

Part 3 – Consecration: Sin and Burnt Offerings

Exodus 29

13 And thou shalt take all the fat that covereth the inwards, and the caul that is above the liver, and the two kidneys, and the fat that is upon them, and burn them upon the altar.

14 But the flesh of the bullock, and his skin, and his dung, shalt thou burn with fire without the camp: it is a sin offering.

There's two important points in these verses. Note first that all the fat covering the inwards along with the caul (lobe) above the liver and the two kidneys (and the fat on them) were to be burned on the altar. Why did God want the fat and the kidneys? On a physical level, fat is not fit to eat, nor are any of the 'inwards' of the animal. So, they were never to be eaten God. But spiritually, fat is likened to a hardened heart. Fat is the closest thing that covers our 'inside parts' of our physical body. Likewise, does being stubborn and rebellious cover our heart, which makes us unable to truly see how sinful we are inside. Self-righteousness and hypocrisy come from a 'fatty' heart that is too prideful, stubborn and rebellious for one to see who they really are. Consider the following scriptures that describe this...

9 From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about.

10 They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly.

Ps 17:9-10

The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

Prov 11:25

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

9 And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.

10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Isa 6:8-10

Why are their hearts 'fat', ears 'heavy' and eyes 'shut'?...

*10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.***

11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

*12 That they all might be damned **who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.***

2 Thess 2:10-12

Those who don't love the truth, love lies. And those who love lies are those who have a 'fatty' heart. Thus, our Heavenly Father allows them to be chastised through the course of their own sinful actions, in hopes that they will eventually repent. A heart that loves lies is 'padded' by lies, just as the fat surrounds the inside organs (inward parts) of our flesh body. This is why a heart is likened to...

69 The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart.

70 Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy law.

Ps 119:69-70

Indeed, when we remain stubborn and rebellious (and prideful) our heart is 'covered' with lies and God likens our delusion (believing in lies) to the fat that covers our inside organs. Therefore, He required the physical fat to be given to Him in the physical sacrifices because it describes what He wants us to do spiritually: circumcise our heart by cutting off the pride, selfishness, stubbornness, rebelliousness, hypocrisy and self-righteousness *that covers the true intentions (and feelings) of our heart*. Our Heavenly Father expresses this very well in the great book of Joel...

*12 Therefore also now, saith the LORD, **turn ye even to me with all your heart**, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:*

*13 And **rend your heart, and not your garments**, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.*

Joel 2:12-13

God wants us to stop being stubborn and rebellious *and repent*. He wants us to turn to Him with all our heart, which means to be sincere. He calls us to rend (tear open) our heart and not our garments (which was a sign of mourning or grieving in those days). If we do so, then He will forgive us and 'repent' (change His mind) about what chastisements (punishments) He was going to give us because the whole point for chastising is to bring us to repentance (Heb 12). Indeed, our God (YHWH) is very gracious, merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness (Neh 9:17, Ps 103:8, 145:8). But He does not appreciate rebellion and He won't put up with it forever because those who are rebellious to Him are harming His other children (and themselves). Now, consider what is promised to happen to those whose heart remains fat (who refuse to repent and 'circumcise' their heart) ...

But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the LORD shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.

Ps 37:20

God's Word is a consuming fire (Deut 4:24, 9:3, Heb 12:29) and it will thus 'burn away' all the 'fat' (lies) from the heart of those who are wicked (Jer 4:4, Nah 1:6, Ps 89:46, Jer 23:29). This is the spiritual 'burning' the Bible warns us about and it will be fulfilled when Jesus Christ returns (Mth 13:40-50, 25:41-46, Lk 12:50-53). 2 Thess 2:9 promises that the *Wicked shall be revealed*,

whom the Lord **shall consume with the spirit of his mouth**, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming. Yet, even before Jesus returns, Satan's lies will be 'burnt away' by His servants in these latter days (Mk 13:9, Mth 24:9, Lk 21:12-19, Rev 11:3-13) for the express purpose of exposing Satan for the fraud (liar and evil basted) he really is while showing the truth about our Heavenly Father's righteous, Holy, loving, gracious, merciful, kind, slow to anger character, which Satan has been lying about for so many years (even from the first earth age, as Ez 28, Isa 14 and Rev 12 explain).

So, in the physical sacrifices, God requires the fat to be cut off and given it to Him. And this symbolized that He wants us to (in modern terms) cut the 'bs' and 'get real' with Him. He says this another way in Deut 10:16 when Moses stated: *Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked*. Again, the fat symbolizes a hardened heart which keeps us in sin because it covers the intents of our heart: it keeps us delusional because we think we are righteous when we're really not (self-righteous hypocrites). A 'fatty heart' is a rebellious heart that remains stubborn and thus, remains in sin. This is what habitual sinners are and why they will not be accepted by Jesus Christ – for they have not accepted Him *in sincerity*. Conversely, those who circumcise their heart (cut off the rebellious and stubbornness of their heart) will see who they really are and continue to repent each time the Word of God convicts them. They grieve over their sins and this is why Ps 51:17 says, *a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise*. Ps 34:18 also says that *the LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit*. Isa 57:15 also tells us that God dwells *with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones*. Isa 66:2 also says that the Lord (YHVH) will *'look' to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word*. Psalms 15 supports these scriptures and also gives a list of characteristics that those who will be in God's government (dwelling on His Holy Hill in His Tabernacle) will have. Our Heavenly Father clearly respects those who are not self-righteous hypocrites but rather, keep humble and strive to obey Him. In fact, Jesus taught this over and over again throughout the Gospels and He warned the disciples to be careful about picking up the hypocrisy of the religious leaders of their day (Lk 21:1). This same hypocrisy is still active in our day and age as are the many traditions of the 'elders' that make void God's Word (Mth 15:2-9). We still need to be on guard not to spiritually pick any of it up into our heart lest we get a 'fatty heart' because, as Ps 37:20 warns, *they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away*.

Now, let's look at these verses again to glean the second point...

Exodus 29

13 And thou shalt take all the fat that covereth the inwards, and the caul that is above the liver, and the two kidneys, and the fat that is upon them, and burn them upon the altar.

*14 But the flesh of the bullock, and his skin, and his dung, shalt thou burn with fire **without the camp**: it is a sin offering*

Next, we see the flesh, skin and dung of the bullock were to be taken *outside the camp* and burnt as a 'sin offering'. We're given a few more details elsewhere...

11 And the skin of the bullock, and all his flesh, with his head, and with his legs, and his inwards, and his dung,

12 Even the whole bullock shall he carry forth without the camp unto a clean place, where the ashes are poured out, and burn him on the wood with fire: where the ashes are poured out shall he be burnt.

Lev 4:11-12

27 And the bullock for the sin offering, and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall one carry forth without the camp; and they shall burn in the fire their skins, and their flesh, and their dung.

28 And he that burneth them shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water; and afterward he shall come into the camp.

Lev 16:27-28

So, even the head and the inwards (guts) of the animal were to be burnt outside the camp, along with the hide, meat, bones, etc. The only part that was to be burnt on the fire was the fat that covered the inwards, the caul above the liver and the two kidneys (along with the fat that was on them). Again, this symbolizes that God wants us to remove our hardened heart (stubborn and rebellious) and expose our inward parts to Him. The purpose, of course, is to allow His Holy Word and Holy Spirit to cleanse our heart.

16 Wash you, make you clean [John 15:3]; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

20 But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Isa 1:16-20

So, we have learned (from the Scriptures) what the significance of the fat He wanted to be burnt on the altar is, but why would the rest of the animal have to be taken *outside* the camp and be burnt? Remember, this is a sin offering and the sin offering was not to be eaten (like was allowed with the peace offerings). This is because God does not accept our sin. He hates sin; it is disgusting to Him (Prov 6:16-19, Zech 8:17, Amos 5:15, 21, 6:8, Jer 44:4, Isa 61:8). People cannot truly gain anything from their sin, because *the wages of sin is death* (Rom 6:23). Our sin must be taken away and burnt totally, consumed away like the ‘fat of the lamb’ in Psalms 37:20. This symbolizes that our carnal nature (the old man) within all of us must be taken away (outside the ‘camp’ of our soul) and burnt. We do this simply by allowing God’s Word (which is likened to a fire in Jer 23:29) to burn out the sin in our heart. It’s important to understand what sin does:

it removes us from God's presence. And, in God's Law, people who did certain grievous sins were to be 'put out of the camp'. This means they lost their citizenship in the kingdom of Israel or they were to be killed. Either way they were cut off from God. We have several examples of this. Recall back to Exodus 12 where we learned about the laws of the Passover lamb...

*Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for **whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel**, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land.*

Ex 12:19

Regardless if you were an Israelite or a different race, anyone who kept leaven in their house was to be 'cut off' from the congregation (the kingdom) of Israel. This is because leaven is symbolic of sin (Lk 12:1) and all those who didn't get physical leaven out of their houses at that time were to be 'cut off' from the congregation. This meant they had to leave the camp. In other words, they had to be 'outside the camp' – they were not allowed to be a part of Israelite society anymore *due to their sin*. Again, our own sins cut us off from our Creator, God Almighty, who is our Heavenly Father...

1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

4 None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

Isa 59:1-4

Another example of people being 'cut off' from God (which we learned some about previously) is found in Exodus 30:31-38, where God explained to Moses how to make a special mix of spices and oils for an 'anointing oil' and a 'perfume' that was to be used *only* in the Temple. He put what we would call a 'patent' on the 'recipe' and firmly stated anyone found using the 'recipe' was to be 'cut off' from his people. Having sole rights to use this recipe in the Temple was so important to God that anyone who used it would be kicked out (cut off) of the nation, which meant they would lose their citizenship and they would have to move out of the nation!

And in Leviticus 7 we see that anyone who ate of the peace offering while being physically 'unclean' was to be cut off from the nation (vs 20), as well as anyone who ate the fat of any animal (vs 25) or the blood (vs 27). These are but a few (of many) examples; there were many reasons Israelites could lose their citizenship and our Heavenly Father took even the physical health laws extremely serious because He did not want His people to be a nation of sickly people.

*5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:
6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.*
Ex 19:5-6

God wants those who serve Him to be healthy both physically and spiritually. And Israel was to be a nation of servants (priests); He gave them His Laws so they would know how to be happy, healthy and righteous. Remember what He said in Exodus 15?

And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.
Ex 15:26

God ‘puts’ diseases upon people by *allowing them to continue in their sin*. He promised to keep Israel away from the diseases of Egypt and His means for doing so was giving them the health laws and enforcing them with a ‘big stick’. Today we might think losing one’s citizenship for eating the fat of an animal is a bit ‘tough’ but God’s Laws are righteous and we do not have to look far in our own nation (or any of the ‘Western’ Christian nations) to see *why* God was so strict about the health laws. Having a nation that is full of sickly (and obese) people is truly a national catastrophe. It impacts our ability to protect ourselves when our men of fighting age are too obese (or sick) to fight. It impacts our ability to find people to work in jobs that require manual labor when most everyone is too fat or too sick to work hard. STD’s, homosexuality (or any sexual perversions) and children out of wedlock bring about similar problems in society. As Deut 28 and Lev 26 testify, if we would just obey God’s Laws we would be blessed and not cursed. And the health laws, statutes, judgments nor commandments have not been done away with; only the blood sacrifices (which we are learning about) were to stop happening because the true Sacrifice (Jesus Christ) already came to fulfill them (Mth 5:17).

To reiterate, our sin cuts us off from being a part of God’s Kingdom and, eventually, it will cut us off from life itself. *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord* (Rom 6:23). It is by the grace of God that our Heavenly Father provided the means for our salvation by literally coming to this earth to die for us Himself (Heb 2:14-18). *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends* (John 15:13). And, as we learned in part 2 of this chapter, God also expects us to sacrifice for Him. And we must sacrifice the ‘carnal’ part within all of us. So, the taking of the animal’s head, meat, hide and the rest of the ‘inwards’ outside the camp and burning it, reveals to us how God wants us to get rid of our ‘old man’ and put on the ‘new man’. Our old nature (carnal mind [heart] with all the selfish, lustful and prideful inclinations) must be ‘burnt without the camp’, just as our dear Savior was also burn without the camp. Paul explained this ever so well...

8 *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

9 *Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that **the heart be established with grace** [the Holy Spirit]; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. [blood sacrifices cannot change your heart but God's Holy Spirit and Word can]*

10 *We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. [1 Cor 11:26-30]*

11 *For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp.*

12 ***Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.***

13 *Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. [we must crucify our 'old' man, the carnal mind – Lk 9:23, Rom 8:7]*

14 *For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. [New Jerusalem, Rev 3:12]*

15 ***By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.***

16 ***But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.***
Heb 13:8-16

Truly, Jesus Christ was the ultimate fulfillment for all the ordinances (blood sacrifices and rituals) for all times (Heb 10:10). Therefore, just as the sin offering was to be taken 'outside the camp', so too was He taken 'without the camp' and crucified (Mth 27:31-33, John 10:15-18). Yet, we also must go 'without the camp' if we want to be allowed into His presence. How do we do this? The Holy Spirit (through Paul) has told us elsewhere (of course) ...

1 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*

2 *God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

3 *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?*

4 *Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*

5 *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:*

6 *Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.***

7 *For **he that is dead is freed from sin**.*

8 *Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:*

9 *Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.*

10 *For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

11 ***Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

12 ***Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.***

13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

Rom 6:1-13

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

*12 **Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.***

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Col 2:10-15

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Personal Savior and King, we accept the sacrifice(s) He made for us, and this includes the ultimate sacrifice of His Life. We then get baptized physically, not because the physical water does anything for us but, because it symbolizes how we are committed to crucifying the ‘old man’ each day (Lk 9:23) so that God can raise a ‘new man’ in our soul, which is patterned after Jesus Christ (Col 3:10). Baptism shows we are committed to living in a ‘newness’ of life which is patterned after Jesus Christ. Just as Jesus rose from the dead, so too a ‘new man’ will rise from us as we learn how to crucify the ‘old man’ daily (Lk 9:23, 1 Cor 15:31).

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Rom 6:6

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Eph 4:22

Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Col 3:9

23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

Luke 9:23

Our ‘old man’ is taken ‘without the camp’ every time we refuse to let it control us. Every time we kick out a bad thought, a bad desire, pride, lust, selfishness, or refuse to harden our heart when God’s Word pricks our conscience. Every time we repent for falling short. Every time study God’s Word and understand more of God’s Word and learn to apply it to ourselves. And even when we plant seeds of truth to others... **the ‘old man’ is buried each and every day we stay committed to living for Jesus Christ in a ‘newness of life’**. And when we fail, we can still burn that ‘old man’ by repenting wholeheartedly and picking up again - ‘crucifying’ the old man, taking him out of the camp (symbolic of our soul where the Holy Spirit resides) and burning Him with truth. Being a Christian is not just a change in life style, it is a change in priorities, it’s a change in the way you think and what you desire. And you must stick with it. Each and every day we must remain committed to serving Jesus Christ with all our heart. We cannot give up or get tired. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not (Gal 6:9).

Now, why was the body of the animal burned outside the camp? It symbolizes how we are to ‘burn the ‘old man’ out of us...

Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?
Jer 23:29

*Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, **I will make my words in thy mouth fire**, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.*
Jer 5:14

God’s Word burns the ‘old man’ out of our heart and takes our old nature out of God’s presence. Because our Savior was taken outside the camp and crucified, therefore He gives us the ability (through His Word and His Holy Spirit) to take our carnal ‘old man’ (the animal within all of us) outside the camp (out of God’s presence) and burn it with His precious word. Indeed, the imagery and symbolism of the sacrifices are so beautifully portrayed for us to learn from, much like a picture book for a child.

23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.
Gal 3:23-25

We don’t perform those ritualistic blood sacrifices anymore but oh how wonderful a schoolmaster they still are! Long before Jesus’ actual sacrifice, God laid the groundwork of instruction (our schoolmaster), so we would thoroughly understand and truly appreciate what has

been done to provide salvation for us. Although we are so very much undeserving, He has still provided a way to gain access to Him, to receive forgiveness and strength...

*14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold fast our profession.***

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Heb 4:14-16

Note that, in order for us to receive the Salvation Jesus Christ gives us, we must hold fast (hold tightly) to our ‘profession’, which is the Gospel of Jesus Christ – it’s God’s Word. We must hold God’s Word tightly in our heart and in our mind, IF we want salvation. This is why Moses said that *the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, **and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it*** (Deut 30:14).

Exodus 29

15 Thou shalt also take one ram; and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the ram.

16 And thou shalt slay the ram, and thou shalt take his blood, and sprinkle it round about upon the altar.

17 And thou shalt cut the ram in pieces, and wash the inwards of him, and his legs, and put them unto his pieces, and unto his head.

*18 And thou shalt burn the whole ram upon the altar: it is a **burnt offering** unto the LORD: it is a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD.*

Now we come to a different offering. And, not only was it a different animal, it was a different offering all together. The offering we just covered was a ‘sin offering’ while this one is a ‘burnt offering’. These offerings can be confusing but it’s only because the difference in them is not often taught nor is the spiritual significance taught (i.e., what the point of the blood sacrifices were). Today, as back then, God’s people *are destroyed for lack of knowledge* (Hos 4:6). So, what’s the difference in the sacrifices? Consider the brief review below...

- 1) **Burnt offering** – this offering was to be without blemish and a **voluntary offering** (Lev 1:3) where the entire animal was burnt in fire (Ex 29:19). There was no thought of sin in this offering but it was given out of love and devotion to God. It is thus symbolic of the way God wants to be **worshiped** for He wants our *total devotion* and wants it to be *voluntary*. And, because it was voluntary, it was a ‘sweet savor’ to God (Lev 1:9). Lev 1 explains how the animal for a burnt offering had a particular order it was to be cut up and laid onto the fire, which teaches us a lot through symbolism for it explains how God wants us to **approach Him in prayer**. Just as the animal was to be cut open and its innards taken out, washed and carefully laid on the altar... so too are we to ‘spill our

guts' to God in prayer, allow His Spirit and Word to cleanse us (John 15:3) and lay our desires (will) on the alter to Him (thus submitting to His will for us). He wants us to sincerely look inside at our thoughts, intents, emotions and actions. We must be willing dissect our own mind and soul (and cut out any sins we see) and allow God's Holy Spirit to burnt us with conviction just as the animal was dissected and then wholly burnt in fire. This burnt offering as nothing is held back nor reserved for oneself. This indeed is how God wants us to worship Him -sincerely, *unselfishly* and with truth in our heart and mind (John 4:23-24).

- 2) **Sin offering** – this offering was to have no blemish (Lev 4:3), to be burnt with fire *outside the camp* (Ex 29:14) and addresses no specific sins (Lev 4), which tells us that the purpose of this offering was to atone for the ***sins of the heart***. In Mark 7:18-23 and Mth 15:27-28, Jesus tells us that sin starts in our mind. Therefore, if you want to stop sin, you must clean your heart before it manifests into a physical action of sin. Because this sin offering **was to be made outside the camp**, it symbolizes the way God will deal with us directly for the sins of our heart (outside the camp symbolizes being outside of man's governance). No one but God can read our heart. He only delegated governments the right to judge our *actions*. True forgiveness of sin (in the heart) must be sought directly to God (1 John 1:8-9). This is why Esau was not forgiven; he only 'repented' to his earthly father, not to our Heavenly Father (Heb 12:16-17).
- 3) **Trespass offering** – this offering was also to have no blemish (Lev 6:6) and the priest made atonement inside the camp (Lev 6:7). This offering addresses no specific offender but does give us specific sins or behaviors (Lev 5), which tells us that this offering atones for the ***sins of evil behavior***. Thus, God delegated government to deal with sins that were fruits of evil nature. Governments are able to make diligent search (via trials) to see if someone really did commit murder, adultery, theft and so forth. Those are sins that mankind can judge because they are sins of our actions. However, it's important to recognize that God can (and does) judge and execute justice for ***both*** sins of the heart and sins of our actions. Case in point can be found in the book of Acts, chapter 5 when a man and his wife stole from God (and lied about it) and were both struck down dead *by the Holy Spirit*. As Heb 10:31 says: *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God*.
- 4) **Meat Offering** - Over the years the word *meat* has evolved to now mean (most often) "flesh" but the King James calls it the "meat" offering because, in the seventeenth century this indicated food in general. So really, a better term for this offering would be "meal" as it more accurately describes the main ingredient of this offering—finely ground flour. Leviticus 2:1 tells us that, in addition to fine flour, the meal offering also contains oil and frankincense. Also, in the 'meat offering' no life is sacrificed, unlike the other offerings. While, in the blood sacrifices, blood (which is life of the animal and thus symbolic of your life) was offered, in the meal offering its fruit of the ground that is offered. However, the meal offering is similar to the burnt offering in that they both are a meal being set before God. But, the meal offering was not only a gift to God; there was also a

sense of it being the **personal property** of the offeror, the fruit of his own labor given to God (Exodus 23:16; Lev 22:25). The ‘meal offering’ was also a ‘sweet savor’ to God (Lev 2:9) and (also like the burnt offering) contained no thought of sin. ***It thus represents man in perfect obedience giving God a sacrifice that He accepts as pleasing to Him.***

- 5) **Peace offering** – is another ‘sweet-savor’ offering, which tells us that no sin is involved in it, and it’s therefore ‘most satisfying’ to God. Lev 3:5 shows us an aspect of the ritual that teaches us about its purpose. It was burnt upon (on top of) the burnt sacrifice, which in turn had the meal offering on top of it. They were not necessarily layered like a sandwich and then all burned at the same time but the burnt offering was made first, then followed by the meal offering and then the peace offering *on the same fire*. The peace offering then had to be offered *after* the other two were already burning. (Scriptures don’t tell us exactly how long, but it couldn’t have very long since the same fire was used.) This shows us that it takes our total devotion (commitment) to God before we can be at peace with Him. This commitment must include loving (serving) others, for *if a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also* (1 John 4:20-21). Therefore, after we have totally committed ourselves to Him (the burnt offering) and to helping serve the truth to His children (the meal offering), then we can be at peace with Him (the peace offering). The peace offering also shows that God will only be satisfied with us when we learn how to sacrifice our ‘old man’ and love Him and His children *sincerely*. Indeed, true love is sacrificing oneself for others (John 15:13, 1 John 5:17-21). So, the peace offering teaches us, essentially, that peace can only come when we sacrifice our carnal ‘self’ and *willingly* serve God and His children with sincerity (without guile or for self gain).

Now, having understood a bit about the different sacrifices (which, again, we are no longer to perform physically), we can begin to understand the purpose of the next few verses...

Exodus 29

15 Thou shalt also take one ram; and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the ram.

16 And thou shalt slay the ram, and thou shalt take his blood, and sprinkle it round about upon the altar.

17 And thou shalt cut the ram in pieces, and wash the inwards of him, and his legs, and put them unto his pieces, and unto his head.

*18 And thou shalt burn the whole ram upon the altar: it is a **burnt offering** unto the LORD: it is a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the LORD.*

So, once the sin offering (for the Priest's concentration) had been given, sin was paid for. Next, there was to be a burnt offering, which symbolized the total devotion that the priests of God were to have to YHVH. Of course, Jesus' devotion to God was perfect and included not only His entire life, but also His death and resurrection. Moreover, we see how the apostles of Christ were also extremely devoted to God. The book of Acts reveals the sufferings they made to establish the Church. Steven even lost his life (Acts 7) and Paul suffered much to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 11). These are all spiritual 'burnt offerings' that the 'new' priesthood made for God, and it continues to this day. This is explained very well in 1 Peter 4:1-2, which states: *forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.*

So, the priests were to put their hands on the ram, which symbolically transferred their total devotion to the ram (sin was not a part of the burnt offering, remember). His blood was taken and put around the altar while the body was cut in pieces, the inwards and legs washed and put in order upon the altar. This, again, shows us that to be completely devoted to our God (YHVH) we must be willing to shed the 'old man's blood' and clean our 'inward parts' (heart and mind) with the Living Water, which is the Holy Spirit who helps us understand the Word of God. From the inside out, top to bottom this ram was to be completely devoted to God. The meaning of the word 'ram' helps us to see the spiritual connotation for the choosing of the ram (male sheep) ...

'**Ram**' is #352 and means: **strength**; hence, **anything strong**; specifically, *a chief (politically); also a ram* (from his strength); *a pilaster* (as a strong support); *an oak or other strong tree*.

While the lamb (a baby sheep) represents passive, uncomplaining submission (even in suffering) and following without reservation, the ram signifies *strength*. The ram was the strongest of the sheep, signifying that we should get our 'strength' from the one true sacrifice, Jesus Christ. Isaiah 53:7 says that Jesus Christ *was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth*. In Romans 8, this symbolism is directly applied...

33 *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

34 *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*

35 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

36 *As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

37 *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

38 *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 8:33-39

God expects us to follow the example of our Leader (Jesus Christ) and others who have gone before us. We are to be submissive to our Heavenly Father, and His son, Jesus Christ but strong as a ram to the world, *for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places* (Eph 6:12). Jesus said it another way in Matt 10:16 when He said to the disciples: *Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.* And Phil 2:14-15 further explains we are to *do all things without murmurings and disputing's: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world.* Again, we are to be like Jesus Christ, *who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners* (Heb 7:26).

What's also important is that all the sacrifices were to be 'without blemish'. This symbolizes how God wants our sacrifice (our heart) to be *sincere*, not blemished with ulterior motives or guile. The sacrifice being 'without blemish' also looked forward to the perfection of Jesus Christ, who would die for our sins. Because we all sin (Rom 3:10, 23), nothing we do can redeem our own soul (Ps 49:6-8). That's why only Jesus Christ could be the true substitute for our sins (Heb 2:14-) because only He lived a perfect life (1 Pt 2:22). His sinless life was acceptable to God (thankfully) and thus, by God's grace, we are accepted through Jesus Christ.

And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Phil 2:8

So, the animal without blemish looked forward to the sinlessness of the true sacrifice, Jesus Christ and it also symbolized what God expects from us: sincere effort to change our ways and obey Him. Jesus paid our debt of sin *but we are still expected by God to change our heart and strive to obey Him.* In other words, God expects us to put away our stubborn and rebellious heart and truly strive to obey Him sincerely. We must never forget the lessons that these 'shadows' of the blood sacrifices teach us (Heb 10).

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Rev 1:3

We'll pick this up in Part 4...

AMEN.