

OLD TESTAMENT SACRIFICES

The Old Testament Today

Banska Bystrica, 24th April 2022

זאת התורה לעלה למנחה ולחטאת
ולאשם ולמלוואים ולזבח השלמים
אשר צוה יהוה את־משה בהר סיני
ביום צוהו את־בני ישראל להקריב
את־קרבניהם ליהוה במדבר סיני

Leviticus 7:37-38 This is the law of the burnt offering, of the grain offering, of the sin offering, of the guilt offering, of the ordination offering, and of the peace offering, ³⁸ which the LORD commanded Moses on Mount Sinai, on the day that he commanded the people of Israel to bring their offerings to the LORD, in the wilderness of Sinai.

Rom 12:1 Παρακαλῶ οὖν ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, διὰ τῶν οἰκτιρισμῶν τοῦ θεοῦ, παραστήσαι τὰ σώματα ὑμῶν θυσίαν ζῶσαν, ἁγίαν, εὐάρεστον τῷ θεῷ, τὴν λογικὴν λατρείαν ὑμῶν.

Rom 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

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0. INTRODUCTION

- just *general outlines* of the meaning of sacrifices – the details that have important symbolical meanings we must leave to personal study...

0.1. WHAT IS CHRISTIANITY ALL ABOUT?

- Misunderstandings
 1. Life – salvation; ethics; helping others; miracles;
 2. Doctrine – truth; dogmas; church traditions; theology...
 3. Experience – worship; emotions; meetings; gifts...

- **Christianity: John 1:29** "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! → John 3:16 "God *SACRIFICED* his Son..."
- Christianity: **The life from Christ's resurrection:**
 - **Rom 6:8** Now if we have **died with Christ**, we believe that we will also **live with him**.
- **The world know **sacrifice without love → violence** OR **love without sacrifice → decadence**.**

0.2. WHY SACRIFICES?

- comparative religions? → a lot of nonsense
- in the Bible the instructions do not explain *why* sacrifices should be offered...
 - Anthropology/philosophy → [BATAILLE] "Sacrifice destroys an object's real ties of subordination; it draws the victim out of the world of utility and restores it to that of unintelligible caprice."
- The Bible
 - **Rom 6:23** For the **wages of sin is death**, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord
 - **Heb 9:22** Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no **forgiveness** of sins.
 - **"...and he shall be forgiven"** Lev 4:26, 31, 35; 5:10, 13, 16, 18; 6:7;
- the types of Christ's sacrifice in the TORA
 - **Genesis**: Abraham and Isaac; **Exodus**: the Passover lamb; **Leviticus**: the scapegoat; **Numbers**: the fiery serpent on a pole; **Deuteronomy**: cursed one hanging on a tree

The idea of sacrifice is giving back to God the best we have in order that He may make it His and ours for ever. (CHAMBERS, *The Psychology of Redemption*)

0.3. ABUSES

- **Hosea 6:6** For **I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice**, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. → **Mt 9:13** Go and learn what this means, **'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.'** (Ἐλεον θέλω, καὶ οὐ θυσίαν.) For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.
- **Psalm 50:7-15** "Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. ⁸ Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me. ⁹ I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds. ¹⁰ For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. ¹² "If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine. ¹³ **Do I eat the flesh of bulls** or drink the blood of goats? ¹⁴ Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, ¹⁵ and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.
- **Isaiah 1:11** "What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; **I have had enough** of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. ... **1:13** Bring no more **vain offerings** (מִנְחָת־שָׁוְא); incense (קִטְרֹת) is an abomination to me.
- **Mal 1:8** When you **offer blind animals** in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts.
- "Do ut des" → the danger of making "contract" with God...

1. OT WORSHIP

1.1. VARIETY

⇒ varied dimensions of relationship with God...

- Lev 1-7; drink-offering; wave offering...

- (1) spaľovaná (2) pokrmová (3) o. spolocenstva (4) za hriech (5) za vinu
 - the first three: expression of *gratitude*...
 - the following two: asking *forgiveness*...
 - analogy to *Our Father* → “thy name”; “thy kingdom”; “thy will” – forgiveness of sins; temptations...

1.2. RULES

- → strict ⇒ holiness (“protocol” of approach)
- identification → **Lev 1:4; 3:2; 3:8; 3:13; 4:4; 4:24; 4:29; 4:33** “He shall lay his hand on the head...”
Joh 4:24 → worship in *spirit* and *truth*

1.3. BLOOD

- mostly – not always...
- → violent death; suffering;

1.4. ATTITUDE

When once the Holy Spirit has come in, the thought of sacrifice never occurs to a saint because sacrifice is the love passion of the Holy Ghost (CHAMBERS, *The Place of Help*)

- **1Chron 29:14** "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you.
- **1Chron 21:24** But King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will buy them for the full price. I will not take for the LORD what is yours, nor offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing."

1.4.1. HEART

- **Psalm 51:16-17** For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise
- **Psalm 50:23** The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me

1.4.2. GIVING

- God is the rightful owner of everything → expressing gratitude;

1.4.3. SURRENDER

- God is the giver and ruler → expressing submission; dependence, willingness to serve...

2. SACRIFICES AND CHRIST

- Old Testament → New Testament
- **Heb 10:14** For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

2.1. (Lev 1:3-17) THE BURNT OFFERING

- Complete consecration
- **Hebrews 10:5-9** Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" ⁸ When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

2.2. (Lev 2:1-16) THE MEAL/GRAIN OFFERING

- [Hayes Press] "The meal offering of Leviticus 2 presents a type of our Lord Jesus Christ as the perfect Man." → Jesus in his *life*...
- **John 6:35** Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst
- **John 6:47-50** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die

2.3. (Lev 3:1-17) THE FELLOWSHIP/PEACE OFFERING

- [Hayes Press] "...unlike the burnt offering which was all for God there is in the peace offering, as shadowing the Person and work of the Lord Jesus, (1) a portion for God, a (2) portion for the priests, and (3) a portion for the worshippers who brought the oblation."
- **1Cor 10:16** The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

2.4. (Lev 4:1-5:18) THE SIN OFFERING

- metaphor of purification
- could be a bullock, a ram, a lamb, or birds, or even fine flour
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2.5. (Lev 5:14-6:7) THE GUILT/TRESPASS OFFERING

- specific types of sin → [BONAR] "... the sin was more private, and confined to the individual's knowledge."
- metaphor of compensation

3. NT WORSHIP

3.1. THE HIGH PRIEST IN HEAVEN

- **Heb 9:25-26** Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.
- no altars on earth!

3.2. SPIRITUAL WORSHIP

- thanksgiving, praise
- **Heb 13:14-15** For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵ Through him [Jesus] then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

3.3. SACRIFICIAL SERVICE

- **2Tim 4:6** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come

[Andrew BONAR] the drink-offering was not a part of any sacrifice; though it was never offered by itself alone. It was a rite superadded, to express the worshipper's hearty concurrence in all that he saw done at the altar

4. TO REMEMBER

- The agape love always involves sacrifice.
- In offering a sacrifice the attitude of the giver is more important than the gift.

- New Testament offerings have to be brought through Christ – in his name.