








TYPES OF SACRIFICES

Sacrifice	Passage	Ritual	Purpose	Required
Burnt Offering	Leviticus 1	A perfect animal's (bull, ram, sheep, goat, or bird) blood would be shed on the altar. The animal would then be set on fire.	The offering was an act of worship which displayed complete devotion to God. It was also used as atonement for unintentional sins.	 Optional
Grain Offering	Leviticus 2	A variety of grains (flour, olive oil, bread, wafers) were burnt along with the burnt offering and fellowship offering.	The offering was an act of worship and thanksgiving. It also recognized God's provision and goodness in addition to displaying one's complete devotion to God.	 Optional
Peace / Fellowship Offering	Leviticus 3	Either a perfect animal would be sacrificed or some variation of breads. The breast and leg of the animal was waved above the priest's head.	The offering was an act of worship and thanksgiving. It also was followed by a shared meal among the participants.	 Optional
Sin Offering	Leviticus 4:1-5:13	There were 5 possible sacrifices depending on the person's class and identity. Each sacrifice involved different rituals and practices for how to offer it to God.	The offering provided atonement from sin, confession / forgiveness of sin, and cleansing from the tarnish of sin.	 Required
Trespass / Guilt Offering	Leviticus 5:14-6:7	A ram was sacrificed when sins were committed against another person.	The offering provided atonement from sin and cleansing from the tarnish of sin. It also involved a 20% fine.	 Required

atonement - a covering by a substitute sacrifice for a sinner

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT SACRIFICES



First Sacrifice (Genesis 3)

Sin Should Not Be Taken Lightly

Immediately after Adam and Eve's sin, God covers their bodies with animal skin. This must have been shocking for Adam and Eve because up to this point they likely had never known death. They quickly saw that their sin led to the death of an innocent creature and that if they continued to sin then more sacrifices would have to be made.

Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22)

A Substitute Sacrifice is Acceptable to God

God commands Abraham to sacrifice his only son to God in order to test Abraham's allegiance to Him. God never intended to have Abraham sacrifice his son, God just wanted to test him. After Abraham proves that he is willing to do anything God commands of him, God provides a ram to sacrifice in Isaac's place.

A Human Sacrifice is Acceptable to God

This is the first of two times that God shows He is willing to accept a human sacrifice. The second time is when He accepts Jesus' death in our place.

A Sacrifice is Required

The testing of Abraham was complete yet God still required a sacrifice to be made. God could have easily told Abraham to return home and that he passed the test, but God still had Abraham offer a substitute sacrifice.



NEED FOR SACRIFICES

How can a holy God have a relationship with sinful people?

Does God have to lower His standard of perfection?



Do we have to be perfect and live sinless lives in order to have a relationship with God?



God cannot lower His standards

We cannot live sinless lives

God's Solution?

Sacrifices

1

Sacrifices provided sinners with a temporary removal of their sin. "...the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."
Hebrews 9:22

2

Every time the Israelites participated in a sacrifice they were reminded how grotesque sin is.

3

Sacrifices prepared and pointed Israel to the permanent sacrifice Jesus would make for humanity on the cross.



JESUS' PERMANENT SACRIFICE

- The High Priest entered the Most Holy Place by the blood of another (Hebrews 9:12)
- The High Priest had to offer a sacrifice for his own sin before offering a sacrifice for the rest of Israel (Leviticus 16:6)
- The High Priest had to present a sacrifice every year (Leviticus 16:34)
- The Most Holy Place was surrounded by a curtain that separated man and God (Exodus 26:33)

**O
L
D** c
o
v
e
n
a
n
t



**N
E
W** c
o
v
e
n
a
n
t

- Jesus entered into the Most Holy Place by His own blood (Hebrews 9:12)
- Unlike other high priests, Jesus did not need to make a sacrifice for Himself because He was already perfect (Hebrews 7:11,28)
- Jesus' sacrifice was final and permanent (Hebrews 9:25-26)
- We can now have fellowship with God because Jesus' death tore the curtain dividing man and God (Hebrews 10:20-22)