

# **WORSHIP: Accepted by God**

## **Burnt Offering**

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**Text:** Leviticus 1

**Series:** Leviticus, Worship, and the Christian

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**Living Hope Bible Church of Roselle, IL**

**Introduction:** Open your Bibles to Leviticus. We are continuing our series: “Leviticus, Worship, and the Christian”. The title of the message is: “Accepted by God”.

### **Getting Impressed with God**

Worship is getting impressed with God! One of the main problems we have is that we are impressed with the wrong kinds of things. *What you are impressed with—that is what you go after.* Worship is not leaving life behind. Worship is bringing life to God and dealing with it in light of Who God is.

### **Worshipping God in Hard Situations**

Example: Psalms—lots of hard situations. Worship is seeing God while you look life straight in the face. Worship is by definition a transforming thing. Isaiah 6—Isaiah comes to God and is impressed and overwhelmed. Eph.1 –Enlightening the eyes of the heart. Worship is an enlightenment by seeing God in all circumstances.

### **Worship = Change**

A person who truly worships gets changed. It is a very powerful thing. Again Isaiah 6—some people think that the closer you get to God, the more holy you feel. The opposite is the case. The closer you get to God, the more UNHOLY you feel. The light of His glory sets your life straight—it sheds light on your sin!

### **Burnt Offering & Christ**

And that brings us to our most important question tonight: How can an impure, sinful, mortal creature find access into the presence of God, both now and in the world to come? As Christians we know the way is through our substitutionary sacrifice, and we see that portrayed in *the Burnt Offering*.

### **Holocaust Offering**

There are at least five offerings in Leviticus that teach us about Christ, and the first is the burnt offering. It is sometimes called the “holocaust offering” by scholars because everything goes up in smoke.

Even though this is not the first offering made by a worshipper who came to the sanctuary, it is listed first because it was one of the most frequently made sacrifices and because it was one of the most important.

**It was the only sacrifice that belonged completely to God.**

All of the sacrifices were eaten either by the priests or by the worshippers, but the burnt offering was consumed entirely on the altar of burnt offering. Thus it signified both total surrender of the worshipper and complete acceptance by God of the worshipper who brought it.

### **Timing: Morning and Evening**

This offering was made every morning and every evening and at the scheduled feasts. It was also the basic sacrifice the worshipper offered when drawing near to God.

It emphasized the essential aspects of approaching God.

1. The right animal had to be selected
2. The hand had to be placed on the head of the animal (transferring guilt)
3. The shedding of blood took place through the slaughter ritual
4. The animal was burnt entirely on the altar
5. God is pleased by the offering and the worshipper is accepted

Let's read Leviticus 1.

Leviticus 1 (ESV), “The LORD called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, 2 “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or from the flock.

3 “If his offering is a **burnt offering** from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish. He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the LORD. 4 He shall **lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering**, and it shall be accepted for him **to make atonement for him**. 5 Then he shall kill the bull before the LORD, and Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and throw the blood against the sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting. 6 Then he shall **flay the burnt offering and cut it into pieces**, 7 and the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. 8 And Aaron's sons the priests shall arrange the pieces, the head, and the fat, on the wood that is on the fire on the altar; 9 but its entrails and its legs he shall wash with water. And the priest **shall burn all of it on the altar, as a burnt offering**, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

10 “If his gift for a burnt offering is from the **flock**, from the sheep or goats, he shall bring a male without blemish, 11 and he shall kill it on the north side of the altar before the LORD, and Aaron's sons the priests shall throw its blood against the sides of the altar. 12 And he shall cut it into pieces, with its head and its fat, and the priest shall arrange them on the wood that is on the fire on the altar, 13 but the entrails and the legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall offer all of it and burn it on the altar; it is a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

14 “If his offering to the LORD is a burnt offering of **birds**, then he shall bring his offering of turtledoves or pigeons. 15 And the priest shall bring it to the altar and wring off its head and burn it on the altar. Its blood shall be drained out on the side of the altar. 16 He shall remove its crop with its contents and cast it beside the altar on the east side, in the place for ashes. 17 He shall tear it open by its wings, but shall not sever it

completely. And the priest shall burn it on the altar, on the wood that is on the fire. It is a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.”

The message of the Burnt Offering is that sinful human beings must have a spotless substitute that is offered to God to satisfy His righteous wrath against sin. It is then that we are joyfully accepted by God!

## **I. The Worshipper: Anyone is welcome** (vs. 1-2)

Anyone may come and be accepted by the Lord on the basis of the Substitute.

Leviticus 1:1-2 (ESV), “The LORD called Moses and spoke to him from the tent of meeting, saying, 2 “Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of you brings an offering to the LORD, you shall bring your offering of livestock from the herd or from the flock.”

All human beings were created to worship the Lord. We are all bid to come.

We hear Jesus crying out in **Matthew 11:28** (ESV), “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

**Revelation 22:17** (ESV), “The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.”

## **II. The Substitute: must be perfect** (vs. 3)

The sacrifice must be without blemish.

Leviticus 1:3 (ESV), “If his offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he shall offer a male without blemish. He shall bring it to the entrance of the tent of meeting, that he may be accepted before the LORD.”

**Hebrews 4:15** (ESV), “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

**2 Corinthians 5:21** (ESV), “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

**1 Peter 3:18** (ESV), “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit...”

## **III. The Guilt: must be transferred & satisfied** (vs. 4)

The worshipper must lay his hands upon the sacrifice in faith and in the transfer of guilt.

Leviticus 1:4 (ESV), “He shall lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.”

The word for atonement is kipper, which means to “appease, pacify, expiate, satisfy”. In order for this to happen, the guilt of the sinner must be transferred to the sacrifice.

- Romans 3:25 (ESV), “whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.”
- 1 John 2:2 (ESV), “He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.”
- 1 John 4:10 (ESV), “In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Listen to the ancient prophecy of **Isaiah 53:4-6**, “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

#### IV. **Slaughter**: must be violent (vs. 5-6)

A. The Sacrifice is violently offered to the Lord.

**Leviticus 1:5** (ESV), “Then he shall kill the bull before the LORD, and Aaron’s sons the priests shall bring the blood and throw the blood against the sides of the altar that is at the entrance of the tent of meeting.”

**Heb 9:22** Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”

There is an utter forsaking of the sacrifice. It is a violent forsaking.

In fulfillment of the prophecy given by King David, Christ uttered, “My God my God Why have you forsaken Me?”

B. The Body and Blood are fully surrendered.

**Leviticus 1:6-9** (ESV), “Then he shall flay the burnt offering and cut it into pieces, 7 and the sons of Aaron the priest shall put fire on the altar and arrange wood on the fire. 8 And Aaron’s sons the priests shall arrange the pieces, the head, and the fat, on the wood that is on the fire on the altar; 9 but its entrails and its legs he shall wash with water.”

Isaiah 53:7, “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.”

## V. The **Atonement**: the sacrifice is accepted by God (vs. 9b)

The word for atonement in verse 4 is kipper, which means to “appease, pacify, expiate, satisfy”. And here we see the sacrifice accepted in verse 9b.

**Leviticus 1:9b** “And the priest shall burn all of it on the altar, as a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.”

The process is similar for the person who brings from his flock of goats or sheep (vs. 10-13) or from his offering of turtledoves or pigeons (vs. 14-17).

All are welcome regardless of socio-economic position. Whether you could afford a bull or a lamb or a bird, you could come and show your desire to be accepted by God.

**Conclusion:** Salvation has always been by grace through faith in Christ. Anytime a sinner came to faith in the LORD, it was in the revelation that God in His grace provided the way for the sinner to come into His presence, both now and in the world to come. So a person in Israel who was new in the faith could demonstrate trust in the Lord by offering this sacrifice and testifying of God’s gracious provision.

Ultimately we know that the fulfillment of these shadows is Christ.

Hebrews 10:4-6, “For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.”

How can an impure, sinful, mortal creature find access into the presence of God, both now and in the world to come? As Christians we know the way is through our substitutionary sacrifice, and we see that portrayed in *the Burnt Offering*. Do you have peace with God through Christ, your burnt offering?