

The Drink Offering

Numbers 28:1-7

It is important to recognize that burnt offerings and meat offerings and drink offerings were most often free-will offerings (Leviticus 1 and 2), but there were other times that burnt offerings, meat (grain) offerings and drink offerings were required by God. Though the drink offering was offered by Jacob very early in the Biblical record (**Genesis 35:14**) we find that Israel did not offer the drink offering as a free will offering until they arrived in the land “*flowing with milk and honey*” (Numbers 15:2-4). Though free-will drink offerings did not begin for the people until Canaan, the priests of Israel offered drink offerings:

- (1). Every morning and evening . . . the priests would offer on behalf of the nation a burnt offering, a grain offering and a drink offering (**Numbers 28:1-7**).
- (2). Every Sabbath . . . an additional two lambs for a burnt offering (morning and evening) plus a grain and drink offering (**Numbers 28:9**).
- (3). The first day of each month . . . a burnt offering, a grain offering, and a drink offering would be offered by the priests (Numbers 28:11-14).
- (4). The fourteenth day of the first month . . . Passover (**Exodus 28:17-31**), a feast that was celebrated with a burnt offering, a grain offering and a drink offering.
- (5). Other state holidays . . . (**Ezekiel 45:17**). The pattern for worship on high, holy days was the same: burnt offering, grain offering and then the drink offering.

Their drink offering was never offered alone, but rather was poured on top of the burnt offering and the grain offering upon the altar (or some believe around the altar) and was a custom very familiar to Jewish people from Jacob to the Apostle Paul (**Philippians 2:17**). Like other offerings, this one typifies Jesus.

I. The drink offering represents the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

There is no rational explanation for the death of Jesus Christ until a person realizes that Christ died for God. His life was given to satisfy the just demands of a holy God. So God’s love for sinners, with justice required, compelled Christ to “*pour out His life*” (Eph. 5:1-2) on our behalf as an offering. There is a parable told by Jotham in Judges 9 about the people of God - Israel (the trees)- accepting the wicked Abimelech as “King of Shechem.” They bypassed the olive tree, the fig tree, and the vine and appointed “a bramble” (e.g. a fruitless branch) as the king of the Shechemites.

But the vine said to them, 'Shall I leave my new wine, **which cheers God** and men, and go to wave over the trees?' (**Judges 9:13**).

This is not referring to drinking wine. It refers to pouring out of the wine before God as an offering.

“It is strong wine poured unto the Lord” (**Numbers 28:7**).

II. The drink offering represents the believer’s joy in God’s provision of Christ.

We have several Old Testament examples of God’s people using the drink offering in worship.

(**I Samuel 1:24**) --- Hannah offers a burnt offering, meal offering and drink offering, and then the family filled the tabernacle with song.

(**I Samuel 10:3**) --- Three worshippers met by Saul on their way to Bethel bringing

(1). A goat each; (2). A cake of bread; (3). A bottle of wine.

The Tabernacle and Temple worship in Old Testament Israel portrayed the beauty of Christ.