

## Week 3

### The ABC's of Priestly Work - Levitical Structure and the Modes of Sacrifice

#### Review

- Two questions loomed large in the lives of the delivered Israelites:  
How do we live in relationship with the Covenant King? *and* How do we live as God's people in the world?
- In their relationship with God, the Israelites received stipulations including a series of laws and regulations for their relationship with him. These stipulations were distinctly \_\_\_\_\_ and were intended for their \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- The Israelites had to come to terms with the reality of their \_\_\_\_\_ and their \_\_\_\_\_. These things created distance in their relationship with God and an ongoing need for forgiveness.
- The kindness and grace of God is displayed in his giving of the law and his provision of atonement. In addition to their need for forgiveness of sin, the Israelites also had to address their ritual states, which were also an effect of their fallen nature. The three ritual states were \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- For sin and ritual uncleanness, God offered a system of sacrifice and atonement. This system was also a display of God's kindness and grace. Atonement in Leviticus serves as a "ransom-purification" whereby the endangerment and pollution of sin and impurity are addressed.

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#### The Beauty of God's Ransom

##### The characteristics of a ransom payment:

- Ransom was a legally or ethically legitimate payment.
- Delivered a guilty party from a just punishment that it is the right of the offended party to execute.
- The ransom was often a lesser punishment than was originally expected.
- It was up to the offended party whether or not to accept the payment.
- Acceptance of the payment served to rescue the life of the guilty and to appease the offended party, thus restoring peace to the relationship.

*Discussion Question: How are these things true in the Levitical system? To ask another way, how do these characteristics inform our reading about sacrifice and atonement in Leviticus?*

## **Offerings to the Lord**

Leviticus describes \_\_\_\_\_ major offerings, each with its own characteristics, process and purpose. While each offering has its own unique emphasis, they all have common and overlapping elements, especially the use of \_\_\_\_\_ and “\_\_\_\_\_.”

The five types:

### Burnt Offering

Emphasis

General Procedure (Leviticus 1)

Proper handling, eating or disposal of the offerings (Leviticus 6:8-13)

Grain Offering

Emphasis

General Procedure (Leviticus 2)

Proper handling, eating or disposal of the offerings (Leviticus 6:14-23)

Peace/Fellowship Offering

Emphasis

General Procedure (Leviticus 3)

Proper handling, eating or disposal of the offerings (Leviticus 7:11-36)

Sin/Purification Offering

Emphasis

General Procedure (Leviticus 4:1-5:13)

Proper handling, eating or disposal of the offerings (Leviticus 6:24-30)

Guilt/Reparation Offering

Emphasis

General Procedure (Leviticus 5:14-6:7)

Proper handling, eating or disposal of the offerings (Leviticus 7:1-10)

*Discussion Questions:*

- *What are your initial impressions when you survey these five types of offerings? What do they say about God and what do they say about his people?*
- *Which of the characteristics of the redeeming God do you see in these offerings and where do you see them? (justice, mercy, grace, kindness, righteousness, holiness and love)*
- *Many of these offerings underscored the Israelite's worship and prayers to God and their fellowship relationship with him. How should the importance and priority of this process inform us in our worship today?*
- *How does the sacrifice of Jesus change how we understand the offerings and our standing before God? (See Ephesians 5:2)*