

SANCTUARY STUDIES LESSON #13

THE COURT PART V

THE PEACE OFFERING

INTRODUCTION

All italics are in the original text. All other emphasis are the authors unless stated. All Scriptures are from the K. J. V. Bible unless stated otherwise.

I said we would be studying the sin offering in this lesson but since thinking about what and how to proceed with this study of the sanctuary I have decided to study the peace offering first. The peace offering is essential because it signifies conversion and dedication to God and allegiance to his kingdom. The peace offering typifies an experience of utmost importance if we are to have a lasting relationship and experience that leads to the saving of our souls!

Let us pray:

Holy Father, once again we come before You for You have told us to come boldly to the throne of grace. I request mercy and Your spirit to guide me in this endeavor. Please give understanding to all who are involved in this study. May the thoughts and words be to Your will and desire? Let nothing be presented but what is acceptable in Your sight. I ask these things in the name of Jesus, Your only begotten Son. Amen.

Leviticus 3:1-5. “And if his oblation be a sacrifice of peace offering, if he offers it

of the herd; whether it be a male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the LORD. And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and kill it at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron's sons, the priests, shall sprinkle (splatter) the blood upon the sides of the altar (NET) round about. And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards, And the two kidneys, and the fat that is on them, which is by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away. And Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is upon the wood that is on the fire: it is an offering made by fire, of a sweet Saviour unto the LORD.”

NOTE: The peace offering shows how we make peace with God. All other offerings, except the thank offering, reveal some facet of how God is restoring us to our original state before the fall of Adam. They all deal with sin in some form. Not so with the peace and thank offerings.

Leviticus 3:3-5. “And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards, And the two

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kidneys, and the fat that is on them, which is by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away. And Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is upon the wood that is on the fire: it is an offering made by fire, of a sweet savor unto the LORD.”

NOTE: God’s people are never to eat the fat or the blood of any kind of animal. The fat was to be burned on the altar of burnt offerings. The blood had to be completely purged from the flesh before it could be eaten.

Leviticus 7:3, 5. “And he shall offer of it all the fat thereof...V. 5. And the priest shall burn them upon the altar for an offering made by fire unto the LORD...”

NOTE: Fat represents sin, and it must be burned away from our lives. That means no Mc Donald’s French-fries, they are deep-fried in beef fat.

The blood was sprinkled before the Lord in the holy place. Blood represents the life.

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 an atonement (forgiveness of sin) for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”

Leviticus 7:29-33. “Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, He that offereth the

sacrifice of his peace offerings unto the LORD shall bring his oblation unto the LORD of the sacrifice of his peace offerings. 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. And the priest shall burn the fat upon the altar: **but the breast shall be Aaron's and his sons'. And the right shoulder shall ye give unto the priest for an heave offering of the sacrifices of your peace offerings.** He among the sons of Aaron, that offereth the blood of the peace offerings, and the fat, **shall have the right shoulder for his part.**”

NOTE: The breast and the right shoulder are specifically mentioned as belonging to the priest. What significance does the breast and shoulder have in scripture?

Isaiah 40:11. “He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and **carry them in his bosom**, (breast) and shall gently lead those that are with young.”

NOTE: In giving the breast to the priest the sinner learned that when he repents and confesses sin, God’s arms are always open to carry him in His bosom or breast. We are always to remain in the bosom of the Lord.

John 13:25. “He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?”

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NOTE: What a place to be! So close to the Lord. When John ask that question, he had to face Christ's luminous, piercing gaze and their eyes met at close range. Who could do that without a clear conscience? In such a position how could anyone say anything that did not come from the heart? For us to abide in Christ's bosom we must also have a clean heart, with none of this world's attractions present.

Isaiah 9: 6, 7. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, and The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, **upon the throne of David**, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. **The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.**"

NOTE: When the right shoulder was given to the priest it meant that the sinner was to rest his whole life on Christ's shoulder. **Christ would then give no end to peace. Christ would order his life and "establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of host (Christ) will perform this."**

NOTE: It is of significance that Isaiah speaks of the cheeks as a symbol of surrender. The peace offering is a revelation of what true surrender really is; let us, therefore, look at the surrender of the cheeks also as a revelation of a full surrender to God.

Isaiah 50:6, 7. "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. **For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore, shall I not be confounded:** therefore, have I set my face like a flint, and **I know that I shall not be ashamed.**"

NOTE: Can you see that the giving of the cheeks for abuse is a symbol of surrender. In this case to the will of the Father for the chastisement of the penalty for sin which was laid upon Christ for us all.

Matthew 5:38, 39. "Ye have heard that it hath been said, an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: **But I say unto you, that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.**"

NOTE: Christ taught that when someone strikes the cheek, we must offer the other also. When the sinner gives the cheeks to the abuse of the sinner, he, in essence, is pledging to live a perfect life with Christ. To us this means we must live with the

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character of Christ. It teaches us total surrender to Christ holding nothing in reserve for ourselves!

The peace offering teaches how to be at peace with God. There can be no lasting peace for us if we hold back from total surrender. In the end it will bring only a futile, hallow, empty, and disappointing life like that Solomon experienced. Let us praise and think God for this practical and detailed object lesson of the plan of salvation.

The sacrifices in the courtyard used three mediums to cleanse from sin: blood, fire, and water. Blood represented the cleansing of the heart and inner motives.

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 an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”

NOTE: The blood contains the life of the soul. Blood circulates through our vessels and supplies nutrients and oxygen to all the cells. On the other hand, it collects all impurities and flushes them out of the system. In the same way, the vitalizing principles of the gospel enters our heart, it purges sin out of our system. This is receiving the blood into our souls!

Revelation 3:19, 20. “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. **Behold, I stand at the**

door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

NOTE: This is receiving the vitalizing principles of the gospel into our hearts. It purges sin out of the system.

Fire burns up the fat (sin); the water washes, by the word of God, and cleanses away the actions of sin. Even in our thinking! This is accomplished by the chastisement or purging by the fiery sufferings and trails we must pass through on the road to the throne of God! May God bless you as you compare the sacrificial offerings of old with the cleansing of the soul temple, making it a fit abode for Christ’s presence?

The peace offering was a most joyous celebration. Anybody, families or the community might present them at any time. The sacred meal at the conclusion of the ritual highlighted fellowship with God! The host, as well as the worshiping guest, were in loving fellowship with God and each other.

The Hebrew word for peace-offering was “**shelem**”, from “**shalom**” (meaning peace) and suggests fulfillment of a vow, difficulties resolved, pledges paid, business transactions completed, as well as harmony with Heaven through faith and submission, and the confirming or cementing of the covenant with God. There

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was also the idea of mental, physical, familial, social, and above all spiritual will being and peace.

The Lord mandated that the meal was to be eaten—in a “Holy and Clean place. The court was such a place (Lev. 10:12). Also, the camp of Israel, and later Jerusalem was also designated. By the participants eating part of the sacrifice the penitent and his friends identified with the sacrifice which represented Christ. Jesus invited all His followers to eat His flesh and drink His blood so as to become one with Him in character and purpose.

The “sacrifice of peace-offering” (zabach shelem) called attention to the slaughter of the victim (Christ) which gives the rite its substance and efficacy. Peace sacrifice might be a better translation because no less than 100 times is zabach (sacrifice) used to describe the fellowship meal that accompanied this rite. In Leviticus 3:8, 13. The word kill (or slaughter, NET) is used to define how any sacrifice was to be sacrificed. This word focuses on the victim’s death which alone made this fellowship meal possible. It is pointing forward to Christ’s crucifixion without which there could be no real peace or fellowship. The peace offering always followed burnt offerings and sin and trespass offerings and was symbolic of the joy, happiness, and peace one feels when that person is made right with God.

I think it would be appropriate for us today to have a peace celebration after every baptism. Maybe an agape celebration meal for a symbolic peace offering to the lord for another soul won for the kingdom of God!

In the next lesson we will be looking at the sin offering.

Let us pray:

Holy Father, I thank you for the beauty of the peace offering. Help us to take advantage of the great salvation You have provided that we might realize this amazing gift. Please forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Make us holy vessels for your indwelling presence. I ask these blessings in the name of Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

Your brother in Christ

Virgil Prindle