

## THE MEANING OF THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM

### INTRODUCTION

A large part of the old (4<sup>th</sup> age) covenant involved an elaborate sacrificial system with many different offerings, procedures, and laws that are detailed in the last four books of the law – Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Most of these rituals pointed to Christ, and He did indeed initiate a new (5<sup>th</sup> age) and better covenant in which He became our high priest (Heb 4). His sacrifice replaced all the animal sacrifices required under the old covenant (Heb 9). Nevertheless, there is much that can be learned from the symbology in all the details of the tabernacle, its furnishings, and the whole sacrificial system. Whole books have been written on these subjects. It is not our intent to duplicate that work, but to present a brief and limited overview with application of the lessons and symbology to later ages.

Animal sacrifices existed prior to the establishment of the old covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai - both within Israel and among other religions. However, they became more extensive, ordered and consistent at that time. While there were similarities with religious practice in surrounding nations, there were also significant differences.

### OFFERINGS

The system commanded to Israel can be divided into two principal categories; 1) the continuous, commanded, national offerings and 2) individual offerings both commanded and voluntary. There are numerous specific offerings, but not all will be mentioned here.

The principal ones are as follows (with the Hebrew word and Strong's reference):

#### Burnt offerings (Olah/ H5930)

These were entirely consumed by burning them on the alter.

These were called a sweet savor or pleasing aroma to God (Exo 29:41 etc).

#### Peace offerings or thank, freewill, or votive (vow) offerings (Shelem/ H8002)

Commanded at Pentecost but otherwise generally voluntary. (Lev 7:11-17).

#### Sin offering (Chattath/H2403)

Offered on new moons and holy days (Num 28:15-29). Also consecration of priests (Exo 29:10-14) and the day of Atonement. Blood was sprinkled on the alter, holy, eaten by priest only. For sin in general or ignorance.

#### Guilt or trespass offering ('Asam/ H817)

Narrower meaning than sin; usually relating to doing material damage to holy things or man.

Wave offering (Tenuphah/H8573)

A portion of a peace offering, the breast, which was waved and then belonged to the priest or worshiper.

Heave offering (Terumah/H8641)

Another portion of a peace offering, the thigh, which was lifted up and then the priests part.

Meat, meal, or grain offering (Minchah/H4503)

Often in conjunction with other offerings but could also be alone raw, roasted, ground, or baked. The portion burned was mixed with frankincense and the rest belonged to the priests (Lev 2:1-16). Salt always added (Lev 2:13)

Drink offering or libation of wine, water (rarely), or oil (Nesek/H5262)

In conjunction with a burnt or peace offering.

## SACRIFICES

This discussion will be limited to national or public required sacrifices under the old covenant and their meaning in the next ages. It does not cover voluntary or required individual sacrifices. The outline is the original physical sacrificial system given to Israel that was principally detailed in Leviticus 23 and Numbers 28 & 29. There is also application to the church (spiritual) and the Bride (relational) ages.

DAILY SACRIFICE (continual burnt offering)

Morning and evening (Exo 29:38-42, Num 28:3-4)

	1 lamb	2 qt. Flour	1 qt. Oil	1 qt. wine
total	2 lambs	4 qt. Flour	2 qt. Oil	2 qt. wine

(Modern measurements are from the NLT)

SABBATH (twice the daily offering)

(Num 28:9-10)

Total            4 lambs            8 qt. Flour    4 qt. Oil            4 qt. Wine

NEW MOON/HOLY DAYS (were in addition to the daily or sabbath sacrifices)

(Num 28:11)

2 bulls*	6 qt. Flour	3 qt. Oil	2 qt. Wine	each
1 ram**	4 qt. Flour	2 qt. oil	1½ qt. Wine	
7 lambs	2 qt. Flour	1 qt. Oil	1 qt. Wine	each
1 goat				

\*number of bulls changes to 1 for Pentecost and fall holy days

\*\*number of rams changes too 2 for Pentecost and fall holy days

## **SPRING FEASTS**

PASSOVER (not a national offering)

The Passover sacrifice was individual or household and originally killed by the person doing the offering. It was not offered by a priest and or in a designated location. Note that this sacrifice could be either a lamb (sheep) or a kid (goat) (Exo 12:5). This is neither a burnt or guilt offering, it is a specific passover sacrifice.

EAT UNLEAVENED BREAD (7 DAYS )

(Lev 23:6, Num 28:17).

Same as new moon/holy days    each day

WAVE SHEAF OFFERING (FIRST OF THE FIRSTFRUITS)

On the day after the Sabbath during the days of unleavened bread there was an offering of a sheaf, or probably the flour of a sheaf, of the early barley harvest with another lamb as a burnt offering (Lev 23:10-12).

## **SUMMER FEASTS**

PENTECOST (FIRST FRUITS)

Pentecost literally means count fifty and occurs fifty days after the wave sheaf offerin

(Lev 23:15-16). The two first fruit offerings are the only ones not on a fixed calendar date.

1 bull	6 qt. Flour	3 qt. Oil	2 qt. Wine	each
2 rams	4 qt. Flour	2 qt. oil	1½ qt. Wine	

7 lambs      2 qt. Flour    1 qt. Oil      1 qt. Wine each  
1 goat

Same as new moon/holy days except 1 bull and 2 rams plus a peace offering of 2 additional lambs and 2 loaves of leavened bread (Lev 23:17-20; Num 28:26-31).

## FALL FEASTS

### TRUMPETS

1 bull            6 qt. Flour    3 qt. Oil      2 qt. Wine each  
1 ram            4 qt. Flour    2 qt. oil      1½ qt. Wine  
7 lambs        2 qt. Flour    1 qt. Oil      1 qt. Wine each  
1 goat

Same as Pentecost without the peace offering (Lev 23:24-25; Num 29:1-6).

### ATONEMENT

1 bull            6 qt. Flour    3 qt. Oil      2 qt. Wine each  
1 ram            4 qt. Flour    2 qt. oil      1½ qt. Wine  
7 lambs        2 qt. Flour    1 qt. Oil      1 qt. Wine each  
1 goat

Same as Trumpets (Lev 23:27-32; Num 29:7-11) plus special Atonement offering of 1 bull and 2 goats. (Lev 16)

### TABERNACLES (Lev 23:34-37; Num 29:12-34).

Declining number of bulls

13 first day 7 on the 7th day.

Double number of rams and lambs of other holy days.

2 rams            each day  
14 lambs        each day  
1 goat            each day

This always remains the same

LAST DAY OF THE FEAST/8<sup>th</sup> Day (Lev 23:36; Num 29:35-38).

1 bull	6 qt. Flour	3 qt. Oil	2 qt. Wine	each
1 ram	4 qt. Flour	2 qt. oil	1½ qt. Wine	
7 lambs	2 qt. Flour	1 qt. Oil	1 qt. Wine	each
1 goat				

Same as Trumpets

The type of animals sacrificed have multiple meanings:

Bull = strength, endurance, work

Ram = wisdom, maturity

Lamb = innocence, humility

Goat = guilt

The goat is a guilt offering the others are burnt offerings.

Flour and oil were mingled together and called a meat or meal offering.

The wine was poured out as a drink offering.

Flour = provision = life

Oil = Spirit = life

Wine = blood = life

## REFORMATIONS

Cycle	Spring	Summer	Fall
1 <sup>st</sup> Nation (physical)	Out of Egypt	Early harvest (grain, oil)	Late harvest (grapes)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Body (spiritual)	Out of the world	Early harvest (church)	Late harvest (tribulation)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Bride (relational)	Out of the church	Early harvest (parents)	Late harvest (Bride)

In the third cycle:

The Spring Feasts represents betrothal and leaving the father's house (existing church). This first stage of the 2<sup>nd</sup> great reformation is revival of those Christians who will accept that God is doing something new.

The Summer Feasts (first fruits) is the announcement of the wedding, the preaching of the gospel of the Bride, and call to the unconverted to be the parents of the Bride.

The Fall Feasts have individual meanings within the wedding and wedding feast subject.

Trumpets     Call to the wedding

Atonement   Purification and preparation

Tabernacles   The wedding feast

Last day     Revelation of the Bride as queen