

SFT #29 October 14, 2026 We will not go over these in our lesson but thought it would be of interest due to the many rituals required of the Old Testament Israelite people.

The Five Major Offerings – Old Testament

The sacrificial system includes three voluntary "sweet aroma" offerings and two mandatory "purification/reparation" offerings:

I. The Burnt Offering (*Olah*) Entirely consumed by fire, symbolizing total dedication, surrender, and acceptance before God.

- **Scripture:** **Leviticus 1:1-17** (with supplementary regulations in Leviticus 6:8-13).
- **Description:** The entire animal (bull, ram, male lamb, or bird) was completely burned on the altar. It symbolized total consecration, devotion, and substitutionary atonement.

II. The Grain Offering (*Minchah*) Presented as a tribute of gratitude and acknowledgment of God's provision

- **Scripture:** Leviticus 2:1-16 (with further laws in Leviticus 6:14-18).
- **Description:** Fine flour, oil, frankincense, or baked bread, free of leaven and honey. A memorial portion was burned on the altar, and the remainder fed the priests.

III. The Peace Offering (*Shelamim*) Shared between God, the priest, and the worshiper as a symbol of fellowship and covenant peace.

- **Scripture:** Leviticus 3:1-17 (with regulations in Leviticus 7:11-34).
- **Description:** An unblemished animal shared as a communal meal. The fat and kidneys were burned on the altar to God, while portions went to the priests and the offerer's family.

IV. The Sin / Purification Offering (*Chattath*) Offered for unintentional sins, where blood was applied to the altar's horns to make atonement for the offender.

- **Scripture:** **Leviticus 4:1–5:13** (with priestly instructions in Leviticus 6:24-30).
- **Description:** Mandatory atonement for unintentional or inadvertent sins. Part of the blood was applied to the horns of the brazen altar, and the fat was burned on the hearth.

V. The Guilt / Trespass Offering (*Asham*) Made restitution for offenses against holy things or others, accompanied by blood manipulation on and around the altar.

- **Scripture:** **Leviticus 5:14–6:7** (with further rules in Leviticus 7:1-10).
- **Description:** Required when a person committed an unintentional breach against holy things or another person's property. It required full financial restitution plus a 20% penalty, followed by sacrificing a ram on the altar.

The Three Sweet Aroma Offerings

- **Burnt Offerings:** The priest burned the entire animal on the altar. This symbolized total surrender and complete devotion to God.
- **Grain Offerings:** These gifts included fine flour, oil, and frankincense. The priest burned a memorial portion on the altar.
- **Peace Offerings:** The worshipper brought an animal for fellowship. Only the fat and inner parts were burned on the brazen altar as a pleasing food for God.

Key Facts About the Offerings

- **Voluntary Gift:** People gave these offerings freely out of love and worship, not because they were paying for a specific sin.
- **Pleasing to God:** The smoke rose up and satisfied God as an acceptable sacrifice.
- **Different From Sin Offerings:** Sin and guilt offerings did not have a sweet aroma and were burned outside the camp instead of on the brazen altar