**Leviticus – Session 2**

**Sacrifice (2)**

Grain Offerings (ch 2)

**Instructions**

v1-3 The uncooked grain offerings

v4-10 The cooked grain offerings

v11-13 Special Instruction

v14-16 First-fruits offering

**Purpose**

1. Provision of daily bread for the priests (Note 1 Cor 9:13)

2. To express dedication and thankfulness to the Lord

The grain offering is a “*Minchah*” – common term for a monetary tribute paid by a vassal king or people

3. To accompany the burnt offerings

**Why must every grain offering include salt?**

Num 18:19 - symbol of an everlasting covenant

Peace or Fellowship offerings (ch 3)

Burnt offering – all went up in smoke

Grain offering – the priests got to eat the bread

Fellowship Offering – everyone got to enjoy the meat

**Instructions (ch 3)**

v1-2 laying hands on the head; slaughter; blood splashed on the altar – like a burnt offering only the animal may be male or female

v3-4 only part of offered to the Lord (internal organs and fat, kidneys and fat, long lobe of the liver)

v5 – these bits burnt on the altar

That’s for a cow or a bull, v6-16 – similar for a lamb or a goat

**Further instructions (ch 7)**

Three reasons for making a fellowship offering

1. To express thankfulness (v12)

2. In connection with a vow (v16)

3. As a freewill offering (v16)

*Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2Co 9:7)*

Strict instructions about eating the meat

v15 – offering of thankfulness – must be eaten the same day

v16 – an offering connected with a vow or a freewill offering – two days to eat it – but v17-18

the whole thing would encourage hospitality and generosity expressing the fellowship between the people of God in joyful celebration - see Deut 12:18; Deut 14:26-29

See Acts 2:45-47

*And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. (Heb 13:16)*

**Two dimensions to the fellowship offering**

* vertical dimension – giving to God – symbolised by the portion that was burnt on the altar
* horizontal dimension – sharing with one another – experienced and expressed in the share meal

1. *The burnt offering – God’s provision for the atonement of sinners – pointing us to the cross of Christ where our sin is atoned for*
2. *The grain offering – a symbol of dedication and devotion – our response to the cross*
3. *The fellowship offering – symbolising the relationships that results from the cross – peace with God and peace with one another – celebrated with thankfulness and generosity*

Sin Offerings (4:1 – 5:13)

Different instructions depending on who has sinned (ch 4)

v3-12 the anointed priest sins – perhaps meaning the high priest

v13-21 the whole community has sinned

v22-26 a leader sins

v27-35 a member of the community sins

Some examples of *‘unintentional’* sin (5:1-4)

v1 – if someone doesn’t testify when they should

v2 – someone unwittingly touches something that makes them unclean

v3 – someone touches human uncleanness and so become unclean

v4 – failure to honour an oath

**unintentional sin**

* it may arise through ignorance or negligence or be sin that lacks intent or premeditation.   
  e.g. Num 35 – it is manslaughter as opposed to murder
* it may arise from carelessness and thoughtlessness – e.g. rash oath
* it may also arise from weakness of character; or even be deliberate – e.g failure to give testimony

Sin may be unintended, but it is still sin. Sin is an objective category.

When it comes to forgiveness for sins, the attitude of our hearts is a vital matter.

* The word translated ‘unintentional’ is related to a verb meaning ‘to go astray’
* The contrast in the OT law is with sinning defiantly – ‘*sinning with a high hand’ (*Num 15:22-31)

Guilt Offerings (5v14 – 6v7)

**When was a guilt offering required?**

1) Sins with regard to the holy things (5:14-16)

2) Sins of disobedience (5:17-19)

3) Sins of unfaithfulness (6:1-6)

1. The failure to look after someone else’s property then refusing to assume responsibility for its loss of damage.
2. Deceiving about something stolen or gaining something by false means
3. Cheating your neighbour
4. Working on the basis of ‘finder keepers’ – finding lost property and lying about it.
5. The swearing of false oaths – either in making a promise or in giving testimony in court.

**What did the guilt offering involve?**

Two dimensions

* a ram must be offered as a penalty for the sin.
* the offender must make restitution – restoring what was due plus an additional 20% as a fine

**What was the point of the guilt offering?**

* It guarded the Israelites against falling into the error of thinking that grace is cheap
* It taught that sin creates a debt with God that requires payment
* It foreshadowed the work of Christ who has paid the full compensation for our sin (Isaiah 53:10)

*God forgave us all our sins,****14****having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. (Col 2:13-14)*