



# “Are Sacrifices Still Important?”

Pastor Paul Taylor/November 27, 2011

**SACRIFICE AND OFFERINGS:** Physical elements the worshiper brings to the Deity to express devotion, thanksgiving, or the need for forgiveness.

## TYPES OF BIBLICAL SACRIFICES:

- Burnt offering, peace offerings, guilt offering, sin offering, grain offerings.
- The animal for this sacrifice could be a young bull, lamb, goat, turtledove, or young pigeon.

## MANY DIFFERENT SACRIFICES – but all cost you something

- **Animals/grain/drink** all represented the fruits of your life, your labor, value.
- **What is a clear conscience worth?**
- **It reminded the people of the high cost** in making sacrifices



## WHAT DID THE SACRIFICES ACCOMPLISH?

1. It was to be done publicly and according to strict prescribed guidelines
2. Were made for the sin of individuals, communities and the nation
3. Clearly demonstrate their society of the hidden ugly cost of sin.
4. It cost the life of the animal, they died for something they had not done
5. Required the giver to give their BEST
6. Prophetic symbolism



**In the face of so much sin and death, you had to make a choice:** to change your ways, or to become poor, or to turn a blind eye to sin and call it something other than what it was. Even then, sacrifices never really took away sins.

- *“Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.” (Hebrews 10:11)*



**Isaiah contended that the sacrifices were worthless when they were not accompanied by repentance and an obedient life (Isa. 1:10–17)**

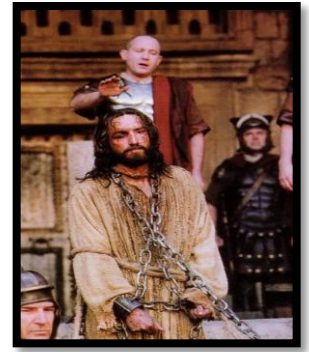
- **God said everyone who sins deserves to die**, and all have sinned. (Rom. 3:23)
- **I have sinned**, I deserve to be like the bloody dead animal before me. Please accept the death of the animal instead of mine.

**Along comes the perfect sacrifice for all sin...Jesus Christ.**

- *“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)*



- He met all the prescribed requirements of the animal sacrifice, perfect, without blemish, a male, he was the best of the best, He was the lamb selected by the High Priest to die for the sins of the nation (the world). It was done publicly, it was unjust-yet fulfilled all God's requirements of perfection.
- By bringing final payment for sin... *“Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.”* (Hebrews 7:27)
- AND genuine CHANGE to our hearts. *““This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”*” (Jeremiah 31:33–34)



God had to provide the sacrifice. Abraham gave God his heart and God gave Abraham the needed sacrifice.

- What should our response be? It should be a deep thanksgiving & appreciation.
- **Psalms 51:16-17, You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**



**God Still Loves Sacrifices - Just Not the Old Kind**

- **Hebrews 13:15-16, Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. 16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.**
- **A humble broken heart**
- **With deep appreciation**
- **God still wants us to give our best**
- **From a changed heart**
- **Never forgetting what we deserved, but He paid in full**

Brand, C., Draper, C., England, A., Bond, S., Clendenen, E. R., Butler, T. C., & Latta, B. (2003). *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (1428). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.