

LESSON - 8

PEACE OFFERING

Reading : Lev. 3 ; 7 : 11 - 37

Memory verses : Eph. 2 : 14 - 17

Theme: To experience the peace that Jesus Christ gives.

Introduction : Many kinds of conflicts are seen in the world. What is the reason? Conflict begins in the life of individuals and spreads into the society. Therefore the solution to conflicts in society will come about if individuals enjoy peace. Individual must experience peace with God and then with fellow men. Peace offering was the shadow of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ which alone can provide peace to men abundantly.

SACRIFICIAL ANIMAL

A blemishless animal from among cattle or sheep can be offered as peace offering. It is different from burnt offering in one aspect that the animal can either be male or female. Each animal (bullock, goat or sheep) point to a particular character of Jesus Christ as we have already learned. Although God is pleased and His righteousness is fulfilled through peace offering also, the emphasis here is on the worshiper. His infirmity or weakness is acknowledged in the female animal which may also be offered as peace offering.

METHOD OF OFFERING

The worshipper brings the animal to the entrance of the tabernacle and places his hand on its head. The animal is then killed and the priest sprinkles its blood on the altar, Its fat and kidneys are burned on the altar. The breast of the animal is waved by the priest as a wave offering and its right shoulder is offered as a heave offering. These parts of the animal are portions set apart for the priests. The remaining flesh is eaten by the worshipper with his family inside the court of the tabernacle. It should not be eaten outside and by unclean person.

Meaning of the sacrifice: We are reconciled to God by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. We were once far away from God, in enmity

with Him and children of wrath. Jesus Christ suffered in His body the chastisement for our peace. He is our peace (Eph. 2 : 13 - 18, Col. 1 : 19 - 22, 2 Cor 5 : 17 - 21, Is. 53 : 5; Rom. 5 : 8 - 11). By making peace it is not only that the enmity is removed, but also that an active fellowship with God and the inheritance of sonship are restored. God is pleased with the peace offering and the worshiper and his family become its partakers deriving happiness and satisfaction. Peace offering can also be considered as pointing towards the observance of the Lord's Table which symbolises our fellowship with God and His people. Divine peace fills and overflows in the heart of a person who has obtained peace with God and man. This is the peace of God that passes all understanding (Phi. 4 : 7). This is same peace which Jesus gave to his disciples (John 14 : 27).

TWO TYPES OF PEACE OFFERING

1. Thanks giving offering : Lev. 7 : 12 - 15
2. Vow or voluntary offering: Lev. 7 : 16 - 19

Unleavened cakes and wafers baked with oil are offered with peace offering as thanksgiving. Besides, leavened bread is also permitted (Lev. 7 : 13). This is quite significant. The emphasis in peace offering is on the worshipper who is weak and with infirmities of the flesh. Although the worshiper is reconciled with God, he is still living in his body where there is constant warfare between flesh and Spirit. The part of victory is to mortify the deeds of the body by the spirit continually and burn them on the altar

(Rom. 7 : 21 : 22; 8 : 13 ; Gal. 5 : 16 - 19).

The portions of flesh set apart for the worshiper in the thanksgiving offering must be eaten on the same day (Lev. 7 : 15). As our blessings through Christ are new every day (Lam. 3 : 23), we must praise Him in the newness of Spirit with new songs (Rom. 7 : 6 ; Psa 96 : 1).

The worshipers portions of the vow offering can be eaten on the same day and the next day (Lev. 7 : 16). This points to the fact that vow we take with God and its joy are not temporary, but enduring.

Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 5 : 1) Hence we must observe peace with all men and seek after holiness (Heb. 12 : 14). Let the peace of Christ reign in our hearts (Col. 3 : 15).

QUESTIONS

1. What are the differences between burnt offering and peace offering? Why?
2. Which are the main spiritual truths that we learn from peace offering?
3. Why is leaven allowed in peace offering?
4. The sacrificial animal can either be male or female in peace offering. Give its reason.
5. What is the difference between the thanksgiving offering and the vow offering?
6. In what way can a sinful man obtain peace with God ?
7. Which are the different aspects of life where we must enjoy peace?

LESSON - 9

SIN OFFERING

Reading : Lev. 4 : 6 : 24 - 30

Memory verse : 1 Pet. 2 : 24

Theme: To lead a holy life after obtaining remission of sins by faith in Jesus Christ who became a sacrifice on the cross bearing sins of all mankind.

Introduction: What is it that keeps man away from fellowship with God ? How did sin enter into the world ? What happened to mankind by the disobedience of Adam and Eve ? Jesus christ came to this world as a man and took upon Himself the punishment for our sins and suffered death on the cross. Sin offering was instituted for Isreal as a shadow of Christ's sacrifice. Christ was made sin for us (2 Cor. 5 : 21).

Sin offering is one of the two non sweet savour offerings. A person was required to offer sin offering at first when he comes to the presence of God.