

The Burnt Offering
Leviticus 1:1-17, 6:8-13
Leviticus series #2
May 8, 2022

The Lord Calls

Leviticus 1 ¹ Then the LORD summoned Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting...

- Title: *of the Levites* | Alternate title: vayyiqrá
- God primary speaker
- One month at Sinai | end of Ex (first month), beg. of Num. (second month)
- Tent of meeting | **Tabernacle video?**

Offerings and Sacrifices

Leviticus 1 ¹ Then the LORD summoned Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting: ²“Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When any of you brings an offering to the Lord from the livestock, you may bring your offering from the herd or the flock.

1. Repeated instructions | Worshiper (chs 1-5), then priest (chs 6-7)
2. Three voluntary, two mandatory
 - **Mark Rooker** The offerings of 1:1–6:7 should be divided into two categories. The first three offerings—the burnt, grain, and fellowship offerings—were voluntary acts offered to God without a stated reason. The latter two offerings, the sin and guilt offerings, on the other hand, were obligatory and were mandated upon the violation of a particular statute. The first category of sacrifices resulted in an “aroma pleasing to the LORD” (1:3–3:17), while the result of the last two offerings (4:1–6:7) was to declare the offerer forgiven of sin.
3. Sacrifice | *zebah*, death of an animal
 - **John Goldingay** It would be really extravagant to sacrifice a steer and somewhat extravagant to offer a sheep or a goat...For Israelites, eating meat would be an occasional and not an everyday experience; bread would be their everyday staple. Offerings work in a similar fashion. Ordinary people might never be in a position to offer a steer, a sheep, or a goat, but they could know that God was happy for them to make an everyday offering.
 - Note: the worshiper kills the animal, the priest then performs the ritual
4. Offering | *qorban*, to draw near
 - 146 times this root (*qorab*) is used in Lev. | Offer, draw near, bring, present

Why Offerings?

1. Gift of gratitude | All that we have comes from God
2. Fellowship with God | Set free to be with God
3. Healing relational rift | Forgiveness, cleansing, reconciliation of wrongdoing
4. Not works-righteousness! | **WRONG: OT works, NT grace | WRONG!**
 - God has already saved his people from slavery, sacrifices are a response

The Burnt Offering | olah (ascending)

1. Freely given | 1:2-3
 - a. Not triggered by sin, it's a voluntary act
2. The best you can give | 1:3, 10, 14
 - a. If his offering is a burnt offering from the **herd**, he shall offer a male without blemish... ¹⁰ "If his gift for a burnt offering is from the **flock**, from the sheep or goats, he shall bring a male without blemish... ¹⁴ "If his offering to the LORD is a burnt offering of **birds**, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves or pigeons.
 - b. Not everyone has the same resources, but everyone can give their best
3. Offered in public | 1:3-9
 - a. He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting...⁵ Then he shall kill the bull before the LORD, and Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and throw the blood against the sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting.
 - b. Other gods "ate" the food, this God doesn't need
4. Makes atonement | 1:4
 - a. He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.
 - b. If no sin, why atonement? Because atonement is not 1-1 for forgiveness
 - i. Leviticus 12, sacrifice after childbirth is called "atonement"
 - c. At-One-Ment | Things are whole, set right, and clean
 - i. Analogy: Cleaned up after work, then give me a kiss and hug
5. Totally consumed | 1:9,13
 - a. Then the priest will burn all of it on the altar as a burnt offering, a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD... ¹³ The priest will then present all of it and burn it on the altar; it is a burnt offering, a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the LORD.
 - b. Other offerings, the meat will be shared. This one **is God's alone**
6. The fire never goes out | 6:9, 12-13
 - a. Fire must be kept burning on the altar continually; it must not go out. | **AVAILABLE**
7. Priest removes the waste | 6:10-11
 - a. ¹⁰ The priest is to put on his linen robe and linen undergarments. He is to remove the ashes of the burnt offering the fire has consumed on the altar, and place them beside the altar. ¹¹ Then he will take off his garments, put on other clothes, and bring the ashes outside the camp to a ceremonially clean place.
 - b. Identification: *I'll take off my white robes, and deal with the "yucky stuff"*

Big idea: The burnt offering portrays complete devotion to God.

Carl Friedrich Kiel The burnt-offering was an embodiment of the idea of the consecration and self-surrender of the whole man to the Lord, to be pervaded by the refining and sanctifying power of divine grace.

**So, how does this specific sacrifice point us to the person and work of Jesus?*

Jesus, the Burnt Offering

Ephesians 5 ¹ Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, ² and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.

Jesus For Us

- Jesus was God's best gift to us | John 3:16 *his one and only Son*
- Jesus was totally devoted to God | John 5:19 *I don't do anything on my own, only the will of the Father*
- Jesus offered himself freely | John 10:17-18 *nobody takes my life, I lay it down*
- Jesus was offered in public | crowds were gathered
- Jesus made atonement | forgiveness, but also cleansing and right relationship
- Jesus is always available | Hebrews 10 *a perfect once-for-all sacrifice*
- Jesus removes our ashes | Hebrews 11 *He went outside the camp for us*

God has given us his very best in Jesus, so how do we respond with a "burnt offering" of our own?

Ming Him Ko In the same way, we should present the best of our lives to the Lord without any spiritual or moral defects...The ritual of the burnt offering reminds us that our lives should be complete living sacrifices for the Lord, so that this ritual is neither boring nor mechanical, but rather a symbol of devotion to the Lord.

Today's Burnt Offering

- Give in response | No earning God's love, responding to God's love and grace
- Give of everything | money, time, food, house, relationships, sexuality
- Give your best | prioritize things to put God first
- Give to enjoy God | *if anyone wants to offer a sacrifice, let him come near*

Scripture Reading

Leviticus 1 ¹ Then the Lord summoned Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting: ² “Speak to the Israelites and tell them: When any of you brings an offering to the Lord from the livestock, you may bring your offering from the herd or the flock. ³ “If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he is to bring an unblemished male. He will bring it to the entrance to the tent of meeting so that he may be accepted by the Lord. ⁴ He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering so it can be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him. ⁵ He is to slaughter the bull before the Lord; Aaron’s sons the priests are to present the blood and splatter it on all sides of the altar that is at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ⁶ Then he is to skin the burnt offering and cut it into pieces. ⁷ The sons of Aaron the priest will prepare a fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. ⁸ Aaron’s sons the priests are to arrange the pieces, the head, and the fat on top of the burning wood on the altar. ⁹ The offerer is to wash its entrails and legs with water. Then the priest will burn all of it on the altar as a burnt offering, a food offering, a pleasing aroma to the Lord.