

Leviticus 3:1-17 – An offering of Fellowship

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

The burnt offering, which was totally consumed on the altar for the offerer, reminds you Jesus was totally consumed on the cross for you. In turn, you must totally dedicate yourself to him.

The grain offering showed the offerer's thankfulness for a restored relationship with God (restoration done through the burnt offering). In turn, you must live a life of thankfulness with your time, tithes, and talents.

There is another benefit from the burnt offering and you'll see that in the peace offering. This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

The nature of the offering

The method of the offering

The purpose of the offering

Our goals are: **That you will learn to love, care, and be close to God and your fellow brothers, knowing you were all redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ!**

1 'When his offering is a sacrifice of a peace offering, if he offers it of the herd, whether male or female, he shall offer it **without blemish** before the LORD. **2 'And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering, and kill it at the door of the tabernacle of meeting;** and Aaron's sons, the priests, shall sprinkle the blood all around on the altar. 3 'Then he shall offer from the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire to the LORD. The fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails, 4 'the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove; 5 'and Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is on the wood that is on the fire, as an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.

6 'If his offering as a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD is of the flock, whether male or female, he shall offer it without blemish. 7 'If he offers a lamb as his offering, then he shall offer it before the LORD. 8 'And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering, and kill it before the tabernacle of meeting; and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle its blood all around on the altar.

9 'Then he shall offer from the sacrifice of the peace offering, as an offering made by fire to the LORD, its fat and the whole fat tail which he shall remove close to the backbone. And the fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails, 10 'the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove; 11 'and the priest shall burn them on the altar as food, an offering made by fire to the LORD. 14 'Then he shall offer from it his offering, as an offering made by fire to the LORD. The fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails, 15 'the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys,

he shall remove; 16 'and the priest shall burn them on the altar as food, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma; all the fat is the LORD'S.

The Nature of the Peace Offering

1. The Peace Offerings were called "shalem-im" (plural) in Hebrew.

"Shalom" is the Hebrew word for peace. This was how Jews greeted each other. The Arabic is "salaam."

Solomon, the king who ruled Israel over a **time of incredible peace**, had his name from this root word. God gave Israel peace through David's bloodshed and so he named his son after God's peace.

2. The Peace Offering was a fellowship or communal meal.

It was shared by the priests, who represented God, the offerer, and covenant brothers.

3. The Peace offering was a sweet aroma to the Lord.

A "sweet-smelling aroma" meant it was pleasing to the Lord.

4. The Peace Offering was a voluntary offering, as opposed to other offerings that were mandatory.

5. The Peace Offering could be a male or female cow, sheep, or goat.

But the **Peace Offering did not have to be perfect – unless it was for a vow (Exodus 22).** God graciously accepted an animal for this sacrifice that had minor blemishes.

6. Lessons:

a. You are only to offer sacrifices God requires, not what you think it best, or what you want to offer.

b. Celebrating peace with God is a noble thing. This is why we share the Lord's Supper. It is never privately administered, but publicly with others.

The Method of the Peace Offering

1. The priest killed the animal and sprinkled the animal's blood on the altar.

This prefigured baptism that was done by sprinkling. The animal was clean and the people were declared to be clean.

2. Parts of the Peace Offering were directly given to the Lord and burnt.

The kidneys of the offerings were saved for the Lord because the Jews were called to love the Lord with their "kidneys."

The Lord would tell us to save the "heart" for his offering **if we were there** because we say the heart is the seat of love. So don't think of kidneys as we do today.

The certain fats of offerings were saved for the Lord and burned to him. It is as if God were eating that part!

3. The offerings were burned on God's altar in front of the tabernacle or temple.

This is what the phrase "before God" meant. **The Jews could not set up private altars.**

4. Parts of the Peace Offering were given to the priests.

The priest took the breast and the shoulder. One of it was lifted or heaved up and down, and other waved to and from right to left in the air. (V30-32) **This is why the peace offering was also called the "heave" or "wave" offering.**

Leviticus 7:29 - Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'He who offers the sacrifice of his peace offering to the LORD shall bring his offering to the LORD from the sacrifice of his peace offering. 30 'His own hands shall bring the offerings made by fire to the LORD. The fat with the breast he shall bring, that the breast may be waved as a wave offering before the LORD. 31 'And the priest shall burn the fat on the altar, but the breast shall be Aaron's and his sons'. 32 'Also the right thigh you shall give to the priest as a heave offering from the sacrifices of your peace offerings. 33 'He among the sons of Aaron, who offers the blood of the peace offering and the fat, shall have the right thigh for his part. 34 'For the breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the heave offering I have taken from the children of Israel, from the sacrifices of their peace offerings...

The priests (who represented God) ate the same meal with the people of God. What wonderful fellowship!

5. Parts of the Peace Offering were given to the offerer.

Everything that remained belonged to the offerer, **who would invite his friends and the poor to feast on it with him.**

6. Lessons:

a. Today you must bring, not animals for peace offering, but peace offerings of praise and worship.

b. Private or family churches were not acceptable. God's churches are open and God-ordained men rule. Here they receive and disperse God's gifts.

The Purpose of the Peace Offering

17 'This shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings: you shall eat neither fat nor blood.'

1. Believers offered the Peace Offering to the Lord for specific things.

a. Believers could offer the Peace Offering as a vow, but this was not as common. (Leviticus 7:16) Maybe if God did something good for them and they vowed to make a sacrifice to him then they offered the peace offering.

b. Believers could offer the Peace Offering for an unexpected blessing. If they had an extra good year with their crops, they might make sacrifice. Solomon offered peace offerings when the temple was completed - 120,000 sheep and 22,000 oxen!

c. Believers could offer the Peace Offering for deliverance from troubles, especially from war, or maybe from a serious sickness.

2. The Peace Offering showed peace between God and man and between man and man, so they ate together.

3. Lessons:

a. You have a similar situation of peace. Consider what God did for you in the sacrifice of Jesus.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Colossians 1: 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, **having made peace through the blood of His cross.**

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, **Prince of Peace.**

That is what the angels sang when Jesus was born: “Glory to God in the highest, and to earth, peace and goodwill to men?”

b. Because the burnt offering was completed in Jesus, you don't need to make this bloody fellowship offering anymore to please God. You bring other offerings, like worship and service. Make sure they are pure. This became Judah's problem! Don't defraud God of the things in which he delights.

Malachi 1:12 "But you profane it, In that you say, 'The table of the LORD is defiled; And its fruit, its food, is contemptible.'

c. Respond in sharing his blessing to you with others. Remember, everything you are and have is because of God's grace.

Don't forget your neighbor. Share of the abundance God has given you.

Do things that will encourage each other. Sing hymns, songs, and spiritual songs to each other – another reason to be in church. Worship is essential!

Don't wait for others to act. You act first! This not only meets the needs of the saints, but it also brings joy to them. They can celebrate with you.

d. There is no class system in Christianity. Many nations used the caste system to exploit the poor – and Christians have done this. The Boers, who claimed to be Christians, in South Africa said the blacks needed only 10% of what whites were paid to work in the gold mines – doing the same work - and blacks did not need to have their families with them but whites did! They were acting like the two races had two saviors!

e. Cherish the relationship you have with each other in the family and in the church.

Cherish the relationship you have with your elders. Cherish, above all else, the relationship you have with your Father.

Conclusion:

The fellowship offering was a thanksgiving offering that was made from clean animals. They could be sheep, goats, and cattle. A small portion was burned to God, some given to the priests, and the rest given to the offerer to eat and to share with his brothers. **Eating of the same animal pictured wonderful fellowship.**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Continue bringing your offerings to God today. But ask: What is the quality of that offering I am offering him? Is my singing the best? Or is your singing sickly? Do I prepare for it? Is my giving the best?

2. Continue sharing with your needy brothers. This is a most desperate time with lockdowns all over the world. I hope you are helping those who have nothing. And yes, you are to help all men, but you are first called to remember the needs of your own blood brothers, those saved by the blood of Jesus.

3. Continue to tell others there is a sacrifice that was offered so men could have fellowship with God and be brought into God's family with new brothers and sisters. Great blessings await you if you do this.

Finally, Jesus desires to eat the fellowship offering with you! Revelation 3: 20 "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." Are you willing to eat with him? He made it possible by being your sacrifice first! Accept him today!