

take off
hard
by the
backbone

chapter three Leviticus

~ There is no peace for the wicked. Isaiah told us that. Man has historically and naturally waged warfare and has sown conflict to every land he thinks he has brought civilization to and has declared “peace” upon. It’s almost laughable to see what we have become, honestly. A natural tendency to bring war is inherent in the hearts of individuals and collectively as nations, as well. We find myriad hostilities carried out in business life, social culture - and even religion. Man will never have peace in his heart without God! You can just write that down; because it happens to be an axiom of truth that will never change. It’s like gravity – it’s a law that is always enforced. Christ is our only peace. There is no other way to peace in this world.

We have observed two of the three sweet savor offerings so far in the Levitical leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. We have considered the burnt offering and the meal offering. If you are just joining our safari, I suggest you go back and catch, at least, the first three reports from Leviticus. Our Spiritual Safari’s purpose and mission is to find Christ on every page of Scripture - and we emphasize the perfect humanity of our Savior and Lord. Once, He became tired and sat down at a well in Samaria. Another time, He wept at a grave. We’ve seen Jesus hold little children in His arms, too. We’ve seen Him hungry and thirsty. Jesus was a normal person and a perfectly human being when He was manifest in the flesh down here.

In this report, we will examine the peace offering; which speaks of communion and fellowship between believers and God the Father through Jesus Christ. That’s the only way you and I are ever going to come to God and that’s the only way we’ll ever know fellowship with Him. I think we can see here that no single offering could have set forth the myriad facets of His perfections and beauties and deeply involved intricacies. I don’t think this covers all of those perfections, either; because I don’t think we could ever

know the depth of what we're seeing in Christ. We have four Gospels; each setting forth varying aspects of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and, similarly, we have five offerings setting forth myriad aspects of His life and work He accomplished here on earth.

The peace offering is a razor-sharp contrast to the burnt offering, and, at the same time, has a striking similarity. This peace offering does not speak of the peace that Christ made through His blood on the cross; it speaks of the peace He IS because of His blood that was shed on the cross – that is, He is the meeting place of all believers together – and the meeting place of each individual believer with God the Father. Both. The cross did involve making peace for us with God, but this is much more specific. Christ is our peace, and He is the only One Who can break down the walls that separate individuals and families, races and religions and that which separates nations. All of these are ONLY made one in Christ Jesus. Then they become a habitation of God in the Holy Spirit and that gives them access to the Father. Here, we are talking about the peace that we have that brings believers into communion with the Father through the Holy Spirit by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Only believers can partake in the wonders, beauty, joy and glory of Christ. He also gives us the ability to have communion and fellowship with one another in the peace of God as we share the things of Christ. That which we have heard and seen declare we unto you that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with God the Father through His Son Jesus Christ. This peace offering brings us together as believers as we meet around the Person of Christ and that's the only thing that can possibly draw us together and make us level, too, by the way. I can meet with any man or woman who will meet around and enjoy the fellowship of the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is our peace; at least, He's MY peace – is Christ YOUR peace? ~

1 And if his oblation be a sacrifice of peace offering, if he offer it of the herd; whether it be a male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the LORD.

~ This peace offering is all-comprehensive in one sense. The sinner has a way to come to God for redemption because peace was made through the blood of the cross and both are satisfied through Him. God says to the sinner, "you're lost and alienated from Me, and you need a Savior to come to ME or I will consign you to the darkness of eternity." Friends, if God did that to each of us right now, He would still be Holy and Just and the angels in Heaven will sing praises to His Name - and we would remain as lost as we ever were! God is satisfied with what Jesus did and that is the message here. There is a great peace of mind that you can know. It surpasses all understanding. That means you won't know why you are at peace you will only know that you are at peace! Will you turn to Him and come to Him for that peace today and have fellowship with God? You won't have it without Him. I promise you that - because God promises you that.

Alright, this realization of a doctrinally sound theology makes the peace offering different from the burnt offering in several ways. Only a male could be offered in the burnt offering - but here, it's either male or female. The offerer will never find as much in Christ as God finds in Christ. The burnt offering is what God sees in Christ; here, the offerer is the one that finds something in Christ. That is something you and I should go try to find right now, by the way! The reason a female was acceptable is because the opportunity to enjoy Christ in peace is in view....

2 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and kill it at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron's sons the priests shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about.

3 And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards,

4 And the two kidneys, and the fat that is on them, which is by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away.

~ We have another duplicate set of instructions with the burnt offering; but we also have another sharp contrast in these offerings. With the burnt offering, ALL was placed on the altar, and everything was consumed. Here,

in the peace offering, only a portion of the sacrifice went on the altar. That portion was specified, and it was the choicest part of the animal. This included the fat and the inward parts which speak of the hidden riches of Christ; the precious, life-giving qualities and the priceless values attached if a functional life is to continue with hope. We are privy to observe the character of the Lord Jesus Christ as only the Father God in Heaven knows in this section of Scripture. There are many things you and I do not know about Christ, but God knows them. God sees in His Son something we can't see. Oh, that we might know Him properly, correctly and completely; and worship properly, correctly and completely! You may have a doctorate degree, but that degree does not come with knowledge of God - and we desperately need to know Him....

5 And Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is upon the wood that is on the fire: it is an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.

~ So, our fire is blazing hot, and our sacrifices are totally and wholly consumed away. The fire here is speaking of the total dedication and submission to His Father and of that dedication during His human suffering. This is CRITICAL to understand if you are trying to put together a sincere understanding of the Bible. This is a sweet smell and something that satisfies God. Only during the last three hours on the cross were the sins of the world paid for. We see Jesus suffer in life - but not for the sins of the world. Only during the last three hours on the cross, when it pleased the Lord to bruise Him, after God had put Jesus to grief, He made His soul an offering for sin! This is an extraordinary picture and, again, it is imperative for any serious student of Scripture to understand all of this correctly....

6 And if his offering for a sacrifice of peace offering unto the LORD be of the flock; male or female, he shall offer it without blemish.

7 If he offer a lamb for his offering, then shall he offer it before the LORD.

~ Nothing from the herd was accepted in this offering – only of the flock. Each of these offerings we are examining brings out some new aspect of Christ for us. The Lamb sets forth the character of Christ in a most unusual

way. I don't think many people really understand how it makes unusually appropriate sense for a lamb to be the exclusive allowable offering in the peace offerings. A bull or heifer sets forth the servant side of the ministry of the Lord Jesus. The bull was domesticated, a bearer of burdens and a plower of fields – all servile actions as we find in the Gospel of Mark; and that's great for a burnt offering. But Jesus isn't the bell boy or our personal hairdresser - and Jesus doesn't just move when someone tells Him to move. Christ was God's servant, and He did the will of His Father in Heaven!

The lamb sets forth a complete identification of Christ with man in life and death. John the Baptist walked onto our Biblical stage with the opening line, "...behold, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world." We have the Person and works of Christ every time John talks to us. The very first offering we have record of was Abel with a lamb. I cannot prove it Biblically, but I am sure Adam and Eve were clothed in lambskin after the fall. It makes even more sense in view of the fact that Abel brought a lamb. In Isaiah we find He was offered as our substitute for the sins of the world; but He is also a lamb in the resurrection. John says, "... lo, I beheld and in the midst of the Throne and of the four beasts and of the elders stood a Lamb as it had been slain." Now, if you have a lamb that was slain and is alive again then you have a resurrected Lamb, friends. Christ is also the Lamb in His return in glory as John, in Revelation, says, "...and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Christ as the Lamb is the most complete picture we will see out of all the sacrifices....

8 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and kill it before the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle the blood thereof round about upon the altar.

9 And he shall offer of the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat thereof, and the whole rump, it shall he take off hard by the backbone; and the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards,

10 And the two kidneys, and the fat that is upon them, which is by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away.

~ This is much closer to being a complete duplication of the burnt offering, except here the fat is to be offered. The fat is God's portion. The fat is considered the most valuable part of the animal to a desert dwelling bunch of people. A fat animal was the best kind in all ways, so that's what was offered to God. Prime meat is fatty. Nehemiah says to eat the fat and drink the sweet. That happens to be God's invitation to you for the best! Isaiah speaks of a "...feast of fat things." That is a quality gourmet meal freshly prepared by personal chefs. God repeats His invitation saying, "let your soul delight in the fatness." The Psalmist says, "...they shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of Thy house." Luke says they brought the fatted calf to kill it, eat, drink and be merry.

You and I can never really see the full depths of the peace offering. Perhaps it's because I am unable to convey it? Fellowship with God rests upon the blood of Christ alone. However, there is another aspect of fellowship with Him. To be final and complete there must be a presentation of the life of the believer in total dedication to the cause of Christ. These two aspects are both included in the invitation we have been given when Jesus said, "come unto Me all you who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." That is redemption, friends. Jesus said, "...take My yoke upon you....learn of Me....I am meek and lonely and, lo, ye shall find rest in Me....and have peace in your souls, for My yoke is easy and My burden is light." We find all the peace Christ offers in His blood and redemption. There is another rest we find and that is in the fat of the offering, beloved. We find that peace when you and I come to Him and offer ourselves to Him....

11 And the priest shall burn it upon the altar: it is the food of the offering made by fire unto the LORD.

~ This is certainly a strange clause, and many have tried to tie it into paganism. The idea we have here is: instead of trying to bring a feast to give to God – God is inviting man to have a feast with Him! One that He has already prepared. I think you get the picture. We could go into a whole lot

of Biblical detail here but we're already stuck in the sands of the wilderness, so we have to, at least, keep moving; even if we aren't really going anywhere in Leviticus! ~

12 And if his offering be a goat, then he shall offer it before the LORD.

~ The goat is the third type of sacrifice in the peace offering and the goat represents the complete adequacy of Christ to take away the sins of man. To say that Jesus was made sins for us is just not a nice statement; it happens to be the actual fact. Christ is the Propitiation for our sins. That means He adequately and completely paid the price of our sins on the altar of the cross. Some say they don't want to be made a goat out of; well, Christ was willing to be made this goat for you. This sacrifice sets forth Christ taking the full penalty for our sins upon Him. The ritual of this offering also follows the same pattern of the burnt offering....

13 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of it, and kill it before the tabernacle of the congregation: and the sons of Aaron shall sprinkle the blood thereof upon the altar round about.

14 And he shall offer thereof his offering, even an offering made by fire unto the LORD; the fat that covereth the inwards, and all the fat that is upon the inwards,

15 And the two kidneys, and the fat that is upon them, which is by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away.

16 And the priest shall burn them upon the altar: it is the food of the offering made by fire for a sweet savour: all the fat is the LORD'S.

17 It shall be a perpetual statute for your generations throughout all your dwellings, that ye eat neither fat nor blood.

~ We have two striking statements in the last two verses from this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God: (1) all the fat is the Lord's and (2) that ye eat neither fat nor blood. These are two

significant prohibitions for the children of Israel on the wilderness march at the time in which we are studying. Man has been reminded today that he was redeemed by blood. That moves us into the place where fellowship with God is possible – but God demands the best. If you want to enjoy your fellowship with God the Father, it is imperative that we give Him our very best. The reason we have so much cheap religion is because we have some cheap so-called saints; they never offer the best that they are or the best that they have. Let's offer our best to God today, shall we? Where the breast is offered back to the priests speaks of the love of Christ for us – with which He loved us, and He gave Himself for us. God says His sheep hear His voice – do you hear Him calling to you today? ~
