

Offerings and Sacrifices - 101

Leviticus 1-7¹

Types of Sacrifices:

| SACRIFICE | MATERIALS | PURPOSE |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Burnt Offering (Leviticus 1) | Male of the herd, flock, or a dove or pigeon. After the blood of the animal was sprinkled on the altar the animal was completely consumed – “whole burnt offering.” This offering could also serve as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A vow/freewill offering (Lev. 22:18-20) • A part of prayer & supplication (1 Sam. 7:9-10) | Atonement for sin and as a demonstration of dedication to the Lord. |
| Grain Offering (Leviticus 2) | Fine flour, unleavened bread, or roasted grain is offered. There was to be no yeast or honey; salt must be added. The priest offered a handful on the altar and then the priests gets the rest as their portion. | Thankfulness; or it is usually offered with the burnt offering. |
| Peace Offering (Leviticus 3) | Male or female of the herd, flock, or goats. After the blood of the animal is sprinkled on the altar the meat of the animal is waved and then given to the priests, the worshiper and their guests to eat together as a meal with God – “fellowship offering” or “wave offering.” This offering could also serve as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thank offering (Lev. 7:11-15) • A vow/freewill offering (Lev. 7:16-18) • An ordination offering (Lev. 8:22-32) | To symbolize peace and fellowship with God because sin has been atoned. |
| Sin & Guilt Offerings (Leviticus 4-6) | The primary sacrifices for paying for sin. Various animals are used depending on one’s income. The blood of the animal is sprinkled on the altar. The fat and kidneys are burned on the altar; the rest goes to the priests as their portion. | Atonement for sin. The sinner’s debt is paid and they are cleansed of their sin. |

The Typical Order of the Sacrifices: (Lev. 9:15-24)

1. Sin or Guilt Offering
2. Burnt Offering
3. Grain Offering
4. Peace Offering

Significance of the Typical Order of Sacrifices: (Cleansing – Consecration – Celebration)

“This order makes perfectly good sense. In one’s approach to the holy God, one first needs to deal properly with whatever may stand in the way of approaching the Lord by offering the appropriate offering. Next one needs to present oneself to the Lord. After that, celebration is appropriate.”²

Cleansing from sin → **Consecration** to the Lord → **Celebration** of peace with God

¹Adapted from Willem A. VanGemeren, *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis* (Zondervan, 1997), Vol. IV, 1020-1021; Mark F. Rooker, *The New American Commentary Volume 3A - Leviticus* (Holman Reference, 2000), 8-137.

²T. Desmond Alexander and David W. Baker, *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Pentateuch* (IVP Academic, 2002), 722.