

Sacrifices and Offerings

An Acted Parable



When God gave the Hebrew people instructions for the Tabernacle and the various rites and ceremonies that would be done there, He wanted them to learn some important things about the Gospel. There was deep meaning in each and every detail. Everything about the system was for the purpose of educating them regarding His Plan of Salvation. The sacrifices and offerings they brought were all a part of the Gospel acted out, a living parable.

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5

Burnt Offering (Lev. 1; 6:8-13; 7:8, 37; 8:18-21; 22:18-20) Dedication / Consecration

A person might voluntarily bring an animal as a Burnt Offering when they wanted to give a gift totally to God with nothing kept back. The animal was killed and its entire body was burned as a symbol of the person consecrating themselves totally to God. It was a “sweet savor” to Him because He appreciated the motive behind it. There was also a mandatory, daily, public Burnt Offering which was a symbol of the continual consecration of the entire nation to God.

What did Paul appeal to his readers to present to God?
Romans 12:1

What did he exhort them to not do?
Romans 12:2

Firstfruits (Ex. 23:19; 34:26; Lev. 2:12; Num. 15:17-21; 18:12; Deu. 18:4; 26:1-11) Giving the First and Best to express Appreciation

Bringing an offering of Firstfruits symbolized giving God the first and best before taking any for

personal use. The person acknowledged God's blessing and expressed their gratitude for what He had provided.

What was the person encouraged to do after they had placed their Firstfruits offering before the Lord?
Deuteronomy 26:10, 11

What does God promise if we put Him first?
Proverbs 3:9, 10

Matthew 6:31-33

God is waiting for us to express our appreciation to Him for all the blessings He gives us. We are admonished to give our best to Him in addition to the tithe that already belongs to Him. He doesn't want merely what is left over after we have used His resources for ourselves.

Peace Offering / Thank Offering
(Lev. 3; 7:11-21, 29-37; 19:5-8)
Friendship and Fellowship

When a person brought a Peace Offering or Thank Offering, part of it was burned on the Altar, certain parts were given to the Priest, and the remainder was eaten by the person and their family. This was like extending a personal invitation to God to have a meal together in friendship and fellowship, again for the purpose of expressing appreciation for what He had done.

Who brings peace in our lives?
Ephesians 2:13, 14

Colossians 1:20 talks about Jesus reconciling everything to Himself. What does the word *reconcile* mean according to the dictionary?

What are two kinds of sacrifices that please God?
Hebrews 13:15, 16

Sin-offering
(Lev. 4; 6:24-30; 7:37)
Removal of Guilt

If a person disobeyed one of God's laws, he was required to bring an animal as a sacrifice. He confessed his sin on the head of the animal, which symbolically transferred his guilt to the animal. He then killed it as his legal substitute. Its blood was sprinkled on the Altar, its body was burned, and the sinner could walk away pardoned.

... and the priest shall make an atonement for his sin that he hath committed, and it shall be forgiven him. Leviticus 4:35

What happens to us because of this special provision?
2 Corinthians 5:21

What two things does God promise to do for us if we confess our sins?

1 John 1:9

Matthew 20:28 tells us that Jesus gave His life as a ransom for us. What is a *ransom* according to the dictionary?

We should appreciate the forgiving attitude God has. Since He does not want us to die eternally because of our sin, He has granted us the opportunity to confess and repent and be pardoned. He made a way that the guilt of our sin could be put on Jesus, our Substitute, the ultimate Sin-offering, even though He had no sin of His own.

Trespass-offering
(Lev. 5:1 - 6:7; 7:1-7, 37; Num. 5:5-10; 18:9, 10)
Reparation for Damage or Loss

A person was required to bring a Trespass Offering to God if he had done something that caused financial damage or loss to someone.

What else was he required to do even before he presented the Offering?

Leviticus 6:5. . . he shall even _____ it in the principal, and shall _____ more thereto, *and* give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering.

The guilty person was to repay the loss with an additional 20 percent.

God also gave a directive regarding what should be done if a person misused a “holy thing,” something that belonged to God. An example might be if he spent for something else money that should have been given as tithe.

What was the guilty person required to do in this situation?

Leviticus 5:15, 16

Zacchaeus collected taxes for the Roman government. He had authority to demand more than what the law required and he had become a wealthy man because of his greed. What did he promise to do after he met Jesus?

Luke 19:1-10

Some Principles Regarding Sacrifices and Offerings

A sacrifice is no substitute for obedience.

What are some things God wants rather than Sacrifices?

1 Samuel 15:22

Psalms 51:16, 17

Proverbs 21:3

It should be our best, with no blemishes.

What kind of quality does God want in what I bring as an Offering?
Leviticus 22:17-24

Malachi 1:8, 13

It should be at personal expense.

Why did David not accept Araunah's offer to give him the oxen and wooden implements?
2 Samuel 24:18-25

How might God feel about someone saying, "If God lets me win the lottery, I will give half of it to the church." ?

Let us bring to God acceptable sacrifices of praise, good works, and that which we have earned ourselves.