**Up in Smoke**

**Leviticus 1: 3-17**

**3 “If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, you shall offer a male without blemish; you shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, for acceptance on your behalf before the Lord. 4You shall lay your hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be acceptable on your behalf as atonement for you. 5The bull shall be slaughtered before the Lord, and Aaron’s sons the priests shall offer the blood, dashing the blood against all sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting. 6The burnt offering shall be flayed[cut] and cut up into its parts. 7The sons of the priest Aaron shall put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. 8Aaron’s sons the priests shall arrange the parts, with the head and the suet[fat], on the wood that is on the fire on the altar, 9but its entrails[inwards] and its legs shall be washed with water. Then the priest shall turn the rest into smoke on the altar as a burnt offering, an offering by fire of pleasing odor to the Lord. 10“If your gift for a burnt offering is from the flock, from the sheep or goats, your offering shall be a male without blemish. 11It shall be slaughtered on the north side of the altar before the Lord, and Aaron’s sons the priests shall dash its blood against all sides of the altar. 12It shall be cut up into its parts, with its head and its suet, and the priest shall arrange them on the wood that is on the fire on the altar, 13but the entrails and the legs shall be washed with water. Then the priest shall offer the rest and turn it into smoke on the altar; it is a burnt offering, an offering by fire of pleasing odor to the Lord. 14“If your offering to the Lord is a burnt offering of birds, you shall choose your offering from turtledoves or pigeons. 15The priest shall bring it to the altar and wring off its head and turn it into smoke on the altar, and its blood shall be drained out against the side of the altar. 16He shall remove its entrails close to its tail feathers and throw it at the east side of the altar, in the place for ashes. 17He shall tear it open by its wings without severing it. Then the priest shall turn it into smoke on the altar, on the wood that is on the fire; it is a burnt offering, an offering by fire of pleasing odor to the Lord.**

**I. Terms to Know**

**burnt offering** - a special offering where the entire animal (except the skin) is burned on the altar as a sign of complete dedication to God, symbolizing a person's desire for a relationship with Him.

**blemish** - a defect or imperfection in an animal, like a wound or malformation, making it unsuitable for sacrifice to God.

**atonement** - making things right with God after doing something wrong, like offering a special animal sacrifice to show you're sorry and to be forgiven.

**slaughtered** - the act of killing an animal as a burnt offering, a ritual sacrifice to God.

**altar** - a sacred place where sacrifices are offered to God.

**wring** - to twist and squeeze something, especially to break an animal's neck to kill it.

**severing** -cutting something completely off or apart, like separating into two pieces.

**II. Summary**

**Leviticus 3:1-17 outlines the regulations for the "peace offering" or "fellowship offering," a type of sacrifice offered to God in thanksgiving, for vows, or as a freewill offering, symbolizing fellowship and reconciliation.**

**Here's a more detailed explanation: Purpose of the Peace Offering:**

* + **Thanking God: The peace offering was a way to express gratitude to God for His blessings and provision.**
  + **Vows: It could also be offered to fulfill a vow made to God.**
  + **Freewill Offering: Individuals could offer a peace offering as a voluntary expression of their goodwill and desire for fellowship with God.**

**III. Questions**

**1. If an offering is a herd burnt sacrifice, what should be offered?**

**2. What should be placed on the head?**

**3. What side of the altar should be placed before the Lord?**

**4. If a fowl is being offered, what should it be?**

**5. What is the Lord’s response to a burnt sacrifice made by fire?**