

## The Presence: Grain Offerings

Leviticus 2

### INTRODUCTION

- Last week we began Leviticus by looking at the Burnt Offerings and how God's holiness revealed in His righteous requirements and gracious atonement offered for man. All of this pointing ultimately to Jesus Christ.
- The first seven chapters of Leviticus deal with 5 major offerings: Burnt, Grain, Peace, Sin, and Guilt.
- The first three (burnt, grain, and peace) are voluntary offerings (given spontaneously by individuals). Sin and Guilt offerings are mandatory.
- The offerings are addressed twice in the seven chapters. First 5 1/2 chapters focus on the worshippers responsibilities. The last 1 1/2 chapters on the priestly role.
- All the offerings brought people back to the epicenter of God's presence, the tabernacle, which we see fulfilled in Christ as He tabernacled among us (**John 1:14**).
- Today, we look at the second of the five offerings, the grain offering

### Grain Offering Instructions (vv.1-10)

- A) The worshipper's offering
  - a. Voluntary
  - b. Bring it when and as often as desired, but when it's brought must be according to God's standard
  - c. Most likely coincided with Burnt offerings
  - d. Unleavened (pure, untreated)
  - e. Types
    - i. Baked in an oven (no frankincense required - poor were invited to participate as before)
    - ii. Baked on a griddle
    - iii. Cooked in a pan
- B) The role of the priest
  - a. Burn the offering
  - b. Separate his portion ("holy" is set apart for a purpose)
- C) Remember

### Grain Offering Ingredients (vv.11-16)

- A) Fine flour
  - a. No leaven
  - b. No honey
    - i. No real explanation for this
    - ii. Used as a firstfruit offering (**2 Chron. 31:5**)
    - iii. Possibility would be potential fermenting or that the Assyrians used honey in this manner to false gods
    - iv. Either way, obedience to God's instruction did not (and does not) depend on comprehending the reasons
- B) Firstfruits
  - a. Giving the firstfruits back to God reveals His rule over all things -- if this is withheld, the individual exercises rule
    - i. Fresh ears
    - ii. Roasted
    - iii. Crushed new grain
  - b. Oil w/ incense
    - i. Expense
    - ii. Fragrance (frankincense)
- C) Seasoning
  - a. Salt
  - b. Salt of the Covenant
    - i. Preserving by nature
    - ii. **Psalms 105:3-11**

### Grain Offering Intent

- A) Joy of the Worshipper
  - a. In Obedience
    - i. Doing all that God requires
    - ii. Giving of one's (whole) self
  - b. In Memorial (God's Covenant promise)
    - i. As a memorial - of God's presence & provision (combine this with "salt of the

- covenant" and you have a reminder of God's permanent promised presence among His redeemed)
- ii. This is all in keeping with His covenant promise
- iii. Essentially, an offering of thanksgiving
- c. In Worship
  - i. Every detail
  - ii. Every set apart "holy" purpose

- B) Provision for the Priests
  - a. "Holy" - set apart for the purpose of provision - they owned no land. They served.
  - b. **1 Cor. 9:13-14**

- C) Pleasure of God
  - a. Pleasing aroma
  - b. **Eph. 5:2**
  - c. Is what pleased God with the smell of the grain offering the fact that it pointed to the most satisfying fragrance exuding from Christ's finished work?

### The Grain Offerings and the Gospel

- A) The Good News...
  - a. God has spoken
  - b. Revealed what's necessary for Him to dwell in our midst
- B) God
  - a. Holy
  - b. Desires to meet with His people
  - c. Demands His people to be holy in order for Him to dwell with them
- C) Man
  - a. Required by God to be Holy
  - b. Is not Holy and needs a mediator (a priest) and atonement (a sacrifice) to satisfy God's requirement - Grace that God would make this provision

- D) Christ
  - a. **Psalm 40:6-8**
  - b. **Heb.10:5-9**
  - c. Is sufficient as man's only hope - God's provision as the only satisfying one for every sacrifice and offering ever made to please the Father
    - i. Bread of Life - **John 6:47-51**
    - ii. Firstfruit - **1 Cor.15:19-20**
    - iii. Eternal Covenant - **Heb. 13:20-21**
- E) Response
  - a. Obedience to trust God's Word (He has spoken), turning from our own righteousness
  - b. Receive God's Provision for atonement
  - c. Desire to please God in fellowship with Him - to offer all of who we are for His pleasure, not our purposes
    - i. **2 Cor.8:3-5**
    - ii. **Rom.12:1-2**

### REFLECTION & RESPONSE

- A) Non-believer, do you feel like you're good enough for God? Holy, perfect, unstained God? Perhaps you feel like there's no way He will ever accept you. You've tried to be and do good, but you just can't measure up. True enough. God has made it clear in His Word today that those who come to Him must bring their best, but they must do it over and over again because they keep "not measuring up." He provided Christ as the one all these offerings and sacrifices would point to that we would know He is the perfect priest and the perfect sacrifice and that if we believe that He is priest and sacrifice for us, then based on who Jesus is and what Jesus has done, we'll be approved by God...nothing of ourselves. Here's how Ephesians 2:8-9 puts it...
- B) Believer, consider your offering before the Lord today. In view of who He is and what He's done, are you truly worshipping by what you bring?