

God's Glory in God's Word

Leviticus

"Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. (Lev 19:2)

Types of Offerings (Leviticus 1-7)

1. Burnt Offering
 - a. Most common
 - b. Symbolized the covering of sin – placing hand on the head of the victim reflected transfer of ownership of the animal to God and the passing of sin to the animal being sacrificed.
 - c. Generally, the three tiers of animals reflected level of wealth – wealthier people could offer a bull, the “middle-class” could offer a sheep or goat, and the poor could offer a turtle dove or pigeon.
 - d. Offered at the altar at the entrance to the tent of meeting
 - e. The entire animal is burned – the only type of offering where this occurs.
2. Grain Offering
 - a. An offering of thanksgiving – for the Lord's mercy and His supplying their needs
 - b. Made of fine flour – no leaven – oil and frankincense were put on it.
 - c. A portion was burned – the rest was given to the priest for food
3. Peace Offerings – a spontaneous offering usually under 3 circumstances – thanksgiving, upon the payment of a vow, an expression of goodwill.
 - a. It could be a bull, sheep, or goat
 - b. It could be male or female
 - c. The fat portions were set aside as a food offering to God
 - d. The remaining portions could be eaten as part of a feast
4. Sin Offering
 - a. More of a sacrifice of purification whereas the burnt offering was more of a sacrifice of propitiation (appeasement of wrath).
 - b. Unintentional sins and sins of omission
5. Guilt Offering
 - a. Similar to sin offering but related to “the holy things of the Lord”.

Strange Fire (Leviticus 10)

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD has said, 'Among those who are near me I will be sanctified, and before all the people I will be glorified.'" And Aaron held his peace. (Lev 10:1-3)

Dietary Laws (Leviticus 11)

1. No fat or blood
2. Animals that are cloven footed and chew the cud are “fair game” – cow, yes; camel or pig, no;
3. Everything in the waters with fins and scales are fair game – everything else is “detestable to you”
4. Many birds and insects are off limits – Locusts could be eaten as “they have jointed legs above their feet”
5. Touching an unclean animal would make you unclean

Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16)

1. Preparation to enter the Holy Place
 - a. Aaron would bathe and put on the holy garments
 - b. He would offer a bull as a sin offering for himself and his family
 - c. He would cast lots over two goats – the “winning” goat would later be offered as a sin offering. The other goat would be presented alive and sent away into the wilderness.

2. Entering behind the veil
 - a. He would take a censer of coals from the altar along with incense
 - b. The cloud of the incense would cover the mercy seat so that Aaron would not die
 - c. He sprinkled blood of the bull with his finger on the front of the mercy seat seven times
 - d. Then he left to kill the goat of the sin offering and bring its blood behind the veil and sprinkle its blood over the mercy seat
 - e. *Thus he shall make atonement for the Holy Place, because of the uncleannesses of the people of Israel and because of their transgressions, all their sins. And so he shall do for the tent of meeting, which dwells with them in the midst of their uncleannesses.* Lev 16:16

3. The Live Goat
 - a. Aaron would place both his hands on the head of the goat and confess “all the iniquities of the people of Israel, and all their transgressions, and all their sins”
 - b. He would then send the goat away into the wilderness

4. A Second Cleansing
 - a. Aaron would remove the holy garments and bathe in water “in a holy place” and put on his garments
 - b. He would come out and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people
 - c. The one who released the live goat into the wilderness must bathe before he can re-enter the camp
 - d. The bull and goat whose blood was brought into the Holy Place are carried outside the camp and “their skin and their flesh and their dung shall be burned up with fire”.
 - e. The one who burns them must wash his clothes and bathe before re-entering the camp

5. An annual event
 - a. 10th day of the 7th month – Yom Kippur - in 2020, it begins at sundown on Sept 27th and ends at sundown on Sept 28th
 - b. “It is a Sabbath of solemn rest to you, and you shall afflict yourselves; it is a statute forever” – Lev 16:31

Holiness

1. The Lord is Holy (Lev 19)
 - a. Leave harvest for the poor
 - b. Don't oppress your neighbor
 - c. Pay wages promptly
 - d. No injustice in court
 - e. Show no preference to either poor or great – judge in righteousness
 - f. Do not take vengeance
 - g. Love your neighbor as yourself
 - h. Eat no flesh with blood in it
 - i. Don't interpret omens or tell fortunes
 - j. No cuts on the body for the dead or tattoo yourselves
 - k. Do not turn to mediums or necromancers
 - l. Just balances and weights
 - m. Don't round off the hair on your temples or mar the edges of your beard
 - n. Personal favorite: “You shall stand up before the gray head” = Lev 19:32

2. The People will be Holy (Lev 20)
3. The Priests will be Holy (Lev 21)

Feasts and Holy Days

1. The Sabbath: *"Six days shall work be done, but on the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work. It is a Sabbath to the LORD in all your dwelling places. (Lev 23:3)*
2. The Passover – 14th day of first month – remembering the Passover in Egypt
3. The Feast of Unleavened Bread – the day after and for 7 days – eat unleavened bread – remembering the leaving in haste from Egypt
4. The Feast of **Firstfruits** – a celebration of harvest upon entering the Promised Land
5. The Feast of Weeks – a celebration of the harvest and a dedication to God – a portion of the harvest was left to the poor and the sojourner
6. The Feast of Trumpets – 1st day of 7th month – no work, food offering, memorial proclaimed with a blast of trumpets
7. The Day of Atonement
8. The Feast of Booths – 15th day of 7th month – 7 day feast – daily food offerings – commemorate the dwelling in booths during the wilderness wandering

Other Guidelines

4. Childbirth (Lev 12)
5. Leprosy (Lev 13-14)
6. Bodily discharges (Lev 15)
7. Unlawful sexual relations (Lev 18)
8. Punishment for child sacrifice (Lev 20)
9. An Eye for an Eye (Lev 24:17-23)
10. The Sabbath Year and the Year of Jubilee (Lev 25)
11. Blessings for obedience; punishment for disobedience (Lev 26)
12. Vows (Lev 27)

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." (1Pe 1:14-16)

Next Week: Numbers