

LEVITICUS

The third book in the Pentateuch is called Leviticus because it relates principally to the Levites and priests and their services. The book is generally held to have been written by Moses. Those critics even who hold a different opinion as to the other books of the Pentateuch assign this book in the main to him. One of the most notable features of the book is what may be called its spiritual meaning. That so elaborate a ritual looked beyond itself we cannot doubt. It was a prophecy of things to come; a shadow whereof the substance was Christ and his kingdom. We may not always be able to say what the exact relation is between the type and the antitype; but we cannot read the Epistle to the Hebrews and not acknowledge that the Levitical priests "served the pattern and type of heavenly things;" that the sacrifices of the law pointed to and found their interpretation in the Lamb of God; that the ordinances of outward purification signified the true inner cleansing of the heart and conscience from dead works to serve the living God. One idea—HOLINESS—moreover penetrates the whole of this vast and burdensome ceremonial, and gives it a real glory even apart from any prophetic significance.

—Smith's Bible Dictionary

THE LEVITICAL OFFERINGS

Name	Scripture References	Purpose	Consisted of	God's portion	Priests' Portion	Offerer's Portion	Prophetic Significance
Burnt Offering (olah, Heb); a.Sweet aroma b.Voluntary	Lev. 1:3-17; 6:8-13	1. To propitiate for sin in general 2. to Signify complete dedication and consecration to God; hence it is called the "whole burnt offering"	According to wealth: 1. Bull w/o blemish 2. Male sheep or goat w/o blemish 3. turtledoves or young pigeons	Entirely burned on the altar of burnt offering (1:9) except the skin (7:8)	Skin Only	None	Signifies complete dedication of life to God: 1. Of Christ 2. Of Believer
Grain or Meat Offering (minhah, Heb) a.Sweet aroma b.Voluntary	Lev. 2:1-16; 6:14-18; 7:12-13	The grain offering accompanied all the burnt offerings; it signified one's homage and thanksgiving to God.	1. Fine flour mixed w/oil & frankincense 2. Cakes of fine flour mixed w/oil & baked. 3. Green heads of roasted grain mixed w.oil & frank.	Memorial portion burned on the altar of burnt offering	Remainder eaten in the inner court.	None	The perfect humanity of Christ. 1.Unleavened – w/o sin 2. Oil – presence of the Holy Spirit.
Peace offering (shelem, Heb) a.sweet aroma b. Voluntary	Lev. 3:1-17; 7:11-21; 7:28-34	Generally expressed peace and fellowship between the offerer and God; culminating in a communal meal. Three types: 1Thanksgiving 2Votive(vow) 3Freewill	According to wealth: 1. Fr. Herd, male or female w/o blemish 2. Fr. Flock, male or female w/o blemish 3. Fr. Goats	Fatty portions burned on the altar of burnt offering (3:3-5)	Breast (wave offering and right thigh of the heave offering 7:30-34)	Remainder eaten in the outer court by the offerer & family. Thank offering-same day; Votive & freewill day 1&2	Foreshadows the peace which the believer has with God through Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1, Col. 1:20)
Sin Offering (hattat, Heb) a. Non-sweet b. compulsory	Lev. 4:1-5:13; 6:24-30	To atone for sins committed unknowingly.(no restitution) No avail in cases of defiant rebellion against God.	1.For the high priest, a bull w/o blemish 2. congregation-bull w/o blemish 3. ruler- male goat w/o blemish 4. commoner-female goat or lamb w/o blemish 5. Poverty- 2 turtledoves or 2 young pigeons 6. X-poverty- fine flour could be substituted	1. Fatty portions burned on the altar 2. When the sin offering was for the priest or congregation, the remainder was burned outside the camp.	When the sin offering was for a ruler or commoner, the remainder was to be eaten in the tabernacle court. (6:26)	None	Prefigures the fact that in His death: 1. Christ was made sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21) 2. Christ suffered outside the gates of Jerusalem (Heb. 13:11-13)
Trespass Offering (*asham, Heb) a. Non-sweet b.Compulsory	Lev. 5:14-6:7; 7:1-7	To atone for sins committed unknowingly, restitution possible.	1. Lord- a ram w/o blemish, plus restitution 5 th part. 2. man – a ram w/o blemish, restitution & 5 th part.	Fatty portions to be burned on the altar of burnt offering (7:3-5)	Remainder to be eaten in a Holy Place (7:6,7)	None	Foreshadows the fact that Christ is also our trespass offering (Col. 2:13)