

## Ho-hum... those OLD TESTAMENT SACRIFICES

“The Lord called to Moses and spoke to him from the Tent of Meeting. He said, “Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When any of you bring an offering to the LORD, bring as your offering an animal from either the herd or the flock. If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd... or from the flock... If someone brings a grain offering... If they bring a fellowship offering... a guilt offering or a sin offering they shall...’” (Leviticus 1-7).



<http://www.kotipetripaavola.com/Tabernacle.html>

The instructions for each offering was comprised of many steps that required careful attention. If the burnt offering was from the herd, they were to choose a young bull without defect. If it was from the flock, a male sheep without defect was offered or goat without defect. If it was a burnt offering of birds, then a dove or young pigeon was offered. They were required to kill the sacrifice in a specific way at a specific location that involved the sons of Aaron and the offerer only in specific cases. The grain offerings were made from the finest flour without yeast and oil that was either burnt, baked or prepared on a griddle. The killing of the animal without defect during the fellowship offering was done by the Israelite followed by Aaron’s sons sprinkling the blood before the offering was appropriately prepared for sacrifice. The meat of the sin offering was cooked in a clay pot, which was later broken or if a bronze pot was used, it was later scoured and rinsed with water. The animal of a guilt offering was carefully prepared removing the kidneys and the covering of the liver. All of the fat was offered. The cooked meat of both sin and guilt offerings belonged to the priest who made atonement with them, but the priest could only eat it in a holy place.

Those Old Testament sacrifices with layers of instructions covering the five types of offerings can be viewed as burdensome, laborious, and all-consuming. It is a practice that goes all the way back to Cain and Abel—a time period that is at least 6,000 years old. A sigh of relief that they are no longer a custom could be a world-wide consensus among 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians. Packaged and sealed, many have filed the ancient practice away under ‘Boring’. But, do they know that all of these sacrifices show what Christ has accomplished and who He is.

Let’s take a closer look at the Old Testament sacrifices.

- **PRIOR TO THE EXODUS out of Egypt, everyone did their own sacrifices.** The Israelites on the night of the Passover, killed their own lamb and ate it. A specific person and place was not instructed; **they were still in Egypt.**

- **AFTER THE EXODUS, God gave the Israelites very specific instructions on how they were to approach Him.**
  - **Only the sons of Aaron performed the sacrifices. They are the priests for this task.**

“And he shall bring it to **Aaron's sons the priests**: and he shall take there out his handful of the flour thereof, and of the oil thereof, with all the frankincense thereof; and the priest shall burn the memorial of it upon the altar, to be an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD” (Leviticus 2:2).

““Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar! I am not pleased with you,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and **I will accept no offering from your hands**”” (Malachi 1:10).
- **Sacrifices became specific to location.** They were only offered at the front of the Tent of Meeting (the Tabernacle in the desert) and the Temple. The last temple was destroyed in 70 A.D.
- **The altar is the table of God on earth.**

"But you dishonor my name with your actions. By bringing contemptible food, you are saying it's all right **to defile the Lord's table**" (Malachi 1:12).
- **Only the sons of Aaron who are without blemish can come before the table of God.**

“**No man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire: he hath a blemish; he shall not come nigh to offer the bread of his God**” (Leviticus 21:21).
- **There are five categories of offerings with three options:**
  1. Burnt offering: of the herd, flock, fowl
  2. Grain offering: burnt on the altar, baked or cooked on a griddle
  3. Sin and Guilt offering: of the herd, flock, fowl
  4. Fellowship offering: of the herd, flock, fowl

The three options provide a means for every person in any situation to come before God with an offering that is acceptable to Him.

**The Old Testament sacrifices** painted a graphic image of the ancient Israelites’ awareness of sin, the penalty, the payment that satisfies our Creator, and finally a fellowship offering that all work together to foster a relationship of unity. While these sacrifices could not pay the penalty of the sins of the people, they were a foreshadow of things to come described throughout the pages of the New Testament of the One who can and does pay the penalty.

Jesus Christ/Yashuah Ha-Mashiach, the Word of God whose flesh is the Bread of Life is that sacrifice without blemish. His Priesthood is perfect. On a perfect altar, he brought a perfect sacrifice. He was the perfect Substitute for the Old Testament sacrifices and he is our perfect New Testament Mediator (Hebrews 10:1-24).

**The evidence was in his resurrection.** Christ's resurrection is the proof that his sacrifice for our sins was accepted by God and our sins were left in the grave. The **Almighty God has accepted the payment for our sins; the King of kings has pardoned us.**

Believers are no longer dead in sin. A sincere believer lives with Christ in him/her overcoming and dying daily to sin. These people are pleasing to God; they are the sweet smelling savour to God through Christ.

“For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish” (11 Corinthians 2:15).

“But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God” (Philippians 4:18).

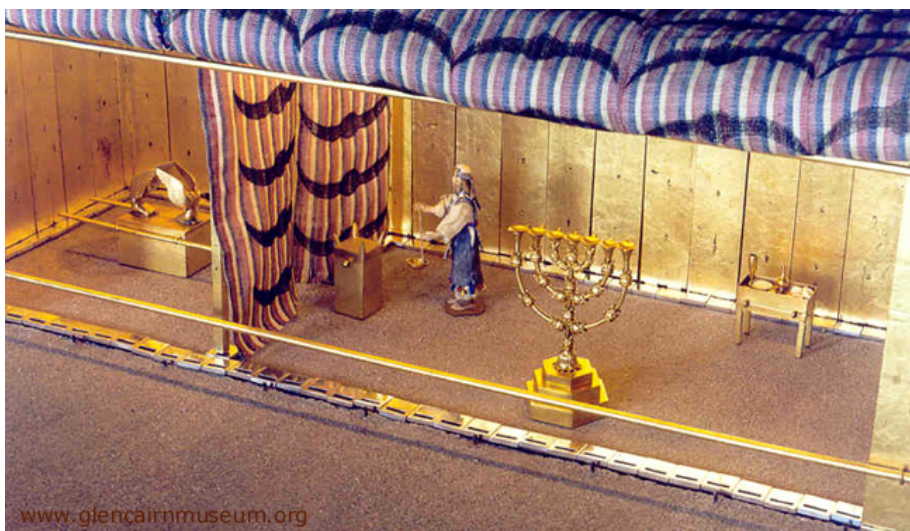
**With all your heart, mind, soul, and strength grow to love God.** Christ willingly died and suffered for a rebellious people, while they were yet sinners, so that they could live. Grace is not a ticket to use and abuse by frivolously taking lightly the depravity sin. Overcome sin, obey God's commandments, and live by every word of God carefully and meticulously.

“And **walk in the way of love**, just as Christ loved us and **gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God**” (Ephesians 5:2).

“Therefore **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (II Corinthians 5:17).

“I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and **hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name**” (Revelation 3:8).

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and **do not the things which I say?**” (Luke 6:46)



The wilderness Tabernacle was set out to illustrate our walk into eternal life, living at one with our Creator and Savior.

**The outer courtyard:** begins with the altar and the burnt offering, which is the acceptance of the sacrifice of Christ. The laver of water behind the altar was used by the priests to wash themselves. It represents baptism in Christ and a rebirth.

**The Holy Place:** contains the shewbread representative of Jesus, the Word as the Bread of Life, the written words compiled together in one Book. The golden candlestick is Jesus shining through the seven churches as a bright light of truth to the world. Finally, the altar of incense represents the prayers of God's people who ask in Jesus' name.



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**The Holy of Holies:** This most holy place contained the Arch of the Covenant, which is God's mercy seat where the eternal moral law of God—the ten commandments resided. **“A true Christian walk with Jesus Christ will automatically lead us to the law of God, because as He said, He would write His law upon our hearts and we would keep His ten commandments, not as on stone, but upon our hearts, in spirit.”** <http://www.thebible-tencommandments.com/seek-those-things-that-are-above.html>

Once a year on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies to cleanse and blot out the sins of the people (Hebrews 9 and Leviticus 16).

**“Our sins not only need to be forgiven, but to also be blotted out of the record books in heaven, and this is the process of the judgment in heaven that**

**Jesus is performing in the most holy place in the heavenly sanctuary.** When Jesus ascended to heaven after his death and resurrection, **he moved from the courtyard (earth) to the holy place in heaven to intercede for his church.** Then **Jesus moved into the most holy place where judgment would begin for all who profess to know Jesus.** And he would offer his blood for all those who truly follow him and their sins would be forever blotted out.”

<http://www.thebible-tencommandments.com/seek-those-things-that-are-above.html>

“Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm” (Revelation 11:19).



“This is the great judgment scene in the most holy place, where the law of God resides in the original ark of the covenant. All who profess to be Christians are being judged at this moment in time, and when this judgment is finished and Jesus stands up and says, "It is finished!" Then probation will have closed and the door to mercy will forever be shut. Anyone who tries to enter into heaven after this point will be too late. Just like the five foolish virgins.”

<http://www.thebible-tencommandments.com/seek-those-things-that-are-above.html>

“For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?” (I Peter 4:17)

**All this—in those Old Testament Sacrifices.** The knowledge of the Old Testament sacrificial system is truly more beneficial to Christians today than it was for the ancient Israelites. Today, Christians have both the teachings that mirrored this **great sacrificial plan** and **God's Holy Spirit** through Christ to understand the spiritual processes at work today. Sacrifices do not take sins away. Christ's perfect sacrifice paid the penalty of sin. That was mankind's salvation stage of God's plan, but **there is more**. With the penalty paid, **God gave us grace and His Holy Spirit**, so that repentant people could **grow spiritually strong into a body of people prepared for Christ**.

“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, ‘**Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me**’” (Hebrews 10:4-5).

**This body of people prepared for Christ is his church, his bride.**

“And he [Christ] is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy” (Colossians 1:18).

“For **we are members of His body**. For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the **two will become one flesh**. This mystery is profound, but I am speaking about **Christ and the church**” (Ephesians 5:30-32).

**The Bride is now making herself ready.**

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self, which is**



**being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness**” (Ephesians 4:22-24).

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age” (Titus 2:11-12).

“For I [God our Father in heaven] feel a divine jealousy for you, since I [God our father in heaven] **betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ**” (II Corinthians 11:2).

“He did this **to present her to himself as a radiant church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault**” (Ephesians 5:27).

**This relationship is a NEW bond forming, not yet official and comprised of three: God [our Father in heaven] + Christ [our Savior] + the bride soon to be wife of Christ—the New Jerusalem, which will result in the new ruling core over heaven and earth.**

“**God is the head of Christ** therefore Christ is God’s body (I Corinthians 11:3) + **Christ is the head of the church** (Ephesians 5:23) + **the Church is Christ’s body** (Ephesian 5:30).

“**The glory which you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as we are one; I IN THEM AND YOU IN ME**, that they may be **PERFECTED IN UNITY**, so that the world may know that you sent me, and loved them, even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that **they also, whom you have given me, be with me where I am**, so that they may **see my glory which you have given me**, for you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, although the world has not known you, yet I have known you; and these have known that you sent me; and I have made your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and I in them” (John 17:22-26).

### **In conclusion:**

The Old Testament sacrifices taught us that sin is detestable, deplorable and punishable only through death. The sacrifices of animals without defect mirrored the perfect sacrifice to come. This sacrifice was accepted and it rent the veil between man and God to open the way into eternal life. The walk is laid out in the construction and components of the wilderness tabernacle.

The New Testament provided the instruction of accepting God’s grace and allow God’s Holy Spirit to teach repentant sinners the deep things of God. A precious relationship has budded and the full blossom is yet to be revealed in the first resurrection when the bride is made ready. She will be radiant. This **new ruling core** will comprise of **God**, the source of all power and Father in heaven, **Christ**—His only heir and beloved Son, and **Christ’s wife**—the New Jerusalem.

Faithful believers, hold onto your crown. Guard it with a vengeance because the enemy knows your calling and will stop at nothing. To rule with Christ, the One that God has given authority over all things is the greatest honor that will ever be bestowed on anyone. The enemy has gone mad with jealousy.

*Compiled by Janette Andrejowich and many thanks to [TheBible-tencommandments.com](http://TheBible-tencommandments.com) for their insight.*