

Leviticus Chapter 03 The Peace Offering

Le 3:1 ¶ "And if his oblation be a sacrifice of peace offering, if he offer it of the herd; whether it be a male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the LORD. 2 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and kill it at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about. 3 And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards, 4 And the two kidneys, and the fat that is on them, which is by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away. 5 And Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is upon the wood that is on the fire: it is an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD."

We come now to the third voluntary offering to be made to the Lord. The first was the burnt offering, which demonstrated our reconciliation to God through the sacrifice of Christ: the second the meat offering, which demonstrates our sanctification to God through Christ: and the third the peace offering, which demonstrates the peace that was made for us to God by the voluntary sacrifice, and shedding of blood, of the body of Jesus.

Again, the offering is made by fire and of the cattle without blemish, the picture of the sinless body of Christ that would be offered for the sins of all of God's people. We point out again: Christ gave his body willingly, not being forced by God, or man, to do so. This is why we can have the peace that passes all understanding with God, through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Procedurally, these actions were conducted in the same manner. This signifies to us today that we must all come to God the Father, pleading nothing of our own merit, but rather trusting in the finished work of Christ to make peace between a sin offended God and sinful offending men.

6 ¶ "And if his offering for a sacrifice of peace offering unto the LORD be of the flock; male or female, he shall offer it without blemish. 7 If he offer a lamb for his offering, then shall he offer it before the LORD. 8 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and kill it before the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle the blood thereof round about upon the altar. 9 And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat thereof, and the whole rump, it shall he take off hard by the backbone; and the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards, 10 And the two kidneys, and the fat that is upon them, which is by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away. 11 And the priest shall burn it upon the altar: it is the food of the offering made by fire unto the LORD."

Here is the sacrifice of the peace offering made of the sheep, which is to be without blemish. We would interject here: the fat parts mentioned in each of the peace offering sacrifices, were considered the delicacy of the animal, the very best part to be eaten. However, they were not eaten by man but rather were offered to God in sacrifice. This signified that the person making the peace offering was willing to give the very best they had to enable them to have peace with God.

Commentators say that the kind of sheep offered here also had a very fatty rump and tail. Therefore, God required that they remove the rump, along with the tail, to be offered with the fat.

There is a great lesson in this for us, as we are to give our very best efforts to bring glory and praise to the name of our God. If we reserve of our very best efforts toward God for ourselves, we become guilty of covetous, and guilty of idolatry, which is the worship of ourselves.

12 "And if his offering be a goat, then he shall offer it before the LORD. 13 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of it, and kill it before the tabernacle of the congregation: and the sons of Aaron shall sprinkle the blood thereof upon the altar round about. 14 And he shall offer thereof his offering, even an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards, 15 And the two kidneys, and the fat that is upon them, which is by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away. 16 And the priest shall burn them upon the altar: it is the food of the offering made by fire for a sweet savour: all the fat is the LORD'S. 17 It shall be a perpetual statute for your generations throughout all your dwellings, that ye eat neither fat nor blood."

All the aforementioned processes were observed if the sacrifice of a peace offering was a goat, with the exception of the rump and tail as noted for the sheep.

We find in verse 17: these sacrifices were to be a perpetual statute, for all generations, of all dwellings, in Israel. Israel was commanded to not eat fat or blood. As has already been pointed out: the fat was solely for offering to the Lord and not to be eaten by man. The mandate to not eat blood is seen in **Le 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.** It is still the blood, which was shed by Jesus on our behalf, that bringeth atonement for sins, and makes peace with us to God.

As we consider all these voluntary sacrifices, we see that our reconciliation to God, (*reconciliation means to cover, forgive, make peace, pardon, or purge away*) our sanctification to God, (*sanctification means purification or holiness*) and our peace with God, (*peace means requital or a voluntary sacrifice of thanks to God.*) These all demonstrate what was accomplished through the finished work of Jesus Christ, who voluntarily shed his blood, and laid down his life for the sheep of God's pasture.

We would point out that as we continue our study of these offerings: we shall find that of these three types of voluntary offerings, the fat and parts thus specified by God were offered upon the altar of sacrifice. Certain portions were waved before the altar and were given by God to the priests, for the sustenance of the priests and their families. The remainder was the portion for the offeror and his family. This is a reminder to us that under the law the firstborn son received a double portion seen in **De 21:17 But he shall acknowledge the son of the hated for the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath: for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.** Certainly, the Gentiles were the hated one by the Israelites, yet we are of the firstborn sons of God under the age of salvation by grace. Our double portion is the revelation of Jesus in the Word of God, and in our lives as born-again children of God. Seen in the reception of the two gifts of God, eternal remission of sins and eternal life in Christ.

We note that always the blood of the sacrifice was first applied to the altar. Then the wave offering was made and given to the priest. Then the offeror took the rest for himself and his family. This signifying that first the application of the blood of Christ must be made to the born-again sinner to make them a child of God. Secondly through the new birth, we are made priest and kings to God, and thus receive a portion of the sacrifice, which is the bread of life, to sustain our lives. Thirdly the offeror was to take the rest and eat it as prescribed by the law. This is why the child of God will desire to hear the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ and enjoy the fellowship of the saints of God. Alos, they will desire to bring forth the firstfruit of the Spirit.

This order demonstrates the beauty of salvation by the grace of God, for when we are reconciled to God by Christ, coming under the servitude of His Royal priesthood, whose meat was to do the will of his Father, we may sit down at the Lord's Supper and commune with God. We may eat the bread of life, and drink of the fountain of living waters freely, through the voluntary sacrifice of Christ on our behalf.

How much more should we, in this age of salvation by the grace of God, be willing to give our best to the Lord? How often, do we do as Israel did, and turn away to idolatry by keeping back our very best performances from God, for our own pleasures of the flesh?

What do you mean by this question? Are you as totally devoted to God as Jesus Christ was? Do you really demonstrate that you love God with all your heart, mind, and soul? Do you demonstrate that you love your neighbor as yourself? Do you spend time reading and studying the Word of God to be able to understand your duties as a child of God? Are you faithful to offer your sacrifices of praise to God each day, seen in **Heb 13:14-46; 14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. 15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. 16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.** Are you praying to God in thankfulness for His abundant blessing of eternal forgiveness of sins and eternal life in Christ? Are you doing unto others as you would have them do unto you? This list goes on and on.

Wherefore, in humble submission to the will of God, let us pray to God the Father, that not my will by thine be done, in and through the Holy Spirit power of God being manifested in our lives. We ask this blessing, in the name above all other names, our peace offering, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, Amen!