

VAYIKRA - LEVITICUS

- And He Called -

Dan Stolebarger - Holy Ground Explorations
Chapters 1 - 6:7

INTRODUCTION



PARASHAT VAYIKRA - 'And He Called'

- Vayikra begins where the book of Exodus left off, with God calling to Moses from the Tent of Meeting to explain the laws of various animal and grain offerings that may be offered at the Tabernacle. Over 40 percent of all of the Torah's commandments are found in this central book of the Scriptures.

FIVE OFFERINGS

- Five basic categories of sacrifices are described. The whole **burnt offering** (olah) was a sacrifice consumed entirely by the fire on the altar. The **grain offering** (minchah) was a measure of unleavened flour mixed with oil and incense burned on the altar, with the remainder given to the priests. The **peace offering** (shelamim) was a sacrifice that was shared with everyone in thanks to God on joyous occasions. The **sin offering** (chatat) was a sacrifice (or grain offering) offered to atone for accidental sin, whereas the **guilt offering** (asham) was a sacrifice offered to atone for defrauding others or for swearing falsely.
- Note that unlike other offerings, the sin and guilt sacrifices were *required* for atonement to be made. They had to be offered by the High Priest who would sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice seven times inside the Tabernacle on the Golden Altar. The fat of the sacrifice was burned on the copper altar, but the rest of the animal (its hide, flesh, and its body parts) was taken “outside the camp” to be burned with fire.



Yahweh called to Moses, and spoke to him from the Tent of Meeting, saying,
2 "Speak to the children of Israel,

Remember the CONTEXT: The children of Israel needed to be reminded that the Tent of Meeting was a place for them to come and fellowship with God. As Exodus ended the glory of God was overwhelming - even Moses could not 'come near.'

Rashi points out that the use of the word Vayikra is dramatic. He writes that VaYikra is used as an expression of affection, The book of Vayikra (Leviticus) is all about coming close in relationship with Hashem.

BEING INTENTIONAL ... Meeting places and set times help the Believer to maintain consistency

1

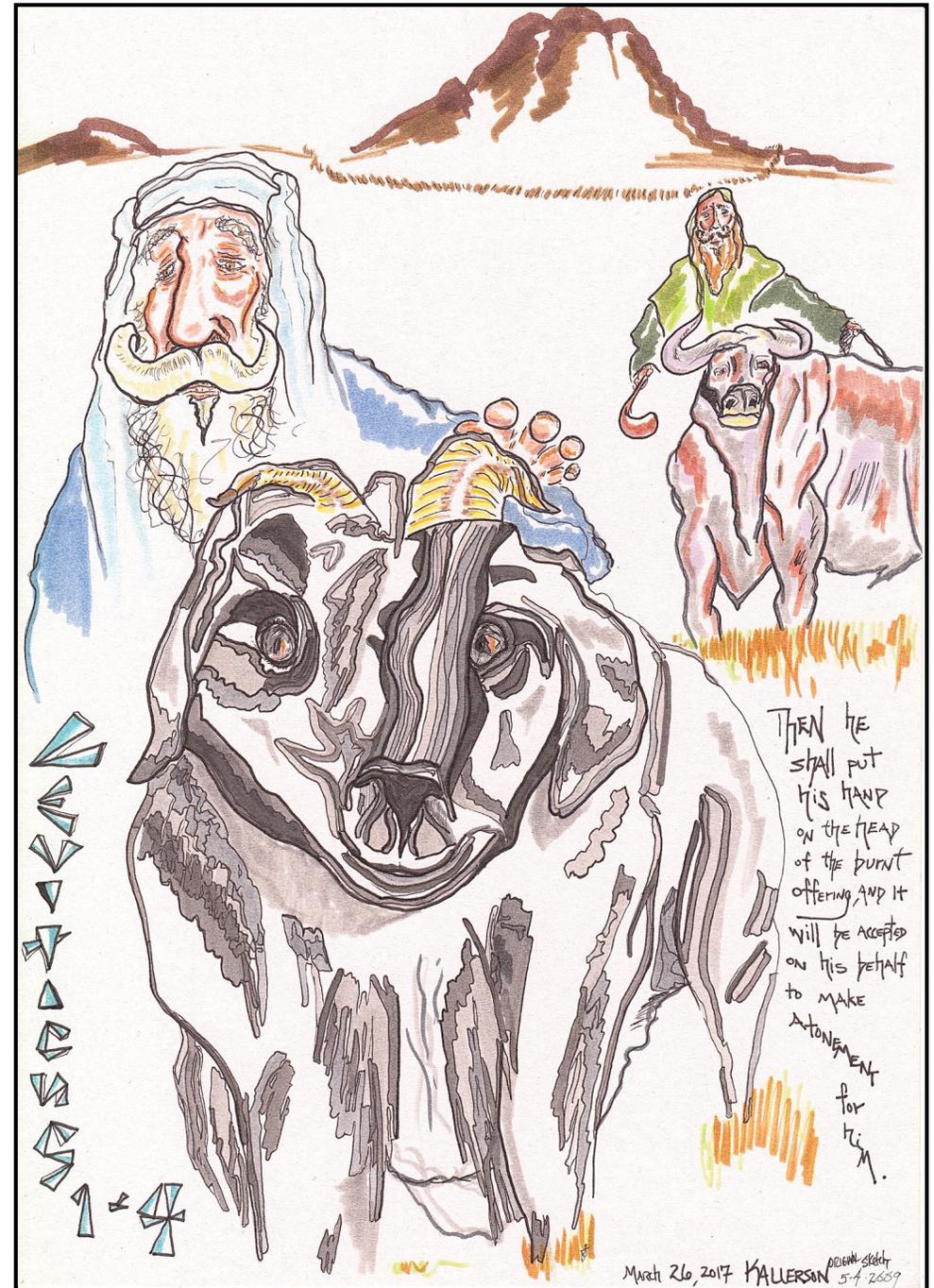
BURNT OFFERING

The Whole Offering consumed

The word for OFFERING literally means to come near.

This Offering is a voluntary act of devotion, commitment and surrender to God. This would be one of the offerings each pilgrim would give when coming to Jerusalem for the 3 mandatory Feast days.

Neither the offerer nor the priest partook of any of the meat, for it was all burned in the fire. The hide of the animal was the priest's only remuneration (cf. [Lev. 7:8](#))



2

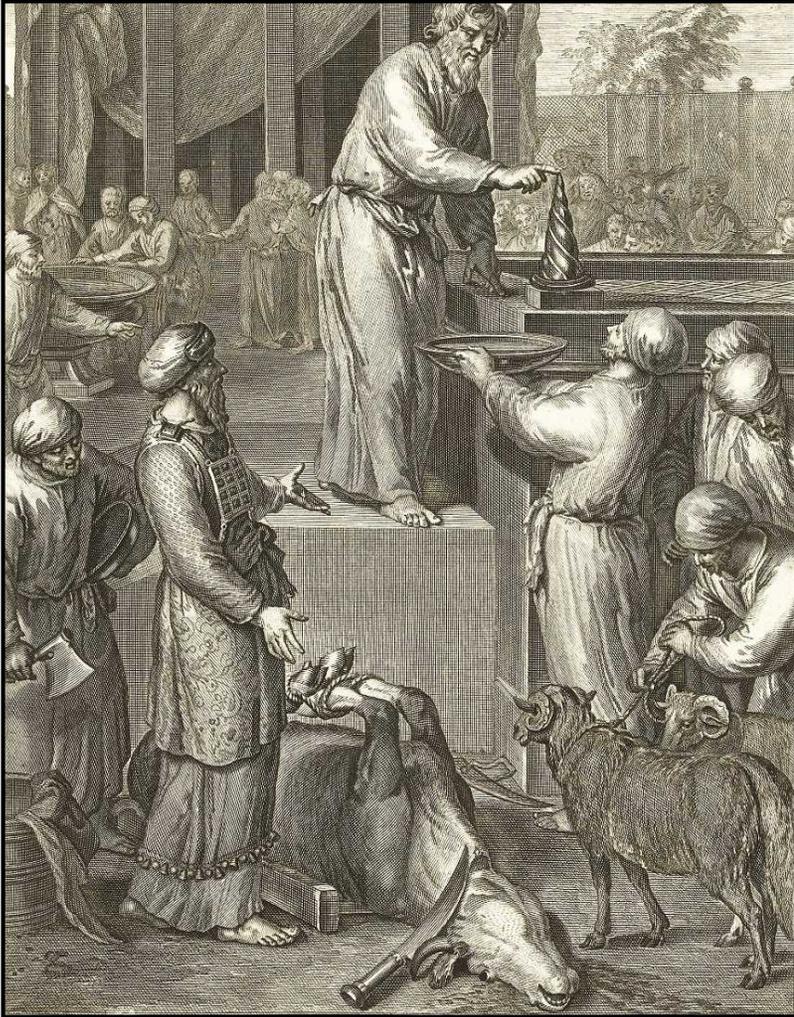
“When anyone offers an offering of a **meal offering** to Yahweh, his offering shall be of fine flour. He shall pour oil on it, and put frankincense on it. ² He shall bring it to Aaron’s sons, the priests. He shall take his handful of its fine flour, and of its oil, with all its frankincense, and the priest shall burn its memorial on the altar, an offering made by fire, of a pleasant aroma to Yahweh. ³ That which is left of the meal offering shall be Aaron’s and his sons’. It is a most holy part of the offerings of Yahweh made by fire.

G. Campbell Morgan rightly saw the grain offering as suggestive of our service to God. ”

“This meal offering was the work of men’s hands, of the fruits of the ground, the result of cultivation, manufacture, and preparation; and it was the symbol of service offered.”

2

GRAIN or MEAL OFFERING



An unleavened grain offering that could be mixed with five different kinds of oil and spices, a portion of the grain was burned on the altar and the rest donated to the priests. The grain offering was often given by the poor

It is the most holy of the offerings to the LORD made by fire: The emphasis of the grain offering was gratitude.

That it was called most holy of the offerings shows the high regard God has of our thankfulness. it must not be leavened, nor may honey be added to it, but it must be seasoned with salt. A portion of the meal offering is burned for God, and the rest is eaten in holiness by the priests.

3

“If his offering is a sacrifice of **peace offerings**, if he offers it from the herd, whether male or female, he shall offer it without defect before Yahweh. ² He shall lay his hand on the head of his offering, and kill it at the door of the Tent of Meeting. Aaron’s sons, the priests, shall sprinkle the blood around on the altar. ³ He shall offer of the sacrifice of peace offerings an offering made by fire to Yahweh.

Most sacrifices in the Old Testament system were not eaten by worshipers, but the peace offering was meant to be eaten—only a portion of the animal or grain brought to the altar was burned; the rest was given back to the worshiper and to the poor and hungry.

What is special about a peace offerings?

Everyone benefited from it: The blood and fat went to the Altar (God); the breast and thigh went to the priests, and the hide and flesh went to the owner, who shared them with his family and friends in a communion meal.

3

PEACE OFFERING



It was a voluntary sacrifice given to God in three specific instances. **First**, a peace offering could be given as a freewill offering, meaning that the worshiper was giving the peace offering as a way to say thank you for God's unsought generosity. It was basically just a way to praise God for His goodness. The **second** way a peace offering could be given was alongside a fulfilled vow. A good example of this was when Hannah fulfilled her vow to God by bringing Samuel to the temple; on that occasion she also brought a peace offering to express the peace in her heart toward God concerning her sacrifice—it was a way to say, "I have no resentment; I am holding nothing back in the payment of my vow." **The third purpose of a peace offering was to give thanksgiving for God's deliverance in an hour of dire need.** None of these three reasons to sacrifice had anything to do with appeasing God, or with pacifying Him.

4-6

SIN OFFERING



Sin offerings are required when an individual commits a sin against God unintentionally. The sinner must place his hands upon the animal as it is slaughtered. Its blood is dabbed on the horns of the incense altar, and what remains is poured on the base of the sacrificial altar. In the case of the bull-offerings, the blood is also sprinkled towards the curtain of the Holy of Holies. The innards of the animal are then burnt upon the altar, and in some cases, the entire animal is then burned outside the camp. Thus the sinner is granted forgiveness. Burning the whole bull ensured that the priest did not profit in any way from his sin - Outside the camp - visual / he remembers no more!

4-6

GUILT OFFERING



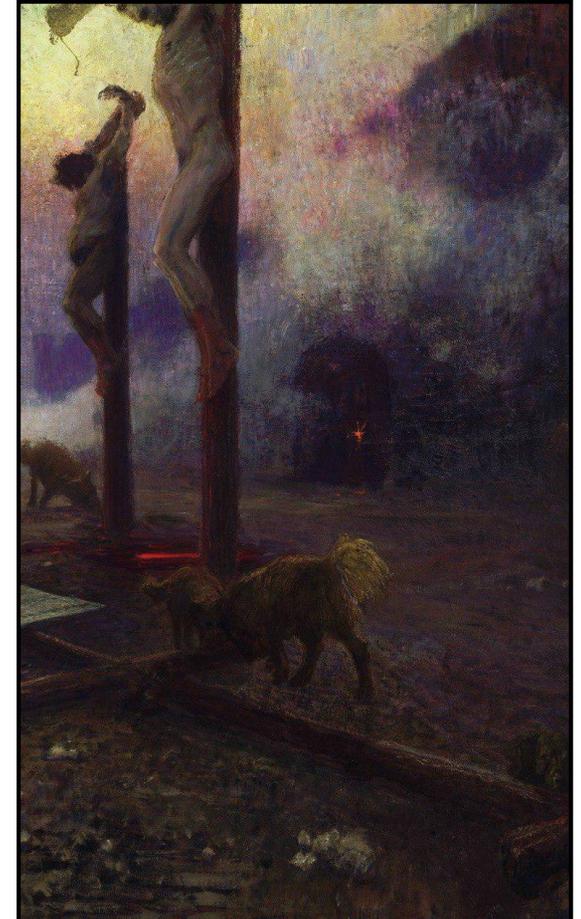
The guilt offerings are set for specific transgressions: violating the sanctity of God's altar, breach of trust, or when a person is unsure whether he has sinned or which sin he has committed. The guilt offering consists of an unblemished ram whose value must suit the transgression. In all cases where the transgression involved actual theft, restitution must be made and a fifth must be added to the value of what was stolen, before the guilt offering can provide expiation.

Among the violations for which one must bring a sin or guilt offering are unfulfilled or false vows.

Similarly, it is sometimes viewed as guilt offering, removing the consequences for lack of perfection (4:13-14, 4:22-23).

5

The holy Son of God, the great Sin Offering, suffered between two malefactors, himself separate from sinners. "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate," (Hebrews 13:12,) after "the Lord had laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6.)



JESUS

SURRENDER: JESUS IS OUR BURNT OFFERING

The point of the burnt offering is that it was completely consumed. No part was given back to the worshipper. While Jesus' body was not burned on the cross, He fulfilled this type because He was completely consumed in suffering.

SERVICE: JESUS IS OUR MEAL OFFERING

This offering represents Jesus as the Bread of Life. He nourishes our souls. Jesus compared Himself to a grain of wheat that had to die before it could live again in a better form ([John 12:23-25](#)). On the cross, Jesus was crushed as "fine flour;" at the tomb the grain of wheat was buried. On resurrection morning, He came forth in a more glorious form.

SACRIFICE: JESUS IS OUR PEACE OFFERING

This was a fellowship offering and had to do with communion with God. By contrast, the sin offering and the trespass offerings deal with cleansing from God. It was often given on a joyous occasion. It foreshadowed the peace and restoration of communion that Christians have with God. Like the prodigal of old, we have been welcomed back by the Father, seated with Him at His table, and restored as if we never sinned.

JESUS

SUBSTITUTE: JESUS IS OUR SIN OFFERING

In this offering we see an acknowledgment of sin. In the first three offerings, man came before God as a worshipper. In the last two, man comes before God as a sinner. Jesus was made in the likeness of sinful flesh ([Romans 8:3](#); cf. [Numbers 21:9](#); [John 3:14](#); [Philippians 2:7](#)) so He could be our sin-bearer and carry our sins outside the camp.

SATISFACTION: JESUS IS OUR GUILT OFFERING

The blood of the guilt offering cleansed the conscience and sent the trespasser back to the one he had wronged, not only with the principal but with the fifth part added ([Leviticus 6:5](#)). With sin, man is in debt to God ([Matthew 6:12](#)). We owe Him more than we can pay ([Matthew 18:23-35](#)). In forgiveness, Jesus assumed the debt for our sins and paid it ([Luke 7:36-50](#); [Romans 3:25](#)). Jesus' blood remits the guilt of past sins and forwards a balance of zero ([Matthew 26:28](#); [Acts 3:19](#)).