

Book of Leviticus is trying to resolve a problem.

- God is holy, space around him is holy.
- How does Israel get in.

Structure of Book

1-7 RITUAL SACRIFICES

There are five ritual sacrifices

1. Burnt Offering
2. Grain Offering
3. Fellowship Offering
4. Sin Offering
5. Guilt Offering

The first three → Thank you

- The last two → Atonement
- Burnt offering were both.

BURNT OFFERING

BURNT OR ASCENSION OFFERING

(*'ōlâ* - to go up/ ascend)

This is referring to the smoke ascending from the altar ...

- When the offering is burned.

1. Choose Proper Animal
2. Presentation Rite
3. Hand-leaning Rite
4. THE SLAUGHTER RITE

Leviticus 1:3-5³ “If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, you are to offer a male without defect. You must present it at the entrance to the tent of meeting so that it will be acceptable to YHWH.

⁴ You are to lay your hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on your behalf to make atonement for you.

⁵ You are to slaughter the young bull before YHWH, and then Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and splash it against the sides of the altar at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

“Worship” or what we call “a Sunday church service” ...

- In their time was messy.

You couldn't just watch a worship team ...

- Or watch the preacher.

You had to get your hands dirty.

- You had to slaughter the Bull ...
- Skin it and cut it into pieces.
- You were to wash the internal organs and legs with water.

Can you imagine what this must have looked like.

- When that happens multiple times over in day?

I DON'T PERSONALLY LIKE BLOOD

Get Physical knife?

How do we bring this to life?

We get uncomfortable on a Sunday

- If someone just shouts “Amen!”

Someone is lifting a bit of a hand, doing a bit of a dance.

So, why did they have to slaughter it themselves ?

- Why couldn't the priest do it or the butcher?
- Why couldn't they bring a cool-bag with nice vacuum packed stake?

The slaughtering rite was showing that this is **your** act of worship.

- And expression of **your** thanks or gratitude ...

It wasn't the Priests act of worship, it wasn't the butchers act of worship.

- It was their act of worship.

Whenever you were thankful or grateful ...

- You brought your bull and you slaughtered it.
- This is my act of worship, this is my sacrifice.
- Thank you!

Thank you for bringing me home safely?

- Thank you for ...

It was messy, it was costly and it was time consuming!

What should be going through your mind ...

- Is something in the region of, thank God we don't have to live that way anymore.

OR do we?

Romans 12:1–2 ¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy ...

Remember that the sacrificial cult (the book of Leviticus) ...

- Is about God graciously providing a way for people to live in his presence.
- For them, this mercy would have been the sacrificial cult.

What is that mercy for us?

- It is the atoning and sacrificial death of Jesus ...
- That has now brought to fulfillment and replaced the tabernacle/ temple.

Romans 12:1–2 ¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy ...

- In view of the sacrificial and atoning death of Jesus.
- I urge you ...

to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Instead of bringing an animal to put on the altar.

- You bring yourself as a living sacrifice.

I bring my time, my talent, my energy, my treasure, my all ...

- As a living sacrifice.

The way that I live my life, the choices that I make, the way that I treat people ...

- The way that I spend my time, my money, my energy ...

- Should be an act of worship.

Holy and pleasing to God.

- This is connected to the “burning rite” that we will get back to in a minute.

This is your true and proper worship.

So back then worship was ...

1. Choose an animal ...
2. Present
3. Lean hand upon ...
4. Slaughter

Today, my whole being should be an act of worship.

- My worship must include, but can in no way be limited to.
- Sunday services and QT's.

Worship is about getting your hands dirty.

- Worship is about expanding the garden and bearing his image into it.
- Worship is, helping others to do the same.

Have you ever thought ...

- Why am I doing this?
- Why am I trying to help people who seemingly doesn't seem to want to be helped?

Why am I nice, when no one else is?

- I ask questions, but they never ask back?

It is because I am offering my body as a living sacrifice.

- Holy and pleasing to the Lord.

It is my thank you.

- The burnt offering is both an atonement offering and a thank you offering.

So, I am not just doing it because Jesus died to break me free from the power of sin.

- But I am doing it as a thank you.
- Thank you for ...
- ...

I am to give me all to God.

1. Choose Proper Animal
2. Presentation Rite
3. Hand-leaning Rite
4. The Slaughter Rite
- 5. THE BLOOD-SPLATTERING RITE**

Leviticus 1:5 ⁵ You are to slaughter the young bull before **YHWH**, and then Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and splash it against the sides of the altar at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

This is now where the Priest gets his hands dirty.

- He had to collect the blood (by draining it from the neck) ...
- The he had to splash it against the side of the altar.
- In combination with other offerings ...
- He would also have to pour the rest of the blood at the base of the altar.

What if it was a “birdy?”

Leviticus 1:14–15 ¹⁴ “If the offering ^[qorbān] to **YHWH** is a burnt offering ^[’ō-lā(h)] of birds, you are to offer a dove or a young pigeon.

¹⁵ The priest shall bring it to the altar, wring off the head and burn it on the altar; its blood shall be drained out on the side of the altar.

Bring “birdy” to altar.

- Wring of its neck ...
- Draining blood.

Leviticus 1:16–17 ¹⁶ He is to remove the crop and the feathers and throw them down east of the altar where the ashes are.

Remove crop and feathers

- Throw them down the east of the altar.

¹⁷ He shall tear it open by the wings, not dividing it completely, and then the priest shall burn it on the wood that is burning on the altar. It is a burnt offering, a food offering, an aroma pleasing to **YHWH**.

So, what is the deal with the blood?

Through the blood splattering rite ...

- The life of the worshipper ...
- Identified with the animal in the hand-leaning rite
- Is being brought into contact with the divine.

The blood therefore symbolically conveys the offering up ...

- Of one's (blameless) life to God.

1. Choose Proper Animal
2. Presentation Rite
3. Hand-leaning Rite
4. Slaughter Rite
5. Blood-Splattering Rite
- 6. BURNING RITE**

After the blood-splattering rite ...

- The whole of the animal is burned up and turned into smoke on the altar

Leviticus 1:9 "... the priest is to burn all of it on the altar. It is a burnt offering, ^[olah] a food offering, ^[iṣṣeh – Gift by Fire] an aroma pleasing to YHWH.

Put it on the altar ...

- And burn it.

What do we learn from this?

- Sacrifice is pleasing to God.
- And is at the heart of our relationship with him.
- ...

I will say it again, the burnt offering was not just for atonement ...

- But it was also offered in celebration or thanksgiving for something ...

In other words, the sacrificial cult ...

- Was primarily a vehicle for worshipers' expression ...
- Of a wide range of emotions: Joy over the birth of a child ...
- Thankfulness for a good harvest and so on.

Some good questions to ask yourselves might be?

1. What are we expressing thanks for?
2. How are we expressing it?

What are we expressing thanks for?

- The blessing of another day?
- Another pay check paid.
- ...

How are we expressing it?

- Song, prayer ... ?

In ancient Israel the depth of their gratitude was beyond song and prayer.

- Their gratitude was often expressed by bringing a sacrifice that was very costly.
- It would cost them time, money and losing an employee.

A good question to ask ourselves would be?

“What are sacrificial ways in which I would want to thank God in response to his overwhelming blessing and favour?”

Sometimes a prayer or a song should just not be enough for us.

Ultimately, the altar existed for Israel's ascent to God.

- In other words, it is the ascension offering that fulfills the *purpose* of the altar ...

And the *purpose* of Israel is fulfilled through the altar.

- By being in the presence of God ...
- They can be transformed into the image of God.
- So that they can be a blessing to the Nations.
- Expand the Garden, bear image into it.

1. Choose Proper Animal
2. Presentation Rite
3. Hand-leaning Rite
4. Slaughter Rite
5. Blood-Splattering Rite
6. Burning Rite
- 7. Communion Rite**

Through the ascension offering ...

- The Israelite is able to ascend into the heavenly abode ^[presence] of God.
- And enjoy the hospitality of the house of God.

This is highlighted by the “Fellowship” or “Peace” offering.

- Whereby the Israelite was given a portion of the sacrificial meat ...
- To eat with his family and friends in the Presence of God.

In the ANE, as is still the case in various cultures today ...

- Friendships were solidified and covenants sealed by a shared meal ...
- And hospitality itself was a serious matter of honour.

Through the sacrificial system God treats the worshipper as a son ...

- That he invited into his house.

Psalm 36:7–9 ⁷ How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. **[echo of Cherubim]**

⁸ They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your **river of delights**. ⁹ For with you is the **fountain of life**; in your light we see light.

He is describing God’s **unfailing love in his temple** with **Edenic language and imagery**.

This is life with God in the **Portable Eden**

- And it is made possible through the sacrificial system.