

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OFFERINGS

"The Burnt Offering"

Leviticus 1:1-17

Nov 7, 1982

INTRODUCTION

1. The offerings teach the holiness of God. They teach holiness to God. God's holiness is the starting place for all relationships with Him.
2. The offerings teach that sacrifice is imperative to approach God. Indeed, without shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin (Heb. 9:22).
3. All the offerings are referred to as "the Bread of God" (Lev. 21:6). This has obvious reference to a spiritual food, hence trust and praise are involved (Psa. 50:8-15).

1. WHO OFFERED?

Generally, the law for offerings was for Israel, not Gentiles (except a proselyte) nor the Body of Christ. The opportunity to offer was available to "any man" (v. 2). No coercion, but privilege of personal will.

2. WHAT OFFERED?

The key here is that offerings were consistent with ability of the offerer. They were within reach of all. Specific animals are mentioned: cattle (vv. 2-9), sheep or goats (vv. 10-13), fowls (vv. 14-17). The animals were to be male and without blemish. They were domesticated, therefore, did not live from other animals.

3. HOW OFFERED?

Two were involved: offerer and priests; the former brought his offering to the tabernacle, identified with it, and then killed it, skinned it, cut it, and washed it. The priest caught the blood, poured it around the altar, and then burned the parts on the altar. Note: The priest kept the skin (Lev. 7:8), but the offerer kept nothing. This was a whole burnt offering, so all went up to God.

4. WHY OFFERED?

Several reasons: a. Something sweet smelling to God (Lev. 1:9, 13, 17). b. Something offered willingly

to God (Lev. 1:3). c. Something totally burned to God (Lev. 1:13).

Note: In summary, the purpose of this offering shows we are to offer our bodies completely to God as a willing, sweet smelling sacrifice (Rom. 12:1). Christologically, this sacrifice speaks of our Lord in His obedience, acceptance, and total dedication to the will of the Father (John 10:17). He was in the truest sense the burnt offering exclusively for the heart of God.

CONCLUSION It is true that the animal sacrifices of the O.T. are no longer required. They ceased with the once-for-all-time sacrifice on the cross. Yet, we are to continually offer up spiritual sacrifices to God (1 Pet. 2:5). One of these can be the meaning of the burnt offering: 1. Self dedication and 2. praise for His offering on the cross. Let us do these today and always (cf. Lev. 6:8-13). Amen.

Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace,
Or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heavenly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.

My faith would lay her hand
On that dear head of Thine,
While like a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin.

My soul looks back to see
The burden Thou didst bear,
When hanging on th'accursed tree,
And knows her guilt was there.

Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse removed;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice,
And sing His bleeding love.