

The Presence: Peace Offerings

Leviticus 3

INTRODUCTION

- Leviticus described the conduct in the tabernacle, giving instruction regarding how holy God will dwell in the midst of His people.
- 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.
- 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**).
 - These offerings were gracious provisions by God to help the people know how to come back to Him, dwelling in His fellowship.
- Today, we look at the third of the five offerings, the peace offering
- Prayer

Peace Offering Purpose

- A) Overview of the Peace 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. Coincided with Burnt offerings (we see that to bring a grain offering or a peace offering that **atonement for sin was necessary**)
 - d. Shalom is plural - many types of "peace" under many circumstances
- B) Place of Peace Offering
 - a. Coupled with Burnt Offering
 - b. Voluntary implies that peace and fellowship are inseparable
 - c. Various occasions

- C) Intent of the Peace Offering
 - a. Peace with God
 - b. Remembrance of the covenant (cause for peace and cause for pursuing peace)
 - c. Worship (to rightly do so demands a reminder of the atonement for sin)
 - d. Celebrating Fellowship
 - i. Often w/a meal to follow
 - ii. In Numbers, Deut., 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Chronicles you will find that this offering is often associate with joy and a worship celebration (a person who lacks true joy is most likely suffering for a lack of peace [felt or actual] with God)

Peace Offering Description

- A) Sacrifice
 - a. Herd
 - b. Flock
 - c. Goat
- B) Process
 - a. Worshiper
 - i. Bring the best sacrifice (unblemished representing the heart of the worshiper and the requirements of God)
 - ii. Identify with the sacrifice (hand on the head)
 - iii. Slay the sacrifice at the entrance to the tent of meeting (bring it to the presence of the Lord and make atonement for peace)
 - b. Priest
 - i. Blood on the altar
 - ii. Arrange the parts for burning (special considerations for the fat)
 1. Kidney
 2. Liver
 3. Fat
 4. Little explanation except that God is detailed and demands obedience. As

well, the kidney has been associated with the “heart” and the liver with “joy” or “deep emotion” (according to Word Biblical Commentary on Leviticus). No clear connection with “fat” except that it was often associated with the most flavorful part of the meat.

- iii. On behalf of the worshiper before God...a pleasing aroma

with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

- c. Communion (God’s provision for us to remember the satisfying atoning sacrifice of Christ, making peace with God for those who believe)

Peace Offering Meaning

- A) God’s Character
 - a. Holy / unblemished
 - b. Righteous (right to make requirements)
- B) God’s People
 - a. Covenant Relationship
 - b. Righteous Requirements
 - c. Worship
 - i. Voluntary
 - ii. Spontaneous
 - iii. Regular
 - iv. Desirable
- C) God’s Provision
 - a. Sacrifices
 - i. Instructions
 - ii. Priests
 - b. Christ
 - i. God’s spotless / unblemished lamb
 - ii. God’s perfect / perpetual priest
 - iii. God’s promised provision for peace
 - 1. Plural “shalom” - typical of the all-peacemaking sacrifice in Christ (nothing is held against us in Christ)
 - 2. **Romans 8:1**, “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”
 - 3. **Romans 5:1-2**, “1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace

REFLECTION & RESPONSE

- A) Are you at peace with God? With His holy character He demands perfection of His people to dwell in their presence. He gave us the law to reveal our imperfection, but He doesn’t leave us without hope. God has provided a sacrifice. The peace offering reminds us again of more that Christ has accomplished on behalf of those who believe and trust Him. To dwell with God forever, you must trust His ultimate peace offering (for you) in the person of Christ. How? Repent - turn from trusting your own righteousness and sinfulness / Faith - trust Him to be your righteousness forever!
- B) Peace with God culminates in celebratory worship! Believer, what is your desire and passion for God? To celebrate who He is and what He’s done for you in Christ?
- C) **Romans 8:1-7**, “1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh **set their minds** on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not **submit to God’s law**; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”