

“Understanding the Grain Offering”

Leviticus 2:1-16 & 6:14-23

- *The Basics of the Grain Offering:*
 - The Grain Offering was offered to thank God for the mercy and grace of His physical provisions (Proverbs 30:7-9; Matthew 6:11). It was an acknowledgement that they are fully dependent upon God and He is their provider (Deuteronomy 2:7; Matthew 6:26 & 32-33; Philippians 4:19).
 - The Grain Offering could be offered baked or left in its unbaked form (Leviticus 2:1 & 4-5). It had to be finely ground flour, be offered with oil, salt (Leviticus 2:13), and the memorial offering would have frankincense added to it (Leviticus 2:3). All of these items had either great worth or great usefulness or both; so it was a costly sacrifice (2 Samuel 24:24). This offering would have been even more costly while they were in the wilderness, due to the scarcity of these items.
 - A small portion of the offering went to God (the memorial portion) and the rest of the grain offering went to the priests (Leviticus 2:10). The Grain Offering was a Freewill offering (completely voluntary) and was a sacrifice of praise towards God; all of our offerings are Freewill offerings in the New Testament because of the work of Christ (2 Corinthians 9:6-9; Hebrews 13:15-16).
 - In Joel 1:9, one of the laments that is made by the Prophet Joel is that they cannot offer the Grain Offering. In Joel 2:14, the Prophet proclaims it is a blessing to be able to offer this offering to the Lord.
- *The Memorial Portion:*
 - Frankincense was added to the Memorial Portion of the offering. Frankincense is a white resin or sap. It was highly fragrant when burnt and was regularly used in the worship of God (Exodus 30:34). The fragrance represented God being pleased and is used as a description to signify a life of obedience and reverence for God in the New Testament as well (Ephesians 5:1-2; Philippians 4:18; 2 Corinthians 2:15).
 - The Memorial Portion was to remember all that God had done and to continue to remember His promises towards them. Praising God for His faithful provisions (Psalm 104:14-15; Acts 17:24-25). God is not just looking for a sacrifice, but a sacrifice with a proper heart condition (Psalm 51:15-19; Romans 12:1-2). Our actions should represent our heart condition (Deuteronomy 6:5).
- *The Priests' Portion:*
 - This offering also honored the importance of the ministers of God/priests. They would offer a portion of what was given to them in worship to God as a Grain Offering as well. It was asking God to bless the Priesthood (Leviticus 6:22-23). The sons of Aaron would celebrate a Holy Meal in a Holy Place to worship God for His provisions and celebrate God's covenant with them (Leviticus 6:14-18). Many theologians think this is a type of The Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:20-34).
 - This offering showed that when the Priesthood was faithful, they were a pleasing aroma to God, but when they were not, it was despised by God and detrimental to the people (Malachi 2:5-9). This offering also showed that it was God's Will that His priests rely fully on God, and live comfortably (1 Timothy 5:17-18) because of the importance and severity of their work (Hebrews 13:7 & 17; Acts 20:27-28; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Malachi 2:5-9).
- *Leaven, Honey, and Salt:*
 - *Leaven:* Unleavened bread was to remember their deliverance from Egypt (Exodus 13:3) and represented a pureness without the ability to spoil. Leaven so often represents sin Biblically and only takes a “little sin” to destroy (Boasting in 1 Corinthians 5:6; Hypocrisy in Luke 12:1; False teaching in Galatians 5:9 & Matthew 16:12; Self-reliance in Mark 8:15).

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Worship: Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery (Matt boswell) Behold our God (Sovereign Grace Music)**Service Times:** Sundays: 3:30pm/5:30pm; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30pm/Men 7pm; Thursdays: 7pm

- Honey: It isn't totally known why honey was prohibited in the Grain Offering (Leviticus 2:11), but most theologians think it had to do with honey being used in pagan worship (Deuteronomy 12:30-31). Honey, culturally, also was connected with sensuality and if you had too much of it, it could make you sick, like the world; because it's sweet you don't show self-control (Proverbs 25:16 & 27).
- Salt: Salt was used to preserve things during this time period and could signify God preserving His covenant with His people (Leviticus 2:13; Numbers 18:19; 2 Chronicles 13:5). Salt was also symbolic of friendship or fellowship. Because salt was added to every sacrifice (Mark 9:49-50) there was a room in the Temple for the storing of pure salt. Salt would add flavor to unsavory sacrifices, but our obedience makes these sacrifices acceptable and pleasing to God (1 Samuel 15:22-23).