

Leviticus Chapter 01 Verses 4-17 Continuing Voluntary Sacrifices

Le 1:4 "And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him. 5 And he shall kill the bullock before the LORD: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. 6 And he shall flay the burnt offering, and cut it into his pieces. 7 And the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire upon the altar, and lay the wood in order upon the fire: 8 And the priests, Aaron's sons, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat, in order upon the wood that is on the fire which is upon the altar: 9 But his inwards and his legs shall he wash in water: and the priest shall burn all on the altar, to be a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD. 10 ¶ And if his offering be of the flocks, namely, of the sheep, or of the goats, for a burnt sacrifice; he shall bring it a male without blemish. 11 And he shall kill it on the side of the altar northward before the LORD: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall sprinkle his blood round about upon the altar. 12 And he shall cut it into his pieces, with his head and his fat: and the priest shall lay them in order on the wood that is on the fire which is upon the altar: 13 But he shall wash the inwards and the legs with water: and the priest shall bring it all, and burn it upon the altar: it is a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD."

Next, we pick up a point I had not seen before. The man, who was making the sacrifice, was to enter the tabernacle of the congregation through the east door. Between the door and the brazen altar, or on the right side of the altar, he was to put his hand upon the head of the sacrifice and then kill the sacrifice. The priests were to catch the blood and sprinkle it upon the altar of sacrifice. This is the image of imputing any sinfulness from his life upon the head of the sacrifice, and in so doing the sacrifice would be accepted to make atonement for him. The atonement was accomplished, by the sprinkling of the blood of the sacrifice upon the altar, emblematic of the blood of Christ shed for our sins.

Then the sacrifice was flayed, which means to take the skin off, which was given unto the priests. Why? God made coats of skin and covered the nakedness of Adam and Eve. It is emblematic of God clothing his people in the righteousness of Christ, who are made priests and kings unto God. We identify many things by its skin. Upon his death and resurrection, Jesus was skinned. His identity as Jesus the man was taken away, and he returned to his eternal state of Saviour and King over God's people.

The sacrifice was then divided, and laid in order on the altar, by the priests. Jesus, our High Priest, laid all things in order by the sacrifice of himself on the cross. Why did the person making the sacrifice kill the sacrifice, cut it into its several parts, and clean the inwards? We, each individual child of God, are personally responsible for killing our Saviour on the cross with our personal debt of sins, and we alone, through the Holy Spirit power, can purge ourselves of our sins, and can come to God and confess our sins.

The person bringing the voluntary offering was to kill the sacrifice, not the priest as I had always presumed. First: it should bring to remembrance that it was my sin that put Jesus on the cross. Secondly: remember the scripture in **Mt 5:23-24; 23 "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."** This simply tells us we are to come with a free and open heart to God. If we come to offer a perfect sacrifice to God, and have any sinful intent within us, we are not offering a perfect sacrifice of praise to God. Remember, this is a freewill offering, not a required offering. It demonstrates that we are walking uprightly before God, in the strength and power of the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ in us. Wherefore, we must kill the sacrifice with repentance and purity of heart, to find feel the atonement of Christ for us.

The priests were to catch blood and put it upon the altar, this signifying that it is the blood of Christ that has made atonement for us. The person offering the sacrifice was to cut up the sacrifice, this signifying that we are searching our hearts for sinfulness. The priests were to put fire on the altar, lay wood in order upon the fire, and then put the pieces of the sacrifice upon the wood. Notice, the person offering the sacrifice was to take the inward parts and the legs and wash them to clean them of any offensiveness. Herein, we see the purging of our hearts, minds, and souls, of all ungodliness. The washed parts were to be put upon the altar by the priest and the whole sacrifice, without uncleanness, was burned. Everything done toward putting anything on the altar was done by the priests, not the person doing the sacrifice. The Picture of our High Priest, Jesus, doing all the work on the cross, which was His altar of sacrifice, for the atonement of God's people.

By the washing away and cleaning of the foul things, the sacrifice then being a perfect sacrifice, the freewill burnt sacrifice was a sweet savor to God. This is the picture of our Saviour being offered on the cross for the eternal remission of our sins. Because any defilement was washed away before the sacrifice was offered wholly to God on the altar, shows that the sins of all of God's people were washed away by the blood of Jesus on the tree of the cross. The atonement for our sins was accomplished before Jesus died, remember he cried "**it is finished**" before he commended his Spirit to God and his body died. It is Jesus, the Son of God, voluntarily offering himself as a sin offering for us, which makes our sacrifices of praise and prayers to be a sweet savour unto God, as seen in **Eph 5:1-2; 1 ¶ "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."** This alone, should make us freely willing to serve God with all of our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls.

All the same things are true, and to be conducted the same way, if the offering was a sheep or goat. We do notice that a specific place for the slaying of the sacrifice is set forth here. On the north side of the brazen altar. In directions, if we are facing west, north is to the right. North can also mean upward. Both of these definitions point us to Christ, who is the "**right**" direction, who is in heaven, which is upward, which emblematically points us to Christ our Saviour.

14 "And if the burnt sacrifice for his offering to the LORD be of fowls, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves, or of young pigeons. 15 And the priest shall bring it unto the altar, and wring off his head, and burn it on the altar; and the blood thereof shall be wrung out at the side of the altar: 16 And he shall pluck away his crop with his feathers, and cast it beside the altar on the east part, by the place of the ashes: 17 And he shall cleave it with the wings thereof, but shall not divide it asunder: and the priest shall burn it upon the altar, upon the wood that is upon the fire: it is a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD."

God is here making provision for the poor who did not have bullocks, sheep, or goats. They could bring turtledoves or pigeons. Remember the widow's mite, seen in **Mr 12:41-44; 41 ¶ "And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. 42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. 43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: 44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living."** She gave her all, as we should give all of ourselves to God.

Notice, the priest conducted the ceremony of sacrificing the fowls; not the person bringing the sacrifice. The priests were to wring off the heads and burn them upon the altar. The rest of the fowl was to be plucked, and the feathers placed by the ashes of the altar for disposal. The bird was to be split open but not divided, and the whole body was to be burned on the altar. Likewise, our High Priest, Jesus Christ, offered himself on our behalf, without any assistance from us.

All this ceremony was to keep Israel focused upon God, as their one and only God. Again, it focuses our attention on the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Christ is our head, offered on the altar of sacrifice, the tree of the cross, and he paid the full price of atonement to gift us with eternal remission of sins.

Well, what about being poor? Every child of God, who is born again, understands they are among the poor, and are utterly devoid of anything to offer to God as an acceptable sacrifice, except the finished work of Christ on the cross. We only have Christ in us, to offer as an atonement for us, and to make us acceptable before God the Father. We must come before God acknowledging that it is our sins, which put Jesus on the cross to die. We can only approach unto God in the righteousness of Christ upon us in, gifted to us in our new nature. We also point out that all the specific instructions of God to offer sacrifices are not listed in this chapter. As we come to them in scripture we will speak to them at that time.

This beginning of the sacrificial law instructions points us to the same instructions of Jesus, when questioned about the greatest commandment, in **Mt 22:37-39; 37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."** This shows us the requirement of God's people, to be wholly devoted to worshiping God alone, and loving one another with true godly love. We thank you, King Jesus, for your voluntary sacrifice on our behalf, and that you have made us to be a sweet savor unto God, through your finished work of redemption. Hallelujah! Amen!