

Leviticus 1:1-17: Burnt Offering.

I. Introduction.

The story of Leviticus picks up where Exodus left off. Israel is still camped out at the base of Mount Sinai, and they will remain there all through the Book of Leviticus.

God invites Israel (priests and people) to live in close to his holy presence. Which seems awesome, but it's actually dangerous if the rules are violated.

God had to be approached in holiness through the blood of animal sacrifices for a temporary cover for sin. God also instructs regarding worshipping or honoring Him through crop offerings.

Leviticus 11:45 - *'For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to **be** your God. You shall therefore **be holy**, for I am **holy**.*

Leviticus 17:11 - *'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'*

II. Burnt Offering (1-17).

i. Offering (1-3); – a present/gift in worship.

The Tabernacle was now completed. The sacrificial system could now be implemented in detail with the place of sacrifice ready.

Leviticus 1:9c...*And the priest shall burn all on the altar as a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.*

This was not the beginning of God's sacrificial system. Adam knew of sacrifice ([Genesis 3:21](#)), as did Cain and Abel ([Genesis 4:3-4](#)), and Noah ([Genesis 8:20-21](#)).

The first seven chapters of Leviticus deal with personal, voluntary offerings and how the priests would serve in receiving and burning the sacrifice to God.

- The animal offered had to be a male, a bull or goat or sheep (not skinned) or doves or pigeons.
- Perfect/best/no defects.
- Personal choice.

Bring the animal or bird - the idea behind the Hebrew word for atonement is to cover. The purpose is that an individual's sin is covered over by the blood of the sacrificial victim.

Lay your hands on its head – the guilty one transferred his guilt to the sacrificial victim that would die for the sin of the offerer

Kill it – the offerer had to kill the animal himself.

Sprinkle the blood - the blood of the animal - representing the life of the animal was sprinkled on the altar of sacrifice.

Skin it, wash the internal organs and feet and burn it to the LORD - the rest of the animal, having been washed from any excrement or impurity, was burnt on the altar. The totality of the offering, burnt before God, was a sweet aroma before God's throne.

Psalm 4:5 - *Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.*

Psalm 51:17 - *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.*

Psa 66:15 - *I will offer You burnt sacrifices of fat animals, with the sweet aroma of rams; I will offer bulls with goats.*

1 Peter 2:4-5 - *Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

Hebrews 9:27-28 - *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.*