

Leviticus 1:1-17 – An offering of total dedication

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Jesus is everywhere in the Bible and I don't want to rob you of seeing the wonder of the Savior and his work, so we will learn of him from Leviticus and later from Exodus.

We won't have time to do every chapter and every verse, but by the time we are done, you would have a much better understanding of these ceremonies, signs, and sacrifices and how they picture the nature and work of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Today we will begin by looking at the whole burnt offering.

Our headings are:

The nature of the offering

The method of the offering

The purpose of the offering

Our goals are: **That the wonder of who Jesus is and what he did for you will become clearer and that you will love him for it!**

The Nature of the Offering

1. This burnt offering was called in Hebrew “olah,” and it was often called the whole burnt offering.

The word “olah” comes from the word “to ascend” as in “the offering going up to God.”

2. The burnt offering was a blood offering (blood represented the life of the animal).

So this was not an easy thing to see. No one enjoys a bloody scene, but it was a necessary scene.

3. The burnt offering was sweet smelling offering to God.

Meat is not sweet-smelling in the literal sense. The offering was sweet-smelling in that it was pleasing to God, just we might call a pleasant perfume “sweet.”

4. The burnt offering was a voluntary offering.

5. The burnt offering was offered at the door of the tabernacle, no other place.

The location of the sacrifice was a reminder that no one could come to God or enter his presence without blood sacrifice.

6. The burnt offering was made according to what the offerer could afford.

The sacrifice showed the offerer's financial status.

7. The burnt offering had to be made of an appropriate animal, as God designated.

God wanted certain clean animals. So no one could bring a rat, a bat, or a cat as a sacrifice.

The sacrifice could not have a blemish, so it could not be a blind, lame, or castrated. If the priests found any imperfections in it, it could not be used as a whole burnt offering. It was disqualified.

8. The burnt offering had to be of a male.

Why? Males were representative heads. **You don't get blamed for Eve's sin, but for Adam's sin.** He was the representative of the people. (This explains why God gave men authority over their wives. This is why fathers are commanded to teach their children. This is why elders are only men.) **The animal had to properly represent the thing for which it stood in place.** (This is why gender neutral language is bad.)

9. The burnt offering was a continual offering.

It was burned until totally consumed. It was burned every single day, every single night...every week, month, and year.

10. Lessons:

a. You must, of your own free, bring offerings to God –and not just financial offering...your offerings of praise must be freewill as well. And if you bring freewill offerings, you will receive the blessings of the Lord. If you don't, you don't.

b. Church is the proper place for bringing your sacrifices of praise.

c. Those who don't believe in Jesus cannot bring an offering to God! Their worship is not acceptable. It is contempt to try to do so. So teach others about Jesus first. This way there will join with the angels in heaven...not receive judgment from heaven.

d. The Lord Jesus was a male, the 2nd Adam, the perfect Lamb of God, who had to die as a freewill burnt offering for the sins of men. He gave himself wholly to God and so was the source of your total justification.

e. While burnt offering of animals had to be sacrificed day and night, Jesus was sacrificed one time for all times!

The Method of the Offering

1. The priests used the same general method for making the burnt offering sacrifice, regardless of what kind of animal it was.

If the burnt offering were a bull, sheep, or goat, **the animal was killed and the insides washed.**

This pictured the fact that the **inside of man needs to be cleaned.**

Even when a tiny bird was killed, the feather and the crop of the bird needed to be removed. This made sure it was clean.

Even the priests had to wash themselves before they served in the making the sacrifices. (Leviticus 8).

2. The offerer placed his hand on the animal's head to show a transference of the sin of the offerer to the animal.

When a man becomes a deacon, elder, or minister, other elders place their hands on their heads to show a conferring of authority.

So the blood, which was the life of the animal, was seen as the blood of the offerer.

3. The entire animal was then burned – fat and all – and no part was saved for eating by either the priests of the offerer.

4. Then the blood of the burnt offering was sprinkled by the priest on the altar and he declared that the offerer was clean.

The animal died so the offerer might live.

And notice nothing was immersed in blood. This is why we sprinkle in baptism. This is the example throughout Scripture.

5. Lessons:

a. You may not bring any type of offering other than what God requires. Good works are good but they don't save. A moral life is good, but it won't save. A generous man is good, but charity doesn't save. Only the sacrifice of Jesus saves! (Isn't this the best Christmas gift you can give to anyone?)

b. We don't have to use blood anymore because Jesus' blood permanently makes us clean, so we are sprinkled with water in baptism. Baptism is a declaration that you have been made clean.

The Purpose of the Offering

1. The whole burnt offering symbolized the total surrender and dedication to God by the individual or the congregation.

It was called the "WHOLE" burnt offering to describe this surrendering and dedicating of oneself or the nation to God.

This total surrender and dedication through the sacrifice then propitiated God's anger for sins.

2. Now you know all sacrifices point to Christ and his redemptive work and the burnt offering was no exception.

Jesus was the one who would wholly give his life to propitiate God's anger with sinners.

3. At the time of Jesus, the Jews then laid their hands on Jesus and crucified him.

The priests at the time of Jesus were offerings all kinds of polluted sacrifices – blind and lame – so God had them sacrifice, without knowing it, the perfect Lamb of God for the sins of the world. They put their sins on Jesus.

4. Jesus had to be a willing (as the burnt offering was a freewill offering) sacrifice for sins and he was.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

5. Christ had to be sacrificed and die – completely die – in the worst possible way – on the cross.

He couldn't be beaten. He could not die by lethal injection or a quick beheading. In fact, Jesus' pain was so intense, his flesh did not want to go through it. And that was quite appropriate – showing he was fully human! No human flesh should want to go through that pain.

Matthew 26: 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." 39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

Mark 14: 36 And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."

God demanded sacrifice and Jesus had to be that sacrifice...that total sacrifice.

6. Lessons:

a. Because you are now in Jesus Christ, you must be totally dedicated the Lord Jesus – body and soul – to God. Don't be joined to the impure. Don't touch things with your hands or eyes that lead to covetousness – which is idolatry. Avoid things that lead to adultery. Avoid friendships with those who are going to lead you away from Jesus. And learn of the wretchedness of the human condition apart from Christ. And learn of the holiness of God who cannot bear to look at sin.

Romans 12: 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

This is the only “reasonable” thing you can do!

2Corinthians 5:9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

What else can be your goal for the one who gave is life for you?

b. And you must stay near to the one who gave his life for you and continues to remain with you to the end of your life!

Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

And daily lay your sins on Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God!

Conclusion:

The burnt offering was a voluntary, whole, blood offering of a clean male animal. The burnt offering showed a total surrender to God so his anger was propitiated against the offerer. Of course, the blood of the animal did not cause God's anger to subside, but the offer had to have in view the future work of Jesus. The burnt offering was a picture of Jesus. He was the pure, male, freewill offering that was totally consumed on the cross for your sins.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Celebrate! You are able to go to the Holy of Holies through Jesus– who was your perfect sacrifice.

2. Commit yourself to serving the one who gave himself for you. He wants your body and soul in his service.

3. Communicate that message so the lost doesn't have to die for his sins but he could embrace the sacrifice of Jesus.

Finally, if you are not a Christian today, why not **reach out your hand by faith and put in on Jesus**...and claim him as your sacrifice? You will find him to be a true Savior and you will never have to die for your sins.