

The Levitical Offerings

Albert Fairweather

Simple outlines to introduce a Bible student to the Types and Shadows of the Tabernacle and Offerings.

The Way of Approach to God Has always been through a sacrifice:

God performed the first sacrifice of animals to clothe the nakedness of Adam and Eve.

Animals were sacrificed in the Old Testament – signposts pointing to:
Christ the Lamb of God in the New Testament - Eph. 5:2.

.....

Christ is the sum and is seen in all the Offerings

- a. He is the Offerer and - Eph. 5:2.
- b. He is the Offering – Eph. 5:2; Heb. 10:14.
- c. He is the Priest who Mediates – Heb. 4:14-16.

.....

Before the Law of Moses

All the offerings were Burnt Offerings – those of Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Job. As head of their families, these patriarchs offered these in worship to the Lord.

.....

When the Law was given to Moses, other Offerings were added (Leviticus), a Tent or Tabernacle was constructed where God met with and dwelt amongst Israel, His people.

These Offerings were not for **redeeming**, but for bringing Israel into **worship**, and **in keeping** and **restoring** them to fellowship with the Lord.

.....

The Place of Offering

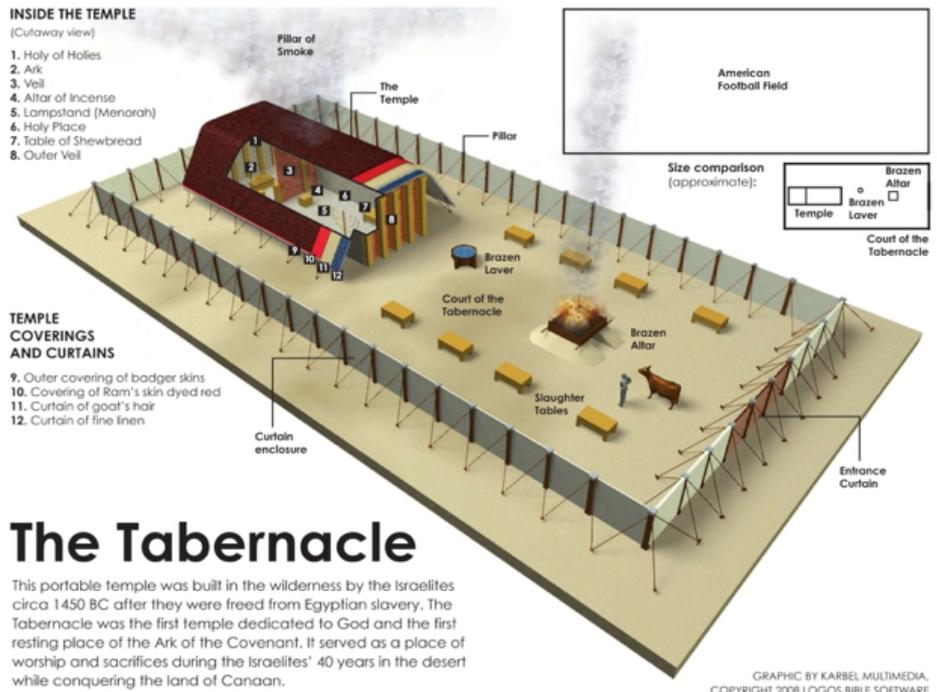
At the **Bronze Altar**, Called:-

“The table of the Lord” (Malachi 1:2), Where **“The bread of your God”** offered - (Lev. 21:8).

Portions of, or all of these offering were wholly burnt – All the Offerings satisfied God’s holy and just requirements.

Christ did this perfectly!

.....



Two Types of Offerings of Leviticus

1. The Sweet Aroma were free will Offerings – The Burnt, with its adjuncts the Meal and Drink Offerings, and the Peace Offerings.

In the **Burnt** and **Peace Offerings** the offerer stood without sin before God. These were acts of **worship and thanksgiving** – Lev. Chs. 1-3.

.....

a. **The Burnt Offering** was all burnt for God, a sweet smelling aroma, a satisfaction – **Christ** offering Himself in His perfections (Eph. 5:2).

A handful of the **Meal Offering** was burnt with this Offering, the rest was food for the priests. The finely ground meal set forth the evenness and perfection of the character of Christ.

Drink Offerings were poured out – Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim.4:6. **Christ poured out His life for us!**

.....

b. **The peace Offering** sets forth **Christ** as the ground of our peace. He is our peace, made peace and proclaimed peace – Eph. 2:14-17.

It was again a free will offering, a sweet aroma to the Lord, where there was a portion burnt up to God, a portion for the offerer and his family and also for the priest who made the offering.

It is a beautiful picture of all Israel enjoying **communion** with the Lord. It has a counterpart in the **Lord’s Supper** where Christians gather to the Lord in remembrance of Him – 1 Cor.10:16-18.

.....

2. Non-Sweet Aroma were mandated

Offerings – Lev. Chs. 4-5.

a. The Sin Offering was to be without blemish, and was a non-sweet savour Offering. It sets forth **Christ**, who was without sin, and was made a sin offering for us (2 Cor. 5:21). It atoned for (covered) unintentional sins, **and sin in our nature**, meeting the very **root** of sin.

Christ fulfilled these, and the offerer stood as a convicted sinner before God - Heb. 10:10,14.

But to deliberately break God’s Law carried the death penalty.

.....

b. The Trespass Offerings – a life was demanded, so **justice** was met and **restitution** made (1/5 added) for injury done.

So, not sin as in our old nature (the Sin Offering met this) but **trespass** - the wrong done to God or to man.

It looked forward to Christ who was wounded for our transgressions and made good all injuries done to God and others -Isa. Ch. 53.

So the trespass Offering was not offered because the offerer was evil, but because he had done evil!

.....

The Place of Meeting with God

This was the Tabernacle, but central was:

The Ark of the Covenant (Ex. 25:1-22) where God dwelt amongst His people and where the Divine Cloud (the ‘**Shekinah**’ glory) rested. It was made of Acacia **wood** overlaid with **gold**. Picturing Christ’s **a. humanity** (wood) and **b. His deity** (gold). He was ‘*God with us*’ (Isa. 7:14).

Its lid of gold (the Mercy Seat) had two cherubim with wings touching, guarding God’s holiness. **God’s presence dwelt here.**

Once a year the high priest sprinkled the blood to ‘atone’ or ‘cover’ sins of the people - Lev.Ch. 16.

Atonement was a temporary ‘covering’ for sins and is only found in the Old Testament. Christ died for these sins and for all sins ever committed.

Sins are now forever forgiven, and forgotten by our Lord.

.....

Vessels within the Tabernacle

1. The Table of a. Showbread had 12 loaves placed on it each week – the 12 tribes of Israel were always represented before God, and were taken away as food for the priests. God also sent the **b. Manna** (Ex. Ch.16) from heaven – teaching us that Christ is the **a. life sustaining** and the **b. life giving One!** Lev. 25:23-40.

2. The Golden Lampstand burnt continually before the Lord in the Tabernacle. Christ is the light of this world – John 8:12; 2 Cor. 4:1-6.

3. The Golden Altar was the place of worship - here the priests burnt incense (Ex. 30:1-10).

A lovely sweet smelling cloud filled the Tabernacle where the priests served. So our prayers and praises ascend to our heavenly Father and are presented to Him by Christ, our Great High priest.

4. The Bronze Laver was where the priests washed, cleansed, ready to serve (Ex. 30:18).

They were initially washed all over as they entered their ministry, then washed hands and feet before serving. See what Jesus taught! (John 13:1-13). Are you washed all over? Have you received Christ for cleansing from all sins? Do you come in confession daily for washing of hands and feet so as to be cleansed to serve Him?

Then as a Christian as you confess your sins you have continual cleansing from sin’s defilement (1 John Ch.1). Thus you can serve Christ continually.

5. The Bronze Altar has already been covered.

.....

The book of Hebrews sets forth how Christ has fulfilled all these Old Testament types and shadows of heavenly things. His **High Priestly ministry** for us is summed up in these words:

“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Heb 4:14-160).

.....