

What the Bible Says About the Offering

Scripture Text: Hebrews 10:1

Offering is defined as *That which is presented in divine service; an animal or a portion of bread or corn, or of gold and silver, or other valuable articles, presented to God as an atonement for sin, or as a return of thanks for his favors, or for other religious purpose; a sacrifice; an oblation.* (Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language, 1828).

Offering appears 637 times in Scripture: 623 in the Old Testament, 14 in the New Testament.

1. Offering in the Old Testament [all in Leviticus, the book of Lifestyles (Laws)]

A. Burnt Offering – voluntary – to express thanks, worship, devotion, commitment to God

1:3 voluntary, male without blemish – *All the sacrificed animals were innocent!*

1:5 before the Lord

Can offer bulls (v. 3-9, sheep or goats (v. 10-13), or birds (v. 14-17)

Early type of atonement – Job 1:5, Genesis 8:20

B. Grain – voluntary – to express gratitude and thanksgiving

2:1 flour, oil, frankincense

2:4 baked

2:5 grilled

2:7 fried

2:11 NO LEAVEN!!

C. Peace – voluntary – to express thanksgiving, with an emphasis on fellowship

Thanksgiving (7:12), Freewill (7:16), or a Wave Offering (7:30)

3:1 can be male or female – without blemish, bull

3:6 flock

3:12 goat

Ch. 7 gives further insight on what parts go to whom

D. Sin – mandatory – atoned for sins, cleansed from defilement

If one sins through ignorance or when he knows he sins, the sacrifice must be made.

4:2 individual – young bullock without blemish to priest

4:13 whole congregation – young bullock without blemish to elders

- 4:22 ruler – kid of the goats (male)
- 4:27 common people – kid of the goats (female), lamb (female)
- 5:11 poor – 2 turtledoves or 2 young pigeons
- E. Guilt (Trespass) – mandatory – not like the English use of the word, but something one owes on account of “sin.” Also called a “Reparation Offering.”
 - 5:15 required a ram
 - 5:15 could be paid in shekels of silver
 - 5:16 20% (1/5) added value given to the priest handling the transaction

Of note: Malachi 1:8 references improper sacrifices, 1:10 & 2:13 references no more grain sacrifices, 1:11. 3:3, 10 references a return to proper and acceptable sacrifice is coming.

2. Offering in the New Testament [all OT sacrifices were made perfect in Christ!]

- A. Burnt – Christ became our atonement – “at one moment” He became my sacrifice bringing me in a pleasing state with God. Hebrews 10:6-11
- B. Grain – Christ was offered before the Lord – anointed with frankincense at His birth. Matthew 2:11
- C. Peace – the “Prince of Peace” ushered in true peace as He reconciled man to God. Isaiah 9:6, Philippians 4:4
- D. Sin – Christ became our sacrificial lamb in our “once and for all” offering. John 1:29, 2 Cor. 5:21
- E. Guilt – because of Christ, I can truly have no guilt because my old sins are forgiven. Heb. 8:12

3. Our Offering Today [Since Christ was my sacrifice, I can offer Him:]

- A. My life: Becoming a Christian; Faithful life – Matt. 10:22, Rev. 2:10
- B. My words: Hebrews 13:15; Hosea 14:2
- C. My finances – a command! 1 Cor. 16:1-2 – as we have prospered; Romans 12:8 - liberally

Will you take what the Bible says about the offering and be submissive? Christ has done His part, will you do yours?

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