



The Quarry Gospel Church

BIBLE STUDY - 03.02.21

BIBLE STUDY - LEVITICUS - 2. THE MANUAL OF SACRIFICES - Part 2 - THE GRAIN OFFERING

Leviticus Chapter 2

This Grain Offering is a sacrifice, a voluntary offering given in thankfulness and worship. Note on language: King James Version of the Bible uses the word "meat" instead of grain. This is the Biblical use of the word meat as meaning "solid food"

see *Psalm 69:21; Daniel 1:10; Genesis 1:29-30; John 4:34;6:27*

Although a seemingly poor offering - no act of atonement - no animals sacrifice - it usually accompanied the other two voluntary offerings.

With all grain offerings - a portion was burnt and the remaining portion given to the priests.

1. THE INSTRUCTIONS

- "Anyone" - all from Israel were welcome
- the worshipper again did most of the work
- worshippers it is God we are aiming to please - He is the audience

In the instructions we see:

A) The Variety God permits

- number of ways it can be offered - but always the 'best' wheat
- raw or cooked - could be cooked with oil in one of three different of ways (whether raw or cooked - always seasoned with salt)
- Could be used as a "firstfruits offering" - thankfulness for God's provision - raw grain - with salt incense and oil.
- Incense used with raw grain offering but not with cooked loaf.

B) The Ingredients God Specifies: Oil and Salt in all three grain offerings - frankincense only in the two using 'raw' grain.

- **OLIVE OIL** - major cooking medium in Israel's day
 - associated with work of the Holy Spirit and with gladness and joy
 - Psalm 45:7; Isaiah 61:3*
 - God transforms what we offer into something beautiful for Him
- **INCENSE** - offerings to bring a sweet aroma to the Lord
 - symbolises quality of life that should characterise the true worshipper
- **SALT** - every sacrifice to be seasoned with salt - v.13
 - chief means of preserving food in that day; BUT..

- also key component when offering hospitality and "**sealing covenants**" thus indicating friendship, bonding, unity
- Ancient custom - bond of friendship established by the eating of salt
"A covenant of salt" - see *2 Chronicles 13:4; Numbers 18:19*
- a reminder - sacrifice is about relationship
- see also *Matthew 5:13* - Salt = symbol of purity and relationship

- **2 banned ingredients - YEAST and HONEY**

Yeast - possibly because a "living" organism, or because it represented corruption and sin

Honey - maybe because honey used in pagan rituals; they had been called to be separate

C) The Ritual that God initiates

- The "memorial" portion is laid on the altar and burned - belongs to God - a token of the whole
- The "remaining" portion - the "most holy" portion - given to the priests
Because priests could not work elsewhere God provided for them
This offering for the priests is pleasing to God - as are all offerings which support His priests though the community of worshippers
- see *Philippians 4:18-20; 1 Corinthians 9:13-14; 1 Timothy 5:17*.

2. UNDERSTANDING THE SIGNIFICANCE

Hebrew word for grain offering = general word for "gift" - only use in Leviticus is Ch.2

A) This gift is a Tribute to a Sovereign

- Common to pay tribute to a king *2 Samuel 8:2; 1 Kings 4:2; 2 Kings 28:33*
Also we see gifts give to placate in story of Jacob and Esau - *Genesis 32:13-21*
So Grain Offering - recognition of God's Sovereignty
- It is DIFFERENT from secular tributes in that:
 - God's authority is not imposed - it is a voluntary gift, not obligatory
 - it acknowledges God's supreme authority
 - it expresses a desire for God's favour and blessing & the worshipper's loyalty
- This offering is a reminder everything about our lives is an offering to God
- If a firstfruits offering it is a tribute to a bountiful giver - God our Provider

B) This gift is a reminder to a covenant God

- **Name of first portion - a "memorial" portion** - it does not mean God has forgotten! the offering caused God to remember the worshipper in covenant faithfulness - when God remembered, He blessed. *Nehemiah 1:8-9; 5:19; 13:31*
- This offering kept the worshippers needs before the Lord and reminded God to fulfil his promises

C) This gift is a Response to a Generous Creator

- It is all about how we respond to God because of what He has done for us
- The grain/bread is the end product of hard work - we are offering all the hard work!
As with Adam and Eve - work has always been a part of God's plan
- We should thankfully and joyfully offer God our daily energies, skills, time and talents
Colossians 3:17,23-24

3. APPLICATION

- We are the grain
- We are to offer our lives completely to God
- Our lives are to be free from corruption and sin, from additives we think will sweeten the offering - we should bring an offering as directed by God
- Our worship must be anointed by the Holy Spirit, seeking to glorify God
- It must be offered with joy, thankfully and willingly

We are a salted offering - to raise a pleasing aroma to God in lives sacrificed to Him
(see 2 Corinthians 2:15)