

THE FIVE SACRIFICES OF THE MOSAIC COVENANT

(EKB - August 1993)

Reading: *Lev 1-7.*

1. **The Burnt Offering.** *Lev 1:1-9, Lev 7:8-13, Gen 22:2,3,6-8,13.*
This is a voluntary offering, v3, a sweet aroma to the Lord, v9, and all but the skin, v6,7:8, is consumed by fire on the altar, v9. The sacrifice is to be without blemish and it symbolises a person's total surrender, love and dedication to the Lord. *Rom 12:1, Lk 9:23, Gal 2:20, Col 3:1-3.* Note that the fire on the altar is not to go out, 6:13. The skin is taken by the priest who supervises and actually burns the offering, 7:8.

In the New Testament Christ is the **Offering**, Christ is the **Offerer**, and Christ is the **Priest** that presents the Offering to God, *Heb 9:26, Heb 9:14,12.* The believer is the offerer of himself to God, through Christ the Priest. The garment Christ wears among men and women today is the skin of the burnt offering which we gave Him, *Rom 12:1, Mat 5:16, Jn 13:34,35.*

2. **The Grain or Cereal Offering.** *Lev 2:1-3, Lev 6:14-18, Lev 7:9,10.*
This also is a voluntary offering and a sweet aroma to the Lord, v2. It is a bloodless offering and part of it is burnt as an offering to the Lord while the rest goes to the priests and his sons, v2,3. As with the Burnt Offering the offerer receives nothing. The fine flour, v2, is the heart preparation of the Word of God, *Lk 8:11*, expressed as the righteousness of Christ to others, and the ministry of the Word, *Col 3:16.* The oil is prepared from crushed olives and symbolises the Holy Spirit's anointing, v2. The frankincense is a gum collected by bleeding the bark of a tree, and when it is burnt, it creates a strong fragrance, v2. This expresses the fragrance of Christ, *Eph 5:2.* There is to be no leaven, v11, *1Cor 5:8.* No honey of human sweetness is to be present, v11. (Burnt honey makes a black sticky mess). This offering is man's love and service for man through the ministry of the Word and the righteousness of Christ. Our ministry to others may be accepted or rejected by man but as we minister in love a pleasing aroma rises to the Lord, *Gal 5:13b,14.* Don't forget to add the salt, v13, *Mat 5:13, Col 4:6.* The salt is our zeal and willingness in the ministry, *Mk 9:49.*
Lev 6:20 says that the priest is to offer a grain offering each morning and night.

3. **The Peace Offering.** *Lev 3:1-5, Lev 7:11-38.*
Like the previous two offerings, the peace offering is also voluntary. It is to be without blemish, v1, and the part offered to the Lord, v2-5, shall be a sweet aroma, v5. In this offering the priest and his sons as well as the offerer have a part, 7:14,31-34,15,16. The priest and his family take the breast and the right shoulder, and what remains is for the offerer. This sacrifice symbolises the believer's fellowship with the Lord and with the Body of Christ. It is the sacrifice of fellowship, *Heb 10:25, Heb 13:16* (where the words, "and to share" in the Greek original, is "koinonia", or fellowship).
4. **The Sin Offering.** *Lev 4:1-5:13, Lev 6:24-30.*
This offering is compulsory when a person sins unintentionally against the Lord, v2,13,22,27. In the case of the priest and the whole congregation the blood of the bull is sprinkled twice in the Holy Place and the rest is poured out at the base of the altar of the

burnt offering. The fat of the offering is burnt on the same altar while the rest of the bull is taken outside the camp to a clean place and is burnt up completely on a wood fire, *Heb 13:11-13*. However the sin offering for a ruler or a common person is treated differently. The blood is not taken into the Holy Place but is poured out at the base of the altar of burnt offering. The fat is burnt on the same altar, while the flesh of the sin offering is given to the priest to be eaten, *Lev 6:26,29,30*.

The sin offering for a ruler was a male goat, *Lev 4:23*.

The sin offering for a commoner was a female goat, *Lev 4:28*. There is no sin offering for rebellion. The sacrifice was only offered after specific sin had been revealed and confessed. There was no offering for general unconfessed guilt.

Sins are to be confessed one by one as conviction arises. Forgiveness is only possible because the demands of the justice of God, *Ezk 18:4*, have been met by Christ's perfect sacrifice, *1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18, 2Cor 5:21*.

5. **The Trespass Offering or Guilt Offering.** *Lev 5:14-6:7, Lev 7:1-7*.

Like the sin offering, the trespass offering is also compulsory when a person commits an unintentional trespass.

Lev 5:15-19 covers unintentional trespass against the holy things of the Lord. *Lev 6:1-7* deals with trespass against the brethren. Where harm has been done restitution is required, *Lev 5:16, 6:4,5*. The offering for the trespass was a ram, *Lev 5:15,18, Lev 6:6*.

The priest was to eat the trespass offering in a holy place, *Lev 7:6*.