



HIGHER GROUND
CALVARY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

SIMILITUDES

Class 04

The Sacrifices of Israel

The concept of a blood
sacrifice began all the way
back in the Old Testament
It actually started the Day of
the Fall
And in the Garden of Eden

Genesis 3:21:
“Unto Adam also and to his
wife did the Lord God make
coats of skins, and clothed
them.”

God performed the first sacrifice
He did this to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve
Nakedness was symbolic of their sin

When they sinned, they became aware that they were naked.
They tried to cover their nakedness (sin) with fig leaves
This was a bloodless sacrifice

They tried to make themselves acceptable to God through their own efforts
The fig tree has come to represent religion
Our efforts to make ourselves acceptable to God

Religion is doomed to failure
We can never make ourselves
acceptable to God
Works will never make us
acceptable to God

We see the very first false
religion – the first cult in the
very next generation
This is in the story of Cain and
Able

Genesis 4:3:
“And in process of time it came
to pass, that Cain brought of
the fruit of the ground an
offering unto the Lord.”

Cain tried to come before God
through his own efforts
He brought the fruit of his labor
This is not the message that
God gave to his parents,
Adam and Eve

The message God gave to
Adam and Eve is that “an
innocent must die in the place
of a guilty”

Leviticus 17:11 makes it clear:
“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 makes
an atonement for the soul.”

The author of the Book of Hebrews had this to say
Hebrews 9:22:
“And almost all things are by the Law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

The shedding of blood represents death
The life is sacrificed
It is offered up
The wages of sin is death
And so the price of sin must always be death - blood

Which brings us back to Cain and Abel
Genesis 4:4:
“And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering...”

Notice that Able brought the fat
In each of our sacrifices we will
be looking at in this lesson we
see that the fat is removed and
burned on the altar unto God
as a sweet fragrance
No one may eat the fat

Leviticus 7:25:
“For whosoever eats the fat of
the beast, of which men offer
an offering made by fire unto
the Lord, even the soul that
eats it shall be cut off from his
people.”

Genesis 4:5:
“But unto Cain and to his
offering he had not respect.
And Cain was very [angry],
and his countenance fell.”

God will accept any thing that we bring to Him as an expression of our love

But the issue of sin must first be resolved

Until sin has been resolved, it will continue to separate us from God

We see that Noah understood this concept of an animal sacrifice

When he came off of the Ark, he offered animal sacrifices to God

We see Abraham knowing how to prepare and offer a sacrifice to God

We see Job making sacrifices to God for himself and for his children

The concept of a blood offering – a sacrifice – was known all the way up to the time of Moses

Unfortunately, false religions offered blood offerings to false gods

They converted it to human sacrifices

They turned it into sacrificing your children

They made it painful and torture where God made the sacrifice painless

With the giving of the Law of God to Moses

The concept of a sacrifice was codified – put down into writing and standardized

This was so that they could become pictures of the Messiah

There were now standard animals that could be used for a sacrifice

There was an ox, goats, sheep and in some circumstances a heifer or a turtle dove

There are also occasions for a bloodless sacrifice

I am going to use the Book of Leviticus as the textbook for this lesson

The Book of Leviticus is a How-To Book for the priest to perform his functions before God

Leviticus is also a book written entirely by God

Leviticus 1:1:

“And the Lord called unto Moses, and spoke unto him out of the Tabernacle of the congregation, saying...”

So Leviticus is God speaking to Moses
And Moses is writing down everything that God is telling him
So God literally wrote this book

I want to touch on one event before we begin
This shows that God is very serious about the sacrifices and the duties of the priest
You must do what God tells you and do it exactly

Leviticus 10:1:
“And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not.”

Leviticus 10:2:

“And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.”

Bible scholars teach that God struck them dead because they were drunk

They come to this conclusion because God warned Aaron about coming before Him when drinking

I am going to challenge this teaching

I will admit that drinking might have been involved in this scenario

But they were not killed because they were drinking

The Bible makes it clear why they were killed
They came before the Lord with "*strange fire.*"
What does that mean?
It is another picture of Jesus

When the Tabernacle was being dedicated to God
The sacrifice was prepared and placed on the altar
But there was no fire in the altar

God sent fire from Heaven and it consumed the sacrifice
It also would have started the fire in the altar

We see the same thing happen when the Temple was being dedicated

The sacrifice was on the altar, but there was no fire in the altar

God sent fire from Heaven to consume the sacrifice

It appears that this fire was preserved

There are fire pans that were created for the altar

The fire would be preserved, fed and kept burning by the priests

When they set up the Tabernacle, this fire would be used to start the fire in the altar

And to light the Menorah (Lampstand) in the Holy place
And for the Altar of Incense

They used the fire that God provided
When we serve God, we must use what He provides and not seek to use our own resources
Jesus was given from Heaven by God

He is the Light of the World
But through the Holy Spirit, He is the power of God
We should never try to serve God in our own power – through our own resources

The sons of Aaron were probably drinking
It came time to put incense in a censor and bring it before God.
There was a very specific incense that they had to use

It looks like they took fire from a fire they had created themselves rather than fire from the altar which God provided

This was “strange fire”

It had not been provided by God

As a result,

They were serving God in their own resources

They did not follow directions (probably due to the drinking)

And God struck them dead to drive the message home

So each of these procedures will, in some way, be a picture of the Messiah

And this means you cannot alter the picture of the Messiah

You have to follow procedures exactly how they are set down

Now there is one point to make
before we begin

In order for a sacrifice to be
your sacrifice, two things must
take place

You must confess your sins
over the sacrifice

As you place your hands on
the animal's head and confess
your sins

Your sins are transferred to the
sacrifice

Any sin not transferred
remains on you and is not
atoned for by the sacrifice

Second, the sacrifice is a kind
of Bar-B-Q

The animals are being roasted

The other point is that you
must partake of the sacrifice –
eat it – to make it part of you

When you eat it, it is digested,
becomes part of your blood
flow

Feeds your entire body

And becomes part of you

It ceases being a sacrifice and
it becomes *your* sacrifice

So some of the requirements
are basic butchering and
preparing an animal to be
eaten

The exception to this was the
Burnt Offering

I am going to discuss the
various kinds of offerings or
sacrifices

And then I am going to discuss
some of the details and how
they relate to Jesus

OFFERINGS

There are 5 Offerings per the Book of Leviticus

Burnt Offering Sin Offering
Guilt Offering Peace Offering
Grain Offering

Every sacrifice is in some way a picture of Jesus and/or His work

We will point out how an offering is related to Jesus and/or His death on the cross

Abraham declared to Isaac that:

“God will provide Himself [as] a lamb for a burnt offering...”

(Genesis 22:8)

I suspect that the Burnt offering was the first offering
God ordered a Burnt Offering of Abraham
Abraham knew about the Burnt Offering 400 years before the Law was given

Now a Burnt Offering was prepared and all of it was placed on the altar (with the exception of the skin) and the fire consumed everything
Jesus was not placed on a fire and consumed by flames

But Jesus gave Himself 100% to God
He held nothing back
Just as was done with the Burnt Offering

This is the similitude:
The person offering the
sacrifice is giving themselves
to God and not holding
anything back

The first mention of a Burnt
Offering, other than Abraham,
is in Exodus 29
This is where Aaron and his
sons are dedicated to God.
Again, this is always voluntary

Exodus 29:10:
“And you shall cause a bullock
to be brought before the
tabernacle of the congregation:
and Aaron and his sons shall
put their hands upon the head
of the bullock.”

The placing of the hands on the head is to transfer their sins to the sacrifice

This is to demonstrate that this animal will now represent them before God

Exodus 29:11:

“And you shall kill the bullock before the Lord, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.”

Exodus 29:12:

“And you shall take of the blood of the bullock, and put it upon the horns of the altar with your finger, and pour all the blood beside the bottom of the altar.”

Placing the blood of the sacrifice on the horns of the altar sanctifies the altar and gives it the power to accept the offering.

When Jesus was nailed to the cross, the four protrusions of the cross were the four horns of His altar as He offered Himself as a sin offering to God

As His hands were nailed to the ends of the cross beam, His blood anointed the ends of the crossbeam
When His feet were nailed to the base of the cross, His blood anointed that horn

When His head went back
against the top of the cross,
the blood on His head from the
wound of the crown of thorns
anointed the fourth horn of His
altar

When the Roman soldier
pierced His side with the
spear, His blood was poured
out at the base of His altar
The procedure given Moses
was a shadow – picture – of
the death of Jesus on the
cross

Exodus 28:13:
“And you shall take all the fat
that covers the inwards, and the
caul [protrusion] that is above
the liver, and the two kidneys,
and the fat that is upon them,
and burn them upon the altar.”

The fat was not to be eaten.
Each sacrifice removes the fat
and places it on the altar to be
burned separately in order to
produce the smell that is
pleasing unto God

This is because of Leviticus
3:17:
“It shall be a perpetual statute
for your generations through-
out all your dwellings, that you
eat neither fat nor blood.”

The protrusion or horn of the
liver is to be removed along
with the kidneys and these are
to be burned.
They are never to be eaten

Exodus 29:14:

“But the flesh of the bullock,
and his skin, and his dung,
shall you burn with fire without
the camp: it is a sin offering.”

We see the unacceptable
portions of the sacrifice are not
to be placed on the altar
We do not offer what is
unacceptable or unclean unto
God
This is taken outside the camp
where it is to be burned

The Burnt Offering was the first
offering discussed in the Book
of Leviticus
Although the Burnt Offering
is an offering of dedication,
it is still a sin offering for
atonement

Leviticus 1:3:

“If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the Tabernacle of the congregation before the Lord.”

Jesus is a male

He was without spot or blemish

A spot is an inherited defect

A blemish is an acquired defect

Jesus gave Himself freely

Leviticus 1:4:

“And he shall put his hand upon the head of the Burnt Offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.”

Again, even though this is an offering representing the giver being dedicated to God

The sins must first be removed
So the sins are transferred to the sacrifice before it is killed and it becomes an atonement

Leviticus 1:5:

“And he shall kill the bullock before the Lord: and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon the altar that is by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.”

Notice that it is Aaron's sons who sprinkle the blood.

The other Levites can serve in the Temple

But the sacrifices are performed by the sons of Aaron

Leviticus 1:6:

“And he shall flay the burnt offering, and cut it into his pieces.”

Now it appears that the one bringing the offering places his hand on the offering

The one making the offering kills the sacrifice

He then cuts the body up so it can be placed on the altar

Leviticus 1:7:

“And the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire upon the altar, and lay the wood in order upon the fire:”

Leviticus 1:8:

“And the priests, Aaron's sons, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat, in order upon the wood that is on the fire which is upon the altar.”

Leviticus 1:9:

“But his inwards and his legs shall he wash in water: and the priest shall burn all on the altar, to be a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savor unto the Lord.”

We see that this version is a little different from the version in Exodus, but all the procedures are followed in the sacrifice.

This will be the procedure for all the Burnt Offerings

A burnt offering can also be:

A sheep or a goat

These are killed on the north side of the altar and the blood is poured out

It can also be a turtle dove

These are killed by wringing off the head

The method for killing an ox or sheep or goat is to cut the carotid artery which carries blood, oxygen and nutrients to the brain

With the artery severed, the animal passes out and dies a painless death

Leviticus 7:8:

“And the priest that offers an man’s burnt offering shall have to himself the skin of the burnt offering that he has offered.”

I believe that the basis for this practice is that the skin was to be worn as clothing to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve

Next is the Peace Offering:
This is also a voluntary offering
3 reasons for a Peace Offering:
1. Saying thank you to God
2. Fulfilling a vow
3. Thanksgiving for God's deliverance

Leviticus 3 discusses the Peace Offering
Leviticus 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."

Leviticus 7:11 – 21:

“And this is the law of the sacrifice of Peace Offerings, which he shall offer unto the Lord.”

Leviticus 7:12:

“If he offer it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the sacrifice of thanksgiving unleavened cakes mingled with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil, and cakes mingled with oil, of fine flour, fried.”

This is a picture of Jesus
Jesus bought peace for us with God
He is the Bread of Life
The oil represents the Holy Spirit
Jesus was filled with the Spirit

Leviticus 7:13:

“Besides the cakes, he shall offer for his offering leavened bread with the sacrifice of thanksgiving of his Peace Offerings.”

This is the only place leavened bread is mentioned

It is normally forbidden by the Law of Moses

This is a picture of Jesus

Leaven represents sin and sin separates us from God

But once the work of Jesus is complete and we have peace with God

The issue of sin is no longer an issue with God

And even though a believer still has sin

He/she can appear before God

Leviticus 7:14:

“And of it he shall offer one out of the whole oblation for an Heave Offering unto the Lord, and it shall be the priest's that sprinkles the blood of the Peace Offerings.”

A Heave Offering/Wave Offering is a bloodless sacrifice and normally applies to the Grain or Meal Offering. The priest will lift the offering up (Heave) and present it to God

When the grain is handed to the priest, it belongs to the one making the offering
The priest heaves it up to God, lifting it over his head
When it comes down it now belongs to God/priest

Jesus mentions that He must be lifted up
He was referring to being placed on the cross
But the image is that He was like a Heave Offering and lifted up to God so God could take possession of Him

Leviticus 7:15:
“And the flesh of the sacrifice of his Peace Offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day that it is offered; he shall not leave any of it until the morning.”

This is reminiscent of the Passover Meal.
Nothing is to be left over
It is for today, not tomorrow
We are to be thankful to God today.

Leviticus 7:16:

“But if the sacrifice of his offering be a vow, or a voluntary offering, it shall be eaten the same day that he offers his sacrifice: and on the morrow also the remainder of it shall be eaten...”

The image now is different

The first was a way of saying thank you to God

Of offering praise to God and we praise God today

It is an immediate relation with God

But if the Peace Offering is for fulfillment of a vow, or it is a voluntary offering for God's deliverance

Then you can save some for tomorrow and eat it the next day

Leviticus 7:17:

“But the remainder of the flesh of the sacrifice on the third day shall be burnt with fire.”

Leviticus 7:18:

“And if any of the flesh of the sacrifice of his Peace Offerings be eaten at all on the third day, it shall not be accepted, neither shall it be imputed unto him that offered it...”

If you eat any of the sacrifice on the third day, it basically undoes the entire Peace Offering.

It is an abomination to God

It is a sin

And you have to start over

There might be a connection to the third day and Jesus being the Peace Offering for God and His rising after three days
Or it might just be for health reasons and meat will go bad after three days

The restriction for eating the Passover Lamb on Passover only and it could not be kept or eaten later is that the day after Passover, the Jews were set free and driven out of Egypt
They ate in haste and prepared to leave

Also, you cannot eat the Peace Offering if you are unclean
Jesus must make you clean before God so that you can have peace with God

Leviticus 7:29:

“Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, ‘He who offers the sacrifice of his Peace Offerings unto the Lord shall bring his oblation unto the Lord of the sacrifice of his Peace Offerings.’”

Leviticus 7:30:

“His own hands shall bring the offerings of the Lord made by fire, the fat with the breast, it shall he bring, that the breast may be waved for a Wave Offering before the Lord.”

Leviticus 7:31:

“And the priest shall burn the fat upon the altar: but the breast shall be Aaron's and his sons'.”

Leviticus 7:33:

“He among the sons of Aaron, that offers the blood of the Peace Offerings, and the fat, shall have the right shoulder for his part.”

This is how the priest is compensated for overseeing the Peace Offering, the Meal Offering, the Sin Offering and the Trespass Offering (Guilt Offering)

The Sin Offering is sacrificed the same way as the Peace Offering, but it is done when someone becomes aware of a sin in his/her life

It is when a sin was performed by accident or the person did not know they were committing a sin

The Sin Offering (Leviticus 5:1 – 14) is when you have violated one of God's Law by accident and became unclean
Here the offering is based on a person's income

It is a female lamb or a female goat
If you cannot afford a lamb or a goat you use two turtle doves
If you cannot afford doves, then it becomes a Grain Offering

The Trespass Offering (Leviticus 5:15 – 19) was offered the same way, but was done as reparations for something you did to someone else
It is also referred to as a Guilt Offering

As this is for reparations, this offering also involves money
It is to be a ram
There is to be an estimation of the damages
Then you add 20% to the price
You pay in silver shekels

The final form of offering is called a Grain Offering or Meal Offering (Meat Offering in the King James)
It is discussed in Leviticus 2

The Grain Offering was a bloodless sacrifice
I believe that this was a picture of Jesus in several ways
Jesus resurrected on the day for the Feast of Firstfruits

For this ceremony the High Priest had a patch of ground where he raised wheat
On the first day after the first Sabbath after Passover, he was to cut a sheaf of grain and present it as a Heave Offering

This was to ensure a blessing on the coming harvest
The coming harvest was at the Feast of Weeks (50 days later) and which we know as Pentecost
This was the beginning of the spiritual harvest as well

Jesus is the Bread of Life as we saw in the Table of Showbread
He claimed to be the manna sent down by God
So Jesus is closely related to grain and bread

There was a lot of flexibility in a Grain Offering

It could be any kind of grain, but it had to be finely ground

Think of Jesus' reference at the Last Supper that the bread was His body broken for us

It had to be mixed with salt and with oil

We are the salt of the earth

The oil represents the Holy Spirit

There was no specific amount needed for a Grain Offering

A small portion was burned on the altar for God

The amount burned on the altar must be mixed with frankincense (joy)

The grain must be unleavened
– without sin (another picture
of Jesus)

The remainder of the grain
becomes the property of the
priest

There are two specific
sacrifices/ceremonies that I
want to cover before we close
out

The first is the Cleansing of the
Leper

The Second is the Red Heifer

The procedure for cleansing a
leper is found in Leviticus
Chapter 14

Due to time constraints, I am
not going to do a verse by
verse, but I want to pick out
some key points

We start with two turtle doves
Consider that a dove is an inhabitant of the sky (Heaven)
One dove is killed in an earthen vessel
Jesus died in an earthen vessel – His earthly body

It is killed by running water
Water represents the Holy Spirit or God's Word – the Law
Jesus died in His earthly body according to the Law of Moses
This dove is killed and its blood is drained

The priests takes cedar wood, scarlet and hyssop and dips them in the blood
Cedar – possibly the cross
Scarlet representing the blood or the priesthood
Hyssop is used to apply blood

The other turtle dove is dipped
in the blood and set free
i. e. is returned to the sky or
Heaven
There are three lambs offered
Two are male and one is
female

There is a Sin Offering –
unintentional sins against God
There is a Trespass Offering –
unintentional sins against others
There is a burnt offering – this is
a complete dedication to God

The priest takes the blood and
applies it to the right ear, the
right thumb and the right big
toe
This is how a priest is anointed
to serve God

This is so that they can hear
God (ear)
Do the work of God (thumb);
And so that they can follow
God (big toe)
The leper is being made a
priest before God

But then the priest will take oil
and anoint the right ear, the
right thumb and the right big
toe
What does all of this
represent?

A leper is a person considered
to be dead
The leper is living in his body,
but it is dying as he is in it
For this reason, leprosy is a
picture of sin
So the sin must be removed
from the body

Leprosy is incurable
The priest would never have
any cause to use this ceremony
This is a person who was dead,
but now lives
His/her sin has been removed

This is a picture of a Christian
Jesus has made believers
priests and kings unto God the
Father
So they are anointed with the
blood (of Jesus)

We can hear the Word of God
(ear), we are called to do the
work of God (thumb), and we
are called to follow God (big
toe)
So we have the same
anointing as the priests

But we have something more
We have the Holy Spirit (oil)
which the priests do not have
We can hear the Holy Spirit (ear)
Do the work of the Spirit (thumb)
We can follow the Holy Spirit
(big toe)

The Holy Spirit speaks to us
He lives inside of us
He gives us Spiritual Gifts to
equip us to do the work of God
He guides us
This is something the priest
does not have

So this cleansing of the leper
ceremony is a picture of the
Christians who shall have their
sins forgiven by Jesus
Perhaps this is why this
ceremony was never used
until Jesus came to minister to
the Jews

The final sacrifice is that of the Red Heifer (Numbers 19)

A heifer is a female cow

The Red Heifer became extinct after the destruction of the Temple by Rome in 70 AD

In the 1970's Red Heifers began to be born once more

The Red Heifer is killed by beheading

This takes place outside the camp – not in the Tabernacle

The Red Heifer is killed by someone else who is identified as a “strong man” and not as a priest

The Red Heifer is killed as the High Priest stands by and watches

The Body of the Red Heifer is burned until it is nothing but ashes

These ashes are mixed with water and kept outside the camp

When someone becomes unclean, they must go outside the camp

And perform a ceremony for cleansing using the water mixed with the ashes of the Red Heifer

This mixture of water and ashes is used to dedicate something unto God

This is why the Jews could not rebuild the Temple since they could not cleanse it and sanctify it to God

Consider this image of Jesus
Jesus is the Head of the
Church – female/Bride of
Christ
He was taken outside the city
(camp)

The head of the Church
(Jesus) was cut off by a
“strong man” (Rome) who was
not a priest while the High
Priest stood by and watched

Jesus as the Red Heifer is
mixed with water (the Holy
Spirit/Word of God)
These are left outside the
camp – the Jewish faith
This is how an unclean person
can become dedicated to God

There are more details concerning the sacrifices under the Law of Moses
There are other ceremonies that the priests perform
I suspect that these would also be pictures of Jesus and His work

But I want to leave something for others to find for themselves
So I will bring this lesson to a close

But we are not done yet
There is one more area I want to consider as pictures of Jesus
Next class we will look at the Feasts of Israel.

QUESTIONS


