

The Peace Offering
Leviticus 3; Leviticus 7:11-21

The Burnt Offering speaks clearly of the Christ's sacrifice to atone sins. The Meat Offering speaks clearly of the *perfect righteousness* of Jesus Christ. The Peace Offering speaks of the outcome of Christ's death.

"Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

"The gospel is peace" (Romans 10:15).

Peace comes by the finished work of Christ - pictured in the peace offering – and brought before the Lord during a time of special mercy. It is also called "The Thank Offering" and is a free-will sacrifice.

J.H. Kurtz says they were offered *"upon particular manifestations of divine mercy."* These sacrifices could be a bullock (3:1), a sheep (v.7) or a goat (v.12). There were some important differences regarding this offering from the burnt offering and the grain offering, particularly what is written of the offeror.

I. The Offeror's Character (Leviticus 7:20:21).

The only person who is ever right with God (at peace with Him) and able to worship and fellowship with God is the person who is completely clean. The Israelite of old was considered ceremonially clean as a picture of believer's who are justified by God. The unclean could not offer this sacrifice.

II. The Offeror's Confession (Leviticus 3:2).

"He shall lay his hand upon the offering" not for the purpose of confession one's sin but rather to express his gratefulness to God. Gill calls this confession *"words of praise."* (Gill on Leviticus 3).

III. The Offeror's Conduct (Leviticus 3:3-4).

The Peace Offering required some activities of the worshipper unlike other offerings.

(A). He offered the best part of the animal to God . . .

The word *"fat"* is commonly used in the Bible in positive ways (Gen. 45:18). In Numbers 18:12 the same word *"fat"* is used in Hebrew but translated *"best."* It's the thing you consider first.

(B). He ate the remaining flesh of the sacrifice within three days (Lev. 7:15-18).

- (1). He could commence eating the "fellowship" meal the day of the sacrifice.
- (2). He could eat until the third day (the day of resurrection). Our entire lives as believers should be characterized by faith in Christ. "The just shall live by faith" or "by faith the just shall live."

(C). He gave the breast and the shoulder to the priests (Lev. 7:29-34).

One's desires (breast) and one's strength (should or leg) are all gifts from God. "It is God in you both to will and to do His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). We give Him the credit. This offering helps us understand passages like **Psalm 73:25-26** and **John 6:53-55**.

IV. The Offeror's Compassion (Deuteronomy 12:7, 17).

The worshipper had a responsibility to care for his family. As you read the Old Testament, one sees that the experience of worship for the Israelite learned of God and taught these things to family.