

Leviticus Chapter 2 Verses 1-12; Voluntary Meat Offerings

We continue in this chapter the freewill or voluntary sacrifices of their different kinds. God is making sure that all of his people had available something to make this sacrifice with, no matter how poor.

Le 2:1 ¶ "And when any will offer a meat offering unto the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put frankincense thereon: **2** And he shall bring it to Aaron's sons the priests: and he shall take thereout his handful of the flour thereof, and of the oil thereof, with all the frankincense thereof; and the priest shall burn the memorial of it upon the altar, to be an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD: **3** And the remnant of the meat offering shall be Aaron's and his sons': it is a thing most holy of the offerings of the LORD made by fire."

Meat offering has the definition of *a donation; tribute; specifically, a sacrificial offering, gift, oblation, present, sacrifice*. As we examine all the specified ingredients of the various meat offerings, we understand that a meat offering is not meat, as in flesh of the animals, but it is plant based.

The unbaked meat offering was of fine flour, the best of the fields, and oil, and the priest was to take a portion of the flour and oil, and add all the frankincense to it, to be burnt upon the altar of sacrifice. The frankincense, when burned, gave off a sweet odor, to make the sacrifice a sweet savor acceptable to God. The wise men brought of their gifts to the baby Jesus, including frankincense, signifying that Jesus would be our sacrifice of a sweet savor to God, which we see in **2Co 2:15; 14** "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. **15** For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: **16** To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? **17** For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ." Notice, only those for whom Christ died were a sweet savor of Christ to God.

4 "And if thou bring an oblation of a meat offering baken in the oven, it shall be unleavened cakes of fine flour mingled with oil, or unleavened wafers anointed with oil. **5** And if thy oblation be a meat offering baken in a pan, it shall be of fine flour unleavened, mingled with oil. **6** Thou shalt part it in pieces, and pour oil thereon: it is a meat offering. **7** And if thy oblation be a meat offering baken in the frying pan, it shall be made of fine flour with oil. **8** And thou shalt bring the meat offering that is made of these things unto the LORD: and when it is presented unto the priest, he shall bring it unto the altar. **9** And the priest shall take from the meat offering a memorial thereof, and shall burn it upon the altar: it is an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD. **10** And that which is left of the meat offering shall be Aaron's and his sons': it is a thing most holy of the offerings of the LORD made by fire. **11 ¶** No meat offering, which ye shall bring unto the LORD, shall be made with leaven: for ye shall burn no leaven, nor any honey, in any offering of the LORD made by fire."

Here we have described the meat offerings, which were to allow the poorest of the poor, to be able to make a freewill offering to the Lord. We notice that this, and all other offerings to God, were to be without leaven. Why no leaven? Leaven is always a picture of sin, and God will not accept sin as a sacrifice, which gives us a picture of Jesus, the sinless sacrifice.

Secondly, we notice that now God begins making provisions for the priests from the freewill offerings of meat. They only burned a portion, and the rest was for the priests to eat. This gives us a picture today of when a congregation assembles, as we are commanded by God's word to do, the preachers may offer a portion of the meat offering to the Lord, by preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ from a portion of the scriptures to the congregation. However, all the preaching is not for the congregation, a portion is for the minister also. The minister needs to see the congregation freely offering their worship to God, through praising God in worship, through desiring to hear and feed upon the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is food to the soul for the ministers of God.

Well, what about not burning honey? Let us consider honey in its context in the bible. What was God's promise to his chosen people Israel? To carry them to a land of promise flowing with milk and honey. These are two things that man can only make an imitation of.

The land flowing with milk and honey, is representative of the New Testament Church and the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ today. No man can bring forth the true gospel unless they are called and qualified by God. Remember there are false teachers and preachers in this world. They may give you portions of the word of God, but they will not give you the full truth of the gospel, because they are false teachers.

The reason the honey is not to be burned on the altar of sacrifice is that honey is the picture of what is produced by the preaching of the finished work of Jesus on the cross. The gospel of Jesus Christ is not an offering to be made to God, but rather, a gift from God for God's people to feed upon. Remember the scripture in ***1Sa 14:27 "But Jonathan heard not when his father charged the people with the oath: wherefore he put forth the end of the rod that was in his hand, and dipped it in an honeycomb, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were enlightened."*** Just as Jonathan's eyes were enlightened, so the spiritual eyes of the children of God are enlightened, when they eat of the honey of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Honey from the rock, Christ Jesus.

Just as God carried his chosen nation of people to the land flowing with milk and honey, so the born-again child of God is brought into the land of promise, the New Testament church, which is flowing with milk and honey. Well, what part does the milk play in this scene of the land flowing with milk and honey? Milk is another thing that man can only make an imitation of. It's application to us is as it was to Israel, as seen in ***1Pe 2:1-3; 1 ¶ "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."*** Both milk and honey are produced without any work by the hands of man. God alone made the provision for them to be available to mankind, and especially for his people in a spiritual sense. God made provision for the feeding of his people, and their nurture from the Word of God, through Jesus Christ and his chosen ministers. We thank you, our heavenly Father, for the land of promise to us, the New Testament Church, the land flowing with milk and honey, which sustains our lives here in time, and is emblematic of that place that Jesus, our Saviour, has gone to prepare for us. Hallelujah! Amen!