

## “Understanding the Peace Offering”

Leviticus 3:1-17 &amp; 7:11-36

*“Life with God in the dwelling place of God is the creature’s purpose. We see this in creation, redemption, and reconciliation, and in the new Heaven and new Earth. This was lost at the fall, the means of reconciliation seen in Leviticus, was completed in the work of Jesus Christ, the Gospel. All the laws of Leviticus point to the one goal: fellowship and union with God. The work of Christ gives us the ability to fellowship with a Holy God, be consecrated by God, and walk in holiness for the glory of God.”*

*“The Bible does not have multiple interpretations, it has one. The Bible is harmonious and never contradictory. The Bible must be read in context, not in preference. The Bible must be read honestly, not with an agenda. To read and interpret the Bible this way is not always simplistic, but is necessary to find its one true meaning.”*

*(James White)*

- The basics of the Peace Offering:
  - This offering/sacrifice is a shared meal between the offerer (Leviticus 7:15-16), the priest (Leviticus 7:32-36), and the LORD (Leviticus 3:1-17). In their culture, meals were a means of affirming a covenant relationship (Genesis 26:28-30).
  - This offering was a freewill offering that was given to celebrate peace with God, not to bring peace with God. This offering represented these three realities: Reconciliation with God; Harmony and friendship with God; Communion and fellowship with God (My helpless estate).
  - The fat represented the best part of the animal and the best part of the animal went to the Lord (Leviticus 3:16). The blood and the fat were not to be eaten. The blood was to represent that the shedding of blood is the means to fellowship with God (Hebrews 9:22; Leviticus 3:2), so the fat and the blood was set apart for the worship of God. Drinking blood was a pagan practice during this time period as well (Psalm 16:4). We should give God our best (the fat) and our lives (the blood) in worship of Him.
  - The peace offering was offered to God for a request for a future grace/mercy (1 Samuel 13:8-12); for a past grace/mercy in thankfulness (Joshua 8:30-35), or for God’s grace in keeping a vow or to ask for the grace to keep a vow (1 Samuel 1:11 & 24-27).
  - Killing the sacrifice at the door to God (the tent of meeting) was symbolic that the shedding of blood is the way that people can come into the presence of God (Leviticus 3:2). The laying on of your hand on the head of the sacrifice (Cattle, Goat, Sheep) representing the animal is taking on the penalty of your sin (Leviticus 3:2).
  - There were three great peace offerings in the Word of God: 1 Kings 8:63 “The Celebration of Solomon’s Temple being completed” (22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep); 2 Chronicles 30:24 “Hezekiah’s extended celebration of Passover” (2,000 bulls and 17,000 sheep); the sacrifice of Christ fulfilling all of the Offerings (Romans 5:1-2 & 11).
  - Psalm 116 is a Psalm of praise according to the Peace Offering. Because I’m at peace with God the Lord hears me (Psalm 116:1), I can call on Him (Psalm 116:2, 4, 13, 17), He is gracious and merciful (Psalm 116:5); He has saved me and preserved me (Psalm 116:3-4 & 6), He has dealt bountifully with me (Psalm 116: 7 & 12), He enables me to keep my vows/word (Psalm 116:14 & 18), and He delights in the life of worship and the death of His saints (Psalm 116:12-19).
- Be a person of your word because you represent God and He is faithful to His Word.
  - Ecclesiastes 5:1-6; Deuteronomy 23:21-23; Numbers 30:1-15; Psalm 15:1-5; Judges 11:30-35; Acts 5:1-11; James 5:12; Matthew 5:37