10:5-7) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pictures a believers call to obey the will of God and follow Jesus Christ in total devotion and dedication. (Rom. 12:1-2) 2. It was to be a male sacrifice which identifies it with Christ. 3. It was to be of his own voluntary will. 4. The person offering the sacrifice would be accepted as Abel's offering was over Cain's (Gen. 4:1-7). 5. His placing of his hands on the head indicated his identification with the sacrifice, which would die, as we are to die to self; and the surrender of the gift to God by the worshipper of God. 6. Pictures our atonement in Christ by placing hands on the head. 7. It was to act as an atonement or cover for sin as the believer approached God. The example was set by God for the necessity of a covering by the shedding of blood and provision of a covering (Gen. 3:21) 8. However, its emphasis is not expiation of sin, but dedication in total surrender to God. 9. Pictures the believers acceptance in Christ |
| Meat (meal) Offering with oil and frankincense, but no leaven or honey | Pictures Christ in His purity and human sufferings; ground to powder (like flour as the offering was of grain), contriteness of heart (a contrite heart means crushed to | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pictures fellowship /communion with God as part of the offering goes to the "priest" (remember, Christ is our Prophet, Priest, and King), some to God, and some to the believer who |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| (voluntary) Sweet savor | powder, e.g. no hardness left), bringing the sinner into communion with God through fellowship around a table shared with the priest and God made possible by Christ's vicarious sacrifice; strengthened by the Holy Spirit (oil), and frankincense, which is symbolic of prayers, praise, and spices used in burial; it is similar to myrrh Jn. 14:21-23, 1 Jn. 1:3 | eats it before the Lord. Le. 2:2-3 2. Thus God and the believer are brought into fellowship "in Christ." God and the believer finding their satisfaction and fellowship 'in Christ.' 3. It is a "present" to God in honour of His greatness, glory, and grace in thankfulness for His gift of salvation by faith in Christ. |
| Peace Offering (voluntary) Sweet savor | 1. Recognizes what Christ did on the Cross in making peace between God and man Rom. 5:1, Col. 1:20 2. See Lev. 3, 7:28-34 | 1. Typifies the believer enjoying peace with God 2. Male or female sacrifice because all can enjoy peace with God. The first two picture God enjoying Christ, thus a male sacrifice. |
| Sin Offering (required) Not a sweet savor | 1. Typifies Christ as our sin bearer Isa. 53, 2 Cor. 5:21 2. Pictures Christ laden with sin and is not a sweet savor as the first three sacrifices. 3. Has in view the vindication of the law through substitutionary sacrifice. 4. His atoning work | 1. Typifies the believer receiving and enjoying forgiveness of sin. Col. 2:13, Heb. 10:10-22 2. Has in view all classes; priests, rulers, common man, reminds us that all men must approach God through Christ's one sacrifice. 3. It is expiatory, substitutionary, efficacious Lev. 4:12, 29, 35 |
| Trespass Offering (required) Not a sweet savor | 1. Pictures Christ as the provision for individual sin. 1 Jn. 1:5-10. 2. His atoning work | 1. Demonstrates the steps necessary for a believer to deal with daily sin. 2. Sin of any sort hinders fellowship. Lev. 5:1-5, 15, 17, 6:2-5. 3. All sin must be judged, confessed, and righted. 1 Cor. 11:31, 1 Jn. 1:5-10 4. The moment God reveals a sin, we must set about righting it. 5. The steps to set things right are: A. Confession. Lev. 5:6-9. B. Renewed Consecration. Lev. 5:10 C. Restitution when appropriate Lev. 5:16, 6:4-5, Mat. 5:23, 24 6. Sins against man are sins against God. Lev. 6:2, Psa. 51:4 7. Restitution makes us right with man, but only the blood of Christ and redemption make us right with God. Lev. 5:15-16 8. Sin is costly. Lev. 5:15. Sin cost God a great price. 1 Pe. 1:18-19, us a price, and it costs others. 9. Forgiveness is available to all. Lev. 5:6-7, 11 |

| THE ANIMALS | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Ox | Christ as the strong, faithful, servant of God Phil. 2:5-8 |
| Lamb | Christ's surrender to God's will all the way to suffering and death on the Cross. |
| Goat | Depicts Christ as taking the sinner's place in judgment. Mat. 25:33, 2 Cor. 5:21, Gal. 3:13, Lk. 23:33, 1 Pet. 2:24 |
| Dove or pigeon | Depicts Christ as the poor man's Savior, the One willing to lay aside His riches and to become poor that He might make us rich. 2 Cor. 8:9, Lk. 2:24 |
| The hand on the head | Identification with the sacrifice, acceptance of the sacrifice in one's place, personal faith, confession of sin, recognition that God has provided a way of forgiveness. |
| The killing of the animal | Depicts the bloody death of Christ and the means of salvation. Rom. 5:9-10 |

| OTHER THINGS | |
|--|--|
| Salt | Typifies the Words of God or His Covenant with man; just as Lot's wife became a "pillar of salt" for disobeying God's command; His commands are Truth (Gen. 19:26). Also, note that our speech should be seasoned with salt, which probably means among several things that our speech should contain God's words (Col. 4:6). |
| Leaven | Typifies sin |
| Honey | Enhances the fermentation process |
| Sprinkling of the blood seven times | Perfection and completeness |
| Wave Offering | The breast offering which is the priests, waved before the Lord in the priest's hands in thankfulness for His gift, in recognition that He is the provider, and all things are in the hand of Christ to the glory of God. Ex. 29:26, 29:27 It is said by John Gill that the owner of the sacrifice participated in the Wave Offering by placing his hands beneath the priest's hands. |
| Heave Offering | Typifies the giving of the right shoulder of the sacrifice as belonging to God who then gives it back by the heaving motion. |
| Scapegoat (One of two goats on the Day of Atonement) | Jesus carries our sins away and/or into the "wilderness" by taking them upon Himself. Today, a "scapegoat" is one who carries the blame for others, but the scapegoat represents us, who are allowed to escape death; the first goat is sacrificed. Lev. 16:7-10, 20-22 |