

## LESSON - 6

# BURNT OFFERING

**Reading** : Lev. 1; 6 : 8 - 13

**Memory verses** : Eph. 5 : 1 - 2

**Theme:** Exhort the students of scriptures to offer themselves as sacrifices for God just as Jesus Christ, the substance of all sacrifices offered Himself as burnt offering on the altar of the cross.

**Introduction:** We have learnt that all sacrifices were shadows of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. Which are the five main Levite sacrifices? Which are the sweet savour offering? In the first chapter of Leviticus, we read about the burnt offering. It is also called an offering made by fire. It is pointing towards Jesus who offered Himself completely to God through His spotless life and through His death. God requires of us a complete surrender, too (Rom. 12: 1 -2).

### MAIN POINTS OF STUDY REGARDING THE BURNT OFFERING

#### 1. IT IS TO BE OFFERED VOLUNTARILY

Both the sin offering and the trespass offering must be offered by all compulsorily. But the burnt offering which is a sweet savour offering is brought before the Lord voluntarily. Jesus Christ came down to this world of His own accord to do God's will and make us righteous before God (Phil. 2: 5-8; Psa. 40 : 7 - 8). We must offer ourselves voluntarily before God.

#### 2. SACRIFICIAL ANIMAL

The worshiper is allowed to offer anyone of the following according to his capability: Bullock, sheep, goat, turtle, dove or young pigeon. All these animals and birds represent various characteristics of Christ.

**a) Bullock:** Obeys its master completely and is willing to suffer any hardship for that purpose. Jesus Christ took the form of a servant and suffered at the hands of his own creation, namely, man. Recall what we studied last year about how Mark describes Christ as the servant. He is referred to as servant in: Is, 42:1; Zach. 3:8; Matt. 12:7; Phil. 2: 5-8; Is. 52 : 13. He obeyed His Father like a servant and worked among men also like a slave (John 13: 4-5). Do we have that attitude?



**b) Sheep:** Our Lord suffered afflictions quietly like a sheep before the shearers (Isa. 53: 7; Acts 8: 32). We must suffer persecutions patiently.

**c) Goat:** A goat carries sin of others (Lev. 16 : 21 - 23; Matt. 25 : 32 -41). "Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree". Christ became a curse for us (Gal. 3: 13; 2 Cor. 5 : 21). Goat represents Christ who bears the sins and curses of mankind.

**d) Turtle dove and young pigeon:** These birds are offered by the poor (Lev. 12:8). Christ became poor for our sake (2 Cor. 8:9) Jesus was born in a manger and lived in this world without a place to lay His head (Luke 2 : 7 ; Matt. 8 : 20) Moreover, Like a dove, He cried in pain without anyone coming to help Him. In Gethsamane, "He offered prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears" (Heb 5 : 7; Matt. 26 : 38 - 39). He cried out on the cross: My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me? (Matt. 27 : 46)

### 3. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SACRIFICIAL ANIMAL

**a) Without blemish:** The animal must be without blemish. Jesus who became burnt offering for us was without any blemish. He was proved guiltless before God, before the courts and before the crowd. Father God (Luke 3 : 22), Pilate (John 18 : 38), Pilate's wife (Matt. 27 : 19) Thief on the cross (Luke 23 : 41), Roman Soldier (Luke 23 : 47 ) and others bear witness to this fact.

**b) Male animal:** The meaning is that it must be strong and brave. Jesus Christ is mighty to save (Is. 63 : 1 ; 9 : 6).

### 4 METHOD OF OFFERING

**a)** The worshiper places his hand on the head of the animal. By this act, he admits that he deserves death for his sins and identifies himself with the animal which is going to die on his behalf. We, too, identify ourselves by faith with the death of Jesus Christ.

**b)** The animal is killed. Christ suffered death (1 Cor. 15 : 3 ) which was the wages of our sin (Rom. 6 : 23 ). When we accept this truth by faith, God counts it as our death and justifies us.

**c)** The animal is skinned. It thus loses its own colour. Jesus was counted among trespassers and crucified with thieves. Believers have to forsake their own glory and offer themselves as sacrifices in the presence of the Lord.



**d)** The animal is cut into pieces and placed on the altar. All the members of our body must be offered totally as Jesus offered Himself for us. Head (intelligence, thoughts), fat (strength, energy), inner portions (emotions, desires), feet (walk, way of life) and everything else must be offered to God (Rom. 6 : 13).

**e)** Every thing is burnt in fire, Fire does mainly three things:

i) It fulfills the judgement of God. For example : Sodom (Gen. 19 : 24- 25), Hell (Rev. 20 : 14 - 15). There is no condemnation for us because Christ became a burnt offering on our behalf (Rom. 8 : 1 )

ii) It purifies (Mal. 3: 2 - 3). When we are offered on the altar, we are purified by the divine fire.

iii) It signifies God's acceptance. The acceptance of Elijah's sacrifice was shown by fire (1 Kings 18: 37- 38). When we surrender ourselves before God, He shows His acceptance by imparting the Holy Spirit into us. God accepted the supreme sacrifice of Jesus Christ and raised Him from the dead and exalted Him to the highest position. When we surrender ourselves completely, God is pleased in us. As Apostle Paul said : Now it is not I who lives, but Christ lives in me.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Which are the sacrificial animals used for burnt offering? What are their characteristics?
2. Explain the procedure of the burnt offering.
3. Prove that Christ fulfilled all the requirement of burnt offering.
4. How are the requirement s of burnt offering fullfilled in the life of a believer.