

The Book of Leviticus

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Section Outline

- I. **Sacrificial System (Leviticus 1–7)**
 - A. Prescript (1:1-2)
 - B. The Burnt Offerings (1:3-17; 6:8-13)
 - C. The Grain Offerings (2:1-16; 6:14-23)
 - D. The Peace Offerings (3:1-17; 7:11-36)
 - E. The Sin Offerings (4:1–5:13; 6:24-30)
 - F. The Guilt Offerings (5:14–6:7; 7:1-10)
 - G. Postscript (7:37-38)

Message of Leviticus 1–7:

Good news!
**God has provided a means for sinners
to be accepted and to enter His presence.**

The Levitical Sacrifices

1. The Burnt Offering: *‘Olâ* or *Kālîl* (1:3-17; 6:8-13; cf. Numbers 15:1-16)
 - ◆ **Acceptance** before God for worship and service.
 - ◆ Maintenance of fellowship with God.
 - ◆ Recognition of the sovereignty of God.
- ✓ See Psalm 40:6-8 (cf. Hebrews 10:6-8).
 - ✓ See Psalm 50:7-23.
 - ✓ See Romans 3:25.
 - ✓ See 1 John 1:6-7.

2. The Grain/Non-Meat Offering: *Minḥâ* (2:1-16; 6:14-23; cf. Numbers 15:17-21)
 - ◆ **Recognition** of God's bountiful provision.
 - ◆ Expression of **dedication**, praise, and thanksgiving to God.
 - ✓ See Romans 12:1-2.
 - ✓ See Philippians 4:18.
 - ✓ See Hebrews 13:15-16.

3. The Peace/Fellowship Offering: *Šēlāmîm* (3:1-17; 7:11-18; cf. Deuteronomy 12:20-28)
 - ◆ **Celebration** of peace with God.
 - ◆ **Celebration** of God's covenant faithfulness.
 - ◆ Participation in the communion/fellowship of the covenant community (fellow believers).
 - ✓ See Romans 5:1-8.
 - ✓ See 1 Corinthians 10:16-18; 11:17-34.
 - ✓ See Hebrews 13:15-16.

4. The Sin/Purification Offering: *Ḥaṭṭāʾt* (4:1–5:13; 6:24-30; cf. Numbers 15:22-31)
 - ◆ **Confession** to God for impurities and offenses.
 - ◆ Recognition of the effects of one's sins might have on others in the covenant community.
 - ◆ **Restoration** to fellowship with God.
 - ✓ Compare Leviticus 4:3 with 1 Timothy 5:20.
 - ✓ Compare Leviticus 4:27 with 1 Corinthians 8:9-13.
 - ✓ Compare Leviticus 5:5 with 1 John 1:9.
 - ✓ See Hebrews 9:22.
 - ✓ See 1 Peter 1:2.
 - ✓ See 2 Corinthians 5:20-21.
 - ✓ See Hebrews 13:11-12.

5. The Guilt/Restitution Offering: *ʿĀšām* (5:14–6:7; 7:1-10)
 - ◆ **Confession** to men for impurities and deceptions.
 - ◆ Willingness of the repentant believer to make proper **restitution**.
 - ✓ Compare Leviticus 5:15 with 22:14-16.
 - ✓ Compare Leviticus 6:2-5 with Ephesians 4:25-32 and James 5:16.
 - ✓ See Isaiah 53:10.

Principles Involved in the Old Testament Sacrificial System

1. Old Testament sacrifices *were to be offered by believers only*. Those believers were *indoctrinated* and *obedient* (i.e., they exhibited *right teaching* and *right behavior*).
 - ◆ Israelite believers: Leviticus 1:2-3; 2:1
 - ◆ Foreign believers: Leviticus 17:8; 22:18, 25; Numbers 15:14-16; Isaiah 56:6-8

2. Old Testament sacrifices *were to be the outward demonstration of a vital faith*. Without faith the sacrifices were worthless (cf. Hebrews 11:4).
 - ◆ 1 Samuel 15:22-23
 - ◆ Psalm 51:15-19
 - ◆ Isaiah 1:11-15
 - ◆ Micah 6:6-8

3. Old Testament sacrifices *did not save from sin nor forgive sins*. The levitical sacrifices included no provision for the sinful nature of mankind. The animal sacrifices were insufficient to atone for the sins of human beings—only a human life could atone for a human life.
 - ◆ Compare Leviticus 1:3 with Psalm 49:5-9.
 - ◆ Galatians 3:10-14
 - ◆ Hebrews 10:1-18
 - ◆ 1 Peter 1:18-19

4. Old Testament sacrifices *did not take care of every sin—especially willful, defiant sin*. Many sins required capital punishment—no sacrifice would avail for such sin. (**Note:** That no sacrifice was available for capital offenses does not mean that God did not or could not forgive capital offenses. The legal consequences required death. Such consequences should not be confused with one's ultimate spiritual relationship to God.)
 - ◆ Leviticus 24:10-23
 - ◆ Numbers 15:30

5. Old Testament sacrifices *had fellowship with God as their chief object*. They outwardly symbolized forgiveness for sins, which resulted in *continued communion with the covenant-keeping God of Israel*.
 - ◆ Exodus 29:42-43; 30:36

6. Old Testament sacrifices *declared, emphasized, and magnified sin and its consequences*.
 - ◆ Romans 3:19-20; 5:20a; 7:5-11

- ◆ Galatians 3:21-22
7. Old Testament sacrifices *declared, emphasized, and magnified God's holiness, righteousness, love, grace, mercy, and sovereignty.*
 - ◆ Psalm 119:62
 - ◆ Nehemiah 9:13
 - ◆ Matthew 23:23
 - ◆ Romans 7:12
 8. Old Testament sacrifices *demonstrated that there was no totally independent access to God for the Old Testament believer under the Mosaic legislation.*
 - ◆ Hebrews 9:8-10
 9. Old Testament sacrifices *demonstrated that God's desire with regard to the giving of His people did not go beyond their normal ability.* The sacrificial objects (cattle, sheep, goats, doves; flour, oil, wine, and frankincense) were all immediately available to the individual Israelite. God did not require that His people bring something exotic or beyond their normal means. He did not require them to extend themselves to the point of either economical discomfort or disaster.
 - ◆ 1 Corinthians 16:2
 - ◆ 2 Corinthians 8-9
 10. Old Testament sacrifices *emphasized the ministry of the priesthood.*
 - ◆ Leviticus 1:9; 2:8; 4:20; 6:6
 - ◆ Hebrews 5-10
 - ◆ 1 Peter 2:5
 11. Old Testament sacrifices *involved the recognition of God's covenant with His people.*
 - ◆ Leviticus 2:13
 - ◆ Psalm 50:5, 16
 12. Old Testament sacrifices *were commanded by God for the maintenance of the priesthood.* The covenant community provides for those who minister.
 - ◆ Leviticus 7:34-35
 - ◆ Nehemiah 13:5
 - ◆ Malachi 3:8-10