

The Old Testament Sacrificial System

Name	Reference	Elements	Significance
Burnt Offering	Leviticus 1; 6:8-13	Bull, ram, male goat, male dove, or young pigeon without blemish (Always male animals, but species of animal varied according to individual's economic status)	Voluntary; signifies propitiation for sin and complete surrender, devotion, and commitment to God
Grain Offering	Leviticus 2; 6:14-23	Grain, flour, or bread (always unleavened) made with olive oil and salt; or incense	Voluntary; signifies thanksgiving for firstfruits
Peace Offering	Leviticus 3; 7:11-36; 22:17-30; 27	Any animal without blemish (Species of animal varied according to individual's economic status)	Voluntary; symbolizes fellowship with God
Sin Offering	Leviticus 4:1-5:13; 6:24-30; 12:6-8	Male or female animal without blemish (Species of animal varied according to individual's economic status)	Mandatory; made by one who had sinned unintentionally or was unclean in order to attain purification
Guilt Offering	Leviticus 5:14-6:7; 7:1-6; 14:12-18	Ram or lamb without blemish	Mandatory; made by a person who had either deprived another of his rights or had desecrated something holy



UNIT 1: The Need for Atonement **DATE:** February 1, 2015

LESSON 5: "Sacrifices, Part 2" (Leviticus 5; Hebrews 9, 13)

NEXT WEEK: Unit 2, "The Atonement Foreshadowed"
Lesson 6, "Water from the Rock" (Exodus 17)

OVERVIEW

"I must act in a holy manner, not for reward or appearance, but because of God's nature. The Law continually reminds me that commandments are to be kept, not for their own sake, but for God's sake. I will be righteous then, because God's nature is such. His character determines my conduct."

~ Jim Elliot (1927-1956)

INTRODUCTION

- The Lord was interested in preserving the _____ of His people because He wanted their hearts to reflect His heart.
- These stringent categories of "clean" and "unclean" helped get across God's _____.
- For the Israelites, _____ was truly next to godliness.

**WE NEED ATONEMENT TO _____
OUR HEARTS (LEVITICUS 5:1-13; HEBREWS 13:11-12).**

- God takes _____ seriously. He wants His people to be set apart for His purposes. A holy God desires a holy people.

- The _____ offering was God’s provision of purification for those who were unclean.
- Before the guilty party offered the animal to the priest to be sacrificed, _____ had to occur.
- The sin offering was designed to _____ the “uncleanness” of the worshiper to the animal being sacrificed.
- The sin offering points ahead to _____, who became the sin offering in our place in order to purify our hearts and make us holy (Heb. 13:11-12).
- **Application:** When you and I accept *the great transfer*, our filth is replaced with faith. Our guilt is exchanged for grace. Jesus takes our contamination, and in return, we take His cleanliness. In the Father’s eyes, you and I are as pure and holy as Jesus Himself.

**WE NEED ATONEMENT TO _____
OUR CONSCIENCES (LEVITICUS 5:14-19; HEBREWS 9:13-14).**

- The _____ offering alleviated the consciences of those whose sin damaged others.

- This offering was intended to restore the _____ of the offender with the victim. In doing so, the conscience was cleansed and the community was restored.
- The New Testament shows how Christ’s atoning work cleanses our consciences so we are freed to _____ God on His mission (Hebrews 9:13-14).
- **Application:** Service is the only appropriate response to reparation. When we are truly aware and appreciative of the gracious gift of God, our gratitude will drive us to share this gift of grace with others. The blessing of a clean conscience must overflow into blessing for an unclean world!

CONCLUSION

- Purification and restitution always lead to evangelization.
- The sacrifices of the Old Testament are incredibly relevant for us today. They send us to Jesus, who sends us to the world!