

## "OFFERINGS OF WORSHIP: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SACRIFICIAL PRACTICES IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS"

In the Old Testament, various offerings were prescribed for worship, atonement, dedication, and thanksgiving to God. Each offering, like the Burnt Offering, Grain Offering, Peace Offering, Sin Offering, Guilt Offering, Wave Offering, Heave Offering, and Firstfruits Offering, served a specific purpose in Israelite worship. Sacrifices were integral to their religious practices, symbolizing humility, obedience, gratitude, and reliance on God's provision and mercy, and emphasizing the need for cleansing, purification, and restoration of their relationship with God.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ fulfills the sacrificial system of the Old Testament. He is the perfect sacrifice, providing redemption, atonement, and reconciliation for humanity. The Old Testament offerings foreshadowed Christ's sacrificial work as the Lamb of God who takes away sin. Through His sacrifice, believers are cleansed, purified, and made holy, enabling them to approach God confidently, gratefully, and with faith. The Old Testament sacrifices pointed to the reality found in Christ, who brought eternal redemption and forgiveness to all who believe in Him.

### BURNT OFFERING (LEVITICUS 1)

The Burnt Offering, described in Leviticus 1, was a demonstration of complete devotion to God and a seeking of atonement for sin. Detailed regulations underscored its importance in Israelite religious practice.

In Leviticus 1:3-9, instructions for the Burnt Offering were precise: a flawless male animal—like a bull, sheep, or goat—was brought to the tabernacle. The worshiper laid hands on the animal, transferring sins symbolically. After slaughter, its blood was sprinkled around the altar. The animal was then cut, washed, and burned on the altar, creating a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

This offering was voluntary, a gesture of the worshiper's own accord, expressing a desire for right relationship with God and forgiveness through bloodshed. It also showed gratitude and devotion, recognizing God's sovereignty and mercy.

In the Old Testament sacrificial system, the Burnt Offering foreshadowed Jesus Christ's ultimate sacrifice in the New Testament. Hebrews draws parallels, noting in 10:10, "we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

Christ's sacrifice fulfilled the Old Testament's requirements: just as the Burnt Offering atoned for sin and showed devotion, Jesus' sacrifice achieved these goals on a grander scale. His sacrifice, offered once for all, provided eternal redemption for believers.

The Burnt Offering in Leviticus 1 symbolizes worshipers' commitment to God and their quest for forgiveness and reconciliation. Though animal sacrifices are fulfilled in Christ's sacrifice, the principles of devotion, gratitude, and humility remain relevant. Through Christ, believers are made holy, approaching God confidently and thankfully.

#### *For Review*

- The Burnt Offering is described in Leviticus 1 as a sacrificial act of worship in the Israelite religious practices.

- Worshiper required to bring a male animal without blemish to the tabernacle for the Burnt Offering
- Animal symbolically carries the sins of the worshiper, slaughtered, blood sprinkled around the altar, cut into pieces, washed, and burned on the altar.
- Burnt Offering was a voluntary sacrifice, expressing devotion, gratitude, and desire for forgiveness.
- Foreshadowed the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ in the New Testament, Hebrews 10:10 draws parallels between Burnt Offering and Christ's sacrifice on the cross
- Christ's sacrifice fulfilled the requirements of the Old Testament sacrificial system, providing eternal redemption for believers.
- Principles of devotion, gratitude, and humility underlying the Burnt Offering remain applicable to believers today, through Christ's sacrifice we are made holy and can approach God with confidence.

## GRAIN OFFERING (LEVITICUS 2)

The Grain Offering, also called the Minchah Offering in Leviticus 2, was a way for worshipers to express gratitude and dedication to God through presenting grain products. It symbolized acknowledging God's provision and blessings and seeking His favor and presence.

In Leviticus 2:1-16, worshipers were instructed to bring fine flour, oil, and frankincense. They presented this on the altar, burning a portion as a memorial to the Lord, and giving the rest to the priests for their consumption.

This offering was voluntary and could take various forms, such as baked goods or wafers, always seasoned with salt symbolizing the covenant between God and His people. It demonstrated surrendering the fruits of labor to seek God's blessing in return.

The Grain Offering's significance goes beyond ritual; in Malachi, the prophet rebuked Israelites for offering blemished sacrifices, including grain offerings (Malachi 1:6-14). This highlighted the importance of offering God our best with sincerity, reflecting true devotion.

In the New Testament, Jesus exemplified the Grain Offering's symbolism. In John 6:35, He said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." This emphasized how believers find spiritual nourishment through Christ, who fulfills the Grain Offering.

The Grain Offering in Leviticus 2 symbolizes gratitude, dedication, and surrender to God. Though offering grain is fulfilled in Christ's sacrifice, the principles of gratitude, dedication, and surrender remain relevant. Through Christ, believers are spiritually nourished and can offer their lives as living sacrifices, seeking God's favor, and blessing in all they do.

### *For Review*

- The Grain Offering, or Minchah Offering, is described in Leviticus 2 as a sacrificial act of gratitude and dedication to God.
- Worshiper brings fine flour, oil, and frankincense as primary components of the Grain Offering
- Offered on the altar with a portion burned as a memorial to the Lord, and the remainder given to the priests for consumption.
- The Grain Offering is a voluntary sacrifice, demonstrating the worshiper's willingness to surrender the fruits of their labor to God.
- Various forms of the Grain Offering include baked goods, cooked products, and wafers, seasoned with salt symbolizing the covenant relationship with God.

- Prophet Malachi emphasizes the importance of offering God our best and most sincere sacrifices, reflecting true devotion and worship.
- In the New Testament, Jesus is described as the "bread of life," fulfilling the symbolism of the Grain Offering as a source of spiritual nourishment and sustenance.
- The principles of gratitude, dedication, and surrender underlying the Grain Offering remain applicable to believers today, offering our lives as a living sacrifice to seek God's favor and blessing.

### PEACE OFFERING (LEVITICUS 3)

The Peace Offering, detailed in Leviticus 3, also known as the Fellowship Offering or Offering of Well-being, allowed worshipers to express gratitude, celebrate blessings, and seek communion and peace with God. It was a voluntary sacrifice symbolizing reconciliation and fellowship.

In Leviticus 3:1-17, worshipers brought a flawless animal from their flock, like a lamb or goat, to the tabernacle entrance. By laying hands on the animal's head, they symbolically identified with it and transferred sins. After slaughter, its blood was sprinkled around the altar. The fat portions, kidneys, and liver lobe were burned for the Lord's pleasure, while the rest was shared in a communal meal with family and priests.

The Peace Offering uniquely included a shared meal, emphasizing fellowship, celebration, and unity among believers. This meal expressed a longing for peace and communion with God and fellow worshipers.

In the New Testament, the Peace Offering finds its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ's sacrifice. Ephesians 2:14-16 explains how Christ brought peace and reconciliation between Jews and Gentiles, creating unity through His cross. This reconciliation extends to all believers, who are called to live in harmony and unity through Christ.

The Peace Offering in Leviticus 3 symbolizes reconciliation, fellowship, and communion with God and fellow believers. Though animal sacrifices are fulfilled in Christ's sacrifice, the principles of gratitude, celebration, and unity remain relevant. Through Christ, believers experience true peace and fellowship with God and each other, living in harmony as members of His body.

#### *For Review*

- The Peace Offering, or Fellowship Offering, is described in Leviticus 3 as a sacrificial act of expressing gratitude, celebrating blessings, and seeking communion and peace with God
- Worshiper brings an animal from the flock without blemish, such as a lamb or goat, for the Peace Offering
- The animal is slaughtered, blood splashed on all sides of the altar, fat portions and certain organs offered as a pleasing aroma to the Lord
- The worshiper, family, and priests partake in a communal meal with the rest of the animal, emphasizing fellowship, celebration, and unity within the community
- The Peace Offering symbolizes reconciliation and fellowship with God and fellow worshipers
- In the New Testament, Jesus' sacrifice is seen as the ultimate fulfillment of the Peace Offering, bringing peace and reconciliation to believers
- Ephesians 2:14-16 describes how Jesus has brought peace and unity among believers, creating one new humanity through His sacrifice on the cross

- The Peace Offering emphasizes reconciliation, fellowship, and communion with God and fellow believers, promoting unity and harmony within the body of Christ.

## SIN OFFERING (LEVITICUS 4)

The Sin Offering, detailed in Leviticus 4, was a way to atone for unintentional sins committed by individuals or the community, aiming to restore their relationship with God. It emphasized the holiness of God and the importance of repentance.

In Leviticus 4:1-35, specific instructions cover various scenarios of unintentional sin, whether by a priest, the congregation, a leader, or an individual. The worshiper brought a designated animal prescribed by the Law: a young bull for a priest or the community, a male goat for a leader, or a female goat or lamb for an individual. By laying hands on the animal, they symbolically transferred their sin, and the animal was then sacrificed to atone for the sin committed.

The blood of the Sin Offering was taken into the tabernacle and sprinkled on the altar to cleanse the worshiper from their sins. Certain parts of the animal were burned on the altar, while the rest was completely burned outside the camp, symbolizing the removal of sin and impurity from the community.

The Sin Offering underscored the seriousness of sin, the necessity of repentance, and the restoration of the worshiper's relationship with God. In Hebrews, the efficacy of Old Testament Sin Offerings is reflected upon, contrasting them with Christ's ultimate sacrifice. Hebrews 10:10 states, "And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." This emphasizes how Christ's sacrifice fulfilled the Sin Offering requirements perfectly, providing redemption for all who believe in Him.

The Sin Offering in Leviticus 4 serves as a powerful reminder of sin's seriousness, the call to repentance, and the provision of atonement through sacrifice. Though animal sacrifices find fulfillment in Christ's sacrifice, the principles of repentance, forgiveness, and restoration remain relevant. Through Christ, believers experience true forgiveness, cleansing, and restoration of their relationship with God.

### *For Review*

- The Sin Offering, as described in Leviticus 4, is a sacrificial act meant to atone for unintentional sins and restore the broken relationship between the worshiper and God.
- Instructions for the Sin Offering address various scenarios of unintentional sins by priests, the congregation, leaders, and individuals.
- Specific animals prescribed by the Law, such as a young bull, male goat, female goat, or lamb, are offered depending on the sin.
- Worshiper lays hands on the animal, represents the transfer of sin, and the animal is slaughtered as atonement.
- Blood of the Sin Offering is brought into the tabernacle and sprinkled on the altar for cleansing and purification.
- Fat and certain organs of the animal are burned on the altar, while the rest is taken outside the camp and burned completely to symbolize the removal of sin and impurity.
- Emphasizes the seriousness of sin, the need for repentance, and restoration of the worshiper's relationship with God.
- Hebrews 10:10 contrasts the efficacy of the Sin Offerings in the Old Testament with the ultimate sacrifice of Christ, providing redemption for believers through His sacrifice on the cross

## GUILT OFFERING (LEVITICUS 5)

The Guilt Offering, also known as the Trespass Offering in Leviticus 5, played a significant role in the Old Testament sacrificial system. It was meant to atone for specific sins or offenses committed against God, the community, or individuals, emphasizing the need for restitution, repentance, and the restoration of relationships after sin.

In Leviticus 5:14-6:7, detailed instructions outline the Guilt Offering. Worshipers brought an unblemished animal to the tabernacle as a sacrifice for their sin. The type of animal depended on the offense's severity. The worshiper also had to make restitution and add a fifth of the value as a penalty.

The animal's blood was sprinkled on the altar, symbolizing atonement, and the need for cleansing. The priest offered the fat portions and certain organs as a burnt offering on the altar. The rest of the animal was eaten by priests in a holy place, signifying God's acceptance of the offering.

The Guilt Offering stressed taking responsibility, making amends, and seeking reconciliation with God and others. In the New Testament, Jesus taught about restitution and reconciliation in Matthew 5:23-24. He instructed followers to reconcile with others before approaching God with offerings, highlighting the importance of relationships, repentance, and restitution in reconciliation and restoration processes.

The Guilt Offering in Leviticus 5 reminds us to take responsibility for our actions, make amends, and seek reconciliation with God and others. While animal sacrifices find fulfillment in Christ's sacrifice, the principles of restitution, repentance, and reconciliation remain relevant. Through Christ, believers find forgiveness, restoration, and reconciliation with God and each other.

### *For Review*

- The Guilt Offering, or Trespass Offering, in Leviticus 5 provides atonement for specific sins or offenses committed against God, the community, or individuals.
- Worshiper brings an animal without blemish to the tabernacle as an offering for the sin, making restitution for harm done and adding a penalty.
- The type of animal for the offering depends on the situation and severity of the offense.
- Blood of the animal sprinkled on the altar symbolizes atonement for sin, cleansing, and purification.
- Priest presents the fat portions and certain organs of the animal as a burnt offering on the altar.
- The remainder of the animal is eaten by the priests in a holy place, signifying acceptance of the offering by God.
- Emphasizes taking responsibility for one's actions, making restitution for harm done, and seeking reconciliation with God and others.
- In Matthew 5:23-24, Jesus instructs the importance of seeking reconciliation and making amends with others before approaching God with offerings.

## HEAVE OFFERING (LEVITICUS 7:14-34)

The Heave Offering, explained in Leviticus 7, was a part of certain offerings given to priests to consecrate it to the Lord before being used for their sustenance. It involved lifting or raising the offering before giving it to the priests as a special portion set apart for God.

In Leviticus 7:14-34, instructions detail how the Heave Offering was to be handed to the priest by the worshiper, who would lift it up before presenting it to the Lord. This act symbolized dedicating the portion as holy and reserved for God's service. The priests then ate this portion to sustain themselves as they served in the tabernacle.

The Heave Offering honored the priests and met their needs as they served in God's sanctuary. By setting aside and lifting this portion before the Lord, the Israelites acknowledged the priests' consecration to God and their reliance on Him for provision.

In the New Testament, the concept of supporting those in ministry continues. In 1 Corinthians 9:13-14, Paul discusses the rights of those who preach the gospel, emphasizing the importance of providing for those who serve in the temple. This principle underscores the support and honor due to those who serve in God's house.

Though primarily discussed in Leviticus and the Old Testament sacrificial system, the Heave Offering's principles of dedication, provision for ministry, and support for those serving in God's sanctuary remain relevant. Lifting up a portion as holy and set apart for the Lord reminds us to honor and sustain those who serve in God's house.

#### *For Review*

- The Heave Offering, found in Leviticus 7, was a portion of certain offerings presented to the priests in the Old Testament
- Detailed in Leviticus 7:14-34, the Heave Offering was consecrated or dedicated to the Lord before being given to the priests for their sustenance.
- Worshiper would hand over the portion designated as the Heave Offering to the priest, who would then raise it up before presenting it to the Lord.
- The act of heaving symbolized the dedication of the portion to the Lord as holy and set apart for His service.
- Priests were allowed to partake of the Heave Offering as a means of sustenance for their service in the tabernacle.
- The Heave Offering honored the priests, acknowledging their consecration to God's service and their dependence on Him for provision.
- In the New Testament, 1 Corinthians 9:13-14 discusses the rights of those who preach the gospel to receive support from the temple offerings.
- The Heave Offering principles of dedication, provision for ministry, and support for those serving in the house of God remain relevant in both the Old and New Testaments.

### WAVE OFFERING (LEVITICUS 7:30-34)

In Leviticus 7, the Wave Offering involves waving a portion of the sacrifice before the Lord as a gesture of presentation, dedication, and consecration. It signifies giving back to God a part of what was offered, expressing gratitude, acknowledging His sovereignty, and seeking His favor and blessing.

In Leviticus 7:30-34, instructions specify how the Wave Offering was to be presented. The worshiper brought the designated portion before the Lord, and the priest then waved it before the altar to consecrate it to God. This act set the portion apart as holy, symbolizing the worshiper's commitment to God and recognition of His provision and authority.

Waving the offering demonstrated presenting it for God's approval and acceptance. By waving it, worshipers showed gratitude, reverence, and obedience to God, acknowledging His sovereignty and provision in their lives.

In the New Testament, offering and sacrifice are further explained in passages like Romans 12:1, where Paul urges believers to offer their bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, in spiritual worship. This mirrors the Wave Offering, symbolizing dedication, consecration, and submission to God's will.

The Wave Offering, outlined in Leviticus 7, symbolizes the broader principle of presenting ourselves in worship, dedication, and surrender before God. Through this act, we recognize God's sovereignty, provision, and authority, seeking His favor and blessing. Just as the Wave Offering presented a portion before God, believers are called to offer themselves wholly to Him in worship and service.

Thus, the Wave Offering serves as a symbolic act of dedication, consecration, and surrender to God, relevant in both the Old Testament sacrificial system and the spiritual worship of believers today.

*For Review*

- The Wave Offering in Leviticus 7 involved waving a portion of the sacrifice before the Lord as a gesture of presentation, dedication, and consecration.
- Described in Leviticus 7:30-34, the portion designated as the Wave Offering was presented by the worshiper before the Lord.
- The priest would then wave the portion before the altar, signifying dedication to the Lord and setting it apart as holy.
- Waving the offering symbolized presenting it before the Lord for His approval and acceptance, expressing gratitude, reverence, and obedience.
- In the New Testament, Romans 12:1 calls believers to offer their bodies as living sacrifices, reflecting the concept of dedication, consecration, and surrender to God.
- The Wave Offering symbolizes presenting us before the Lord in worship, dedication, and surrender, acknowledging His sovereignty, provision, and authority.
- Through the act of offering ourselves wholly to God, we seek His favor, blessing, and guidance in our lives, reflecting the principles of the Wave Offering in the Old Testament sacrificial system and in spiritual worship today.

## FIRSTFRUITS OFFERING (EXODUS 22:29)

The Firstfruits Offering, described in Exodus 22, involves presenting the first and best of the harvest to the Lord as a gesture of gratitude, dependence on God, and recognition of His provision. It symbolizes consecration, trust, and acknowledgment of God's sovereignty over the land and its produce.

In Exodus 22:29, the worshiper was instructed to bring the firstfruits of the harvest to the Lord as a thanksgiving offering. This act recognized that all good things come from God and that the worshiper's livelihood depended on His provision. By offering the firstfruits, they expressed trust in God's ongoing care and provision.

The Firstfruits Offering consecrated the harvest to the Lord, acknowledging His ownership of the land and its produce. It also reminded the Israelites of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt and their inheritance of the Promised Land from God.

In the New Testament, the concept of firstfruits is expanded. In 1 Corinthians 15:20, Paul refers to Jesus as the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep, highlighting His resurrection as the ultimate victory over death. This connects the Firstfruits Offering in the Old Testament to Christ's redemptive work, emphasizing His sacrificial offering as the supreme expression of gratitude, consecration, and God's provision.

The Firstfruits Offering, mentioned in Exodus 22, holds broader spiritual significance in both the Old and New Testaments. It symbolizes consecration, trust, dependence on God's provision, and recognition of His sovereignty over all aspects of life. Through offering firstfruits, believers demonstrate gratitude, faith, and acknowledgment of God's goodness and provision.

Therefore, the Firstfruits Offering serves as a powerful reminder of humble gratitude, reliance on God's provision, and dedication of all aspects of life to His care and sovereignty.

### *For Review*

- The Firstfruits Offering, as seen in Exodus 22, involved presenting the first and best of the harvest to the Lord as an expression of gratitude and dependence on His provision.
- Instructions for the Firstfruits Offering are outlined in Exodus 22:29, requiring the worshiper to bring the initial fruits of the harvest as an offering of thanksgiving.
- The Firstfruits Offering symbolized consecration, trust, and acknowledgment of God's sovereignty over the land and its produce.
- By presenting the firstfruits, the worshiper expressed reliance on God's continued provision and care for their sustenance and livelihood.
- The offering consecrated the harvest to the Lord and recognized His ownership of the land, serving as a reminder of deliverance and inheritance from God.
- In the New Testament, 1 Corinthians 15:20 refers to Jesus as the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep, connecting Christ's resurrection to the Firstfruits Offering as an expression of gratitude and provision from God.
- The Firstfruits Offering signifies consecration, trust, dependence on God's provision, and acknowledgment of His sovereignty, demonstrating humble gratitude, faith, and recognition of God's goodness and provision in believers' lives.

### DRINK OFFERING (EXODUS 29:40)

The Drink Offering, described in Exodus 29, involved pouring out a liquid, typically wine, as an act of worship and dedication to the Lord. It symbolized pouring out one's life, possessions, and thanksgiving to God, often presented with other sacrifices to enhance their significance.

In Exodus 29:40, during the consecration of Aaron and his sons as priests, instructions include a Drink Offering alongside flour and oil, emphasizing wine as a component. This symbolized joy, celebration, and dedication in worship.

The Drink Offering was poured on the altar as a symbol of surrender to God, showing the worshiper's willingness to offer their best and themselves in gratitude, dedication, and humility. Pouring out the Drink Offering was a tangible act of faith and obedience, acknowledging God's goodness and provision.

In the New Testament, pouring out one's life to God is highlighted. In Philippians 2:17, Paul compares his life to a drink offering poured out in service to the Philippians' faith, linking Old Testament sacrifice with dedicating one's life to God and others in worship and service.

Though specifically mentioned in Exodus 29, the Drink Offering holds broader spiritual significance in both Old and New Testaments. It symbolizes dedication, surrender, and giving one's life to God in worship and service. Through the Drink Offering, believers express gratitude, dedication, and commitment, pouring out their lives in sacrificial service before God.

Therefore, the Drink Offering stands as a powerful symbol of pouring out one's life in worship, dedication, and surrender to God, demonstrating faith, gratitude, and devotion in worship and service.

### *For Review*

- The Drink Offering in Exodus 29 was an important aspect of the Old Testament sacrificial system, involving pouring out wine as an act of worship and dedication to the Lord.
- Exodus 29:40 specifies the inclusion of wine as a component of the Drink Offering in the context of consecrating Aaron and his sons as priests.
- The Drink Offering symbolized joy, celebration, dedication, and surrender to God, enhancing the significance of other sacrifices presented.



- Often poured out on the altar, the Drink Offering signified the worshiper's willingness to offer their best, their all, and their very self to the Lord in gratitude, dedication, and humility
- The act of pouring out the Drink Offering was a tangible expression of faith, obedience, and acknowledgment of God's goodness and provision.
- In Philippians 2:17, Paul describes his life being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of the Philippians' faith, connecting the offering of one's life to the sacrificial system of the Old Testament
- The Drink Offering symbolizes dedication, surrender, and pouring out of one's life to God as an act of worship, service, and devotion, allowing believers to express their gratitude, dedication, and commitment to God.

## TITHES AND OFFERINGS (LEVITICUS 27:30-33)

Tithes and offerings hold a significant role in the Bible, serving as acts of worship, thanksgiving, and support for ministry. In the Old Testament, particularly in Leviticus, clear instructions were given about giving tithes and offerings to the Lord. These practices were meant to show obedience, gratitude, and trust in God's provision, and to provide for the priests and the temple.

In Leviticus, tithes and offerings are outlined in chapters like Leviticus 27:30-33. Israelites were instructed to give a tenth of their produce or earnings as a tithe to the Lord, which was considered holy and set apart for His work. They also offered various sacrifices such as burnt offerings, grain offerings, peace offerings, sin offerings, and guilt offerings for worship, atonement, and consecration.

Giving tithes and offerings was not just a financial obligation but a spiritual act of worship and obedience. It demonstrated the Israelites' acknowledgment of God's ownership, provision, and sovereignty over their lives. Tithing showed their trust in God's faithfulness to meet their needs and supported the ministry conducted by the priests.

In the New Testament, giving, tithing, and offerings are further explained. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Paul encourages believers to give generously and cheerfully because God loves a cheerful giver. This emphasizes giving with a thankful heart, not under compulsion but in response to God's grace and provision.

Though rooted in the Old Testament, the practice of tithing and offering remains relevant for believers today. Giving sacrificially and generously reflects trust in God's provision and supports ministry work. By offering tithes and offerings joyfully, believers worship, obey, and help advance God's kingdom.

In summary, the principles of tithes and offerings from Leviticus, reaffirmed in the New Testament, stress giving to the Lord as worship, trust, and support for ministry. Through tithing and offering, believers show gratitude, obedience, and faith in God's provision, contributing to His kingdom and glory.

### *For Review*

- Tithes and offerings are demonstrated in the Old Testament, particularly in Leviticus, emphasizing giving back to the Lord as an act of worship, thanksgiving, and support for the work of the ministry.
- Leviticus 27:30-33 instructs the Israelites to give a tenth of their produce or earnings as a tithe, which is considered holy and set apart for the Lord's work.
- Various offerings were prescribed, including burnt offerings, grain offerings, peace offerings, sin offerings, and guilt offerings, each serving specific purposes in worship, atonement, and consecration.
- Giving tithes and offerings was a spiritual act of worship and obedience, demonstrating trust in God's provision and acknowledging His sovereignty over all aspects of life.

- In the New Testament, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 encourages believers to give generously and cheerfully, emphasizing the importance of giving with a grateful heart and not out of compulsion.
- The practice of tithing and offering continues to be relevant for believers today, reflecting trust in God's provision, supporting the work of the ministry, and participating in the advancement of God's kingdom on earth.
- By offering tithes and offerings with gratitude and a spirit of generosity, believers express worship, obedience, and faith in God's sovereignty and provision, contributing to the spread of His glory and the advancement of His kingdom.

## PURIFICATION OFFERING (NUMBERS 19)

The Purification Offering, also known as the Red Heifer Sacrifice, was specifically used for cleansing from ritual impurity, especially after contact with death or defilement from sin. It enabled worshipers to regain purity and participate in sacred activities.

In Numbers 19, detailed instructions outline the Purification Offering involving a flawless red heifer. The heifer was slaughtered outside the camp, and its blood sprinkled seven times before the tabernacle. It was then burned with cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet yarn, and its ashes mixed with water to create the purification water.

This water was used to cleanse those ritually impure, particularly from contact with death, restoring their ritual purity so they could partake in community worship and rituals without defilement.

The New Testament in Hebrews 9:13-14 explains how Christ's blood, the ultimate sacrifice, cleanses our consciences for serving the living God. It contrasts the lasting purification achieved through Christ with the temporary ritual purification of the Purification Offering.

Although specific to the Old Testament, the Purification Offering holds broader spiritual meaning. It symbolizes the need for cleansing from sin and impurity, pointing to Christ's sacrifice that offers eternal redemption and purification for believers. Through Christ, believers are made pure to approach God with clean hearts and consciences.

In summary, Numbers 19's Purification Offering highlights ritual purity's significance in the Old Testament. Though no longer practiced, its principles of cleansing and restoration find fulfillment in Christ's sacrifice, providing eternal purification and redemption for all who believe.

### *For Review*

- The Purification Offering, found in Numbers 19, was designated for purification from ritual impurity, particularly contact with death or sin.
- Instructions for the Purification Offering involved sacrificing a red heifer without blemish and using its ashes to create the water of purification.
- The water of purification was used to cleanse those who had become ritually impure, allowing them to participate in worship activities without defilement.
- Symbolizes the need for purification and restoration of ritual purity in the Old Testament context.
- Hebrews 9:13-14 emphasizes how the blood of Christ cleanses our consciences from dead works, serving the living God and providing ultimate purification and redemption.
- While the Purification Offering is no longer practiced, its principles of cleansing, restoration, and the need for purification are fulfilled in the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ, offering eternal purification and redemption for believers.

## PRESENTATION OFFERING (LEVITICUS 12)

In Leviticus 12, the Presentation Offering is described as part of the purification ritual following childbirth. This offering, also known as the Purification Offering, was required to cleanse and restore the mother after giving birth, symbolizing her dedication, acknowledgment of God's provision, and the need for ritual purity.

Leviticus 12 outlines the procedures for purification after childbirth, which includes the Presentation Offering. Verse 6 states, "When the days of her purification are fulfilled, whether for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting a lamb a year old for a burnt offering, and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering." This offering allowed the mother to express gratitude, dedication, and obedience to God's commands during her purification.

The Presentation Offering after childbirth emphasized consecration, dedication, and spiritual renewal for the mother. By presenting the specified offerings, she demonstrated her obedience to purification laws and her trust in God's provision for her restoration. Presenting these offerings symbolized her desire for purification, renewal, and reconciliation with God.

In the New Testament, the concept of purification is seen in Mary, the mother of Jesus. In Luke 2:22-24, after completing her purification period, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to present Him to the Lord and offer the required sacrifices under the Law. This act of presenting Jesus mirrors the Old Testament practice of the Presentation Offering after childbirth.

The Presentation Offering in Leviticus 12 underscores the need for purification, dedication, and restoration after childbirth. While specific practices from Leviticus are no longer observed, the principles of obedience, dedication, and consecration to God remain relevant for believers today. Through Christ, believers are purified and sanctified, able to present themselves as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, in worship and dedication (Romans 12:1).

In conclusion, the Presentation Offering in Leviticus 12 reminds us of the importance of purification, dedication, and obedience to God's commands. Through obedience and dedication, believers express gratitude, renewal, and consecration to God, recognizing His provision and authority in their lives.

### *For Review*

- The Presentation Offering in Leviticus 12 was part of the purification ritual after childbirth, signifying the mother's consecration, acknowledgment of God's provision, and the need for ritual purification.
- Leviticus 12 outlines the purification procedures after childbirth, including bringing a lamb for a burnt offering and a pigeon or turtledove for a sin offering.
- The offering symbolized the mother's obedience to purification laws, reliance on God's provision, and desire for purification and reconciliation with God.
- In the New Testament, Luke 2:22-24 describes Mary and Joseph presenting Jesus at the temple, reflecting the Old Testament practice of offering a Presentation Offering after childbirth.
- The Presentation Offering emphasizes the significance of consecration, dedication, and spiritual renewal of the mother, expressing gratitude, renewal, and submission to God's commandments.
- While specific requirements outlined in Leviticus are no longer practiced, the principles of obedience, dedication, and consecration remain relevant for believers today.
- Through Christ, believers are purified and sanctified, enabling them to present themselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God, in worship and consecration (Romans 12:1)

