

OLD TESTAMENT SACRIFICES/ OFFERINGS

Sacrifice was an act of atonement. If man wanted to have relationship with God, it was very costly. Under the old covenant at the tabernacle, 2 types of sacrifices were offered – saraph (foul-smelling) and gatar (sweet-smelling). The former were offered to account for sin, the latter were offered as expressions of worshipfulness toward God. “Gatar” means a sweet smelling odor rising UP to God. “Saraph” means to consume with intense heat, signified wrath coming DOWN



SARAPH (SHAMEFUL/ FOUL-SMELLING) SACRIFICES



GATAR (PLEASING/ SWEET-SMELLING SACRIFICES)

SIN OFFERING

WHAT: The sin offering offered expiation for sins. It atoned for the guilt of the sinners. It dealt with the guilt brought upon a person due to his sin. The atonement offered by the sacrifice relieved the offeror from his guilt before God

HOW: The blood was sprinkled in the holy place, on the horns of the altar of incense, and the bottom of the brazen altar. Fat and kidneys were burned on the altar, the rest was burned outside the camp.

BURNT OFFERING

WHAT: The burnt offering was a sweet aroma to the Lord, involving total consecrated sacrifice of an animal. The sacrifice to God by Christ was a COMPLETE and total sacrifice. The giving of our lives to Christ is a COMPLETE and total consecration.

HOW: Offeror lays a hand on the head of the animal~ transferring the benefits of the subsequent offering to the offeror. Animal is killed and placed upon the altar, is burned in its entirety, offered as a complete and total offering to God.

TRESPASS OFFERING

WHAT: The trespass/guilt offering offered expiation for sins against both God and other men. While the sin offering dealt with the guilt of the sinner, the trespass offering emphasized reparation from the sin committed. Its goal was reconciliation.

HOW: The animal was killed, its blood sprinkled on the inner sides of the altar. The kidneys, fat, and rump were burned on the altar and the remainder was partaken by the priests.

GRAIN OFFERING

WHAT: The grain offering was a sweet smelling sacrifice which involved the offeror giving cooked or uncooked bread. It had to include fine flour, frankincense, oil, and salt. It emphasized the covenant relationship with the Lord: God takes care of His people.

HOW: The priest takes handful off the grain and burns it on the altar (a memorial portion).. The remainder of the offering goes to feed the priests and their families.

PEACE OFFERING

WHAT: The peace offering was a celebration of peace ALREADY made with God. This sacrifice served primarily as a communion supper between God and His people, celebrating the covenant he had made making reconciliation possible.

HOW: The animal could be chosen by the offeror, because it was to be shared in a covenant meal with the Lord. Contrary to the burnt offering, only the fat and kidneys were offered to the Lord were sacrificed in this offering. The remainder of the animal was eaten between the priests and offerors.