

Perfected by One Offering.

Shalom,

The Torah portion for this week is from **Leviticus 1:1 to 5:26**. I have to confess that, when reading through the Scriptures, I have not been inclined to view Leviticus as very exciting reading, but more like it is material that is included in Torah and, therefore, I am obligated to read it. I feel certain that I have not been alone in that sentiment. I'm pretty certain that many just quickly scan the pages, or read it very rapidly, as it may seem unimportant to born again believers in Messiah. It is very detailed and, with our natural minds, it can be difficult to see its significance. **The fact is, however, that just as all of Torah is foundational, so this portion of scripture is vital to our understanding of the ways of our God,** and without these instructions we could never realize the magnificence, nor the preciousness of the sacrifice of Yeshua. We could never fully value His complete priestly work of atonement and remission of sin that can only be accomplished through the shedding of His own blood.

2 Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

The concept of blood sacrifice was well known to the children of Israel, as well as the other people of the Middle East, as it had been a part of their culture and practice, but it had become filled with demonically inspired perversions filled with magic, evil practices and incantations of darkness. When YHWH taught His children of His commanded sacrifices, He sanctified the practice and removed all of the carnality of paganism. The Father raised the sacrificial offering to a way of worship on a purely spiritual plane. He taught His people to **draw near to Him**, by the shedding of blood while doing *teshuvah* (repentance) and making restitution.

He taught them, and us, that **we may approach Him in His absolute holiness only with the shedding of blood, and He pointed us to a perfect fulfillment through the blood of the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world.** If we approach His teaching as merely a religious exercise, and view it with a natural understanding, we will miss the glorious truth of His love, because each offering shows us part of His perfect plan to dwell in the midst of us, and the way for us to live in His reconciliation and shalom.

His offerings, or *qorban*, comes from the word, *qarav*, and means **to draw near**. It seems to me that this describes God's plan for us, and makes it clearer than the word, sacrifice. These offerings are shown in the first three chapters of Leviticus.

The **olah** (burnt-offering), also called the elevation offering indicates the living sacrifice of self in surrender to the will of God

The **sh'lamim** (peace offering) is a sacrifice of thanksgiving showing gratitude for His mercy and provision.

The **chatat** (sin offering) shows sorrow for having missed the mark and a turning back to God for reconciliation.

The **minchah** (meal offering) is the presentation of the work of our hands to Him as a representation of the fruit that true repentance produces.

The **asham** (guilt offering) is a less understood offering involving, not only confession of our sins against God, or sins against other men, but **often requires restitution as well.**

Ephesians 2:13 (TLV) ¹³ But now in Messiah Yeshua, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of the Messiah.

As you can see, each of these offerings is but a part of the complete will of God for us, and the blood of Levitical sacrifice looks forward to the once-for-all atoning and remitting blood of Yeshua the Messiah. **There is certainly no offering for sin, no offering for wholeness, nor for reconciliation, but the offering of the precious blood of the perfect, undefiled Son of the living God. This is the revelation every person, especially Messianic believers, should receive from studying the book of Leviticus.**

There is so much to learn concerning each type of sacrifice, but the greatest truth is how they all speak of the ministry of our High Priest who offered His own blood for the remission of sin, and who ever lives to make intercession for us. **We can also see, however, that as the people of God, there are requirements of trust and obedience placed on those who receive the gracious benefits of God's love through the sacrifice of His Own Son.**

Let's trust that as we read and meditate the instructions given in Leviticus, that **the truth that the Father has placed there for us will be revealed to us, that our understanding may be enlightened and that we may know the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in us and the exceeding greatness of His power to us.** I believe that we will more fully receive the things of the Spirit of God through our spirit which is the essential nature of the new creation in Him. May our worship be pleasing unto Him.

*Hebrews 10:8-14 (TLV) ⁸ After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sin offerings You did not desire, nor did You delight in them" (those which are offered according to Torah), ⁹ then He said, "Behold, I come to do Your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ **By His will we have been made holy through the offering of the body of Messiah Yeshua once for all.***

*¹¹ Indeed, every kohen stands day by day serving and offering the same sacrifices again and again, which can never take away sins. ¹² But on the other hand, when this One offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God— ¹³ waiting from then on, until His enemies are made a footstool for His feet. ¹⁴ **For by one offering He has perfected forever those being made holy.***

Rom 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

Join us to learn the Authority of the Believer each Thursday evening at 6:30pm in Granby.

Forgiven and reconciled,

Terry