

## Doctrine of Corban

### Leviticus 1:2

*“If any man of you bring an offering unto the Lord.”*

1. An offering or a sacrifice unto the Lord was called a corban (kor'ban; Greek, an offering).
2. The word corban, in general usage, referred to a sacrifice, which in turn spoke of a holy gift to God.
3. Anything over which this word, corban, was officially pronounced was irrevocably dedicated to the Tabernacle, and later the Temple, with one exception. Land which had been dedicated might be redeemed before the year of jubilee.
  - *Leviticus 27:16 And if a man shall sanctify unto the Lord some part of a field of his possession, then thy estimation shall be according to the seed thereof: an homer of barley seed shall be valued at fifty shekels of silver. 17 If he sanctify his field from the year of jubilee, according to thy estimation it shall stand. 18 But if he sanctify his field after the jubilee, then the priest shall reckon unto him the money according to the years that remain, even unto the year of the jubilee, and it shall be abated from thy estimation. 19 And if he that sanctified the field will in any wise redeem it, then he shall add the fifth part of the money of thy estimation unto it, and it shall be assured to him. 20 And if he will not redeem the field, or if he have sold the field to another man, it shall not be redeemed any more. 21 But the field, when it goeth out in the jubilee, shall be holy unto the Lord, as a field devoted; the possession thereof shall be the priest's. 22 And if a man sanctify unto the Lord a field which he hath bought, which is not of the fields of his possession; 23 Then the priest shall reckon unto him the worth of thy estimation, even unto the year of the jubilee: and he shall give thine estimation in that day, as a holy thing unto the Lord. 24 In the year of the jubilee the field shall return unto him of whom it was bought, even to him to whom the possession of the land did belong.*
4. While the corban was a divine way of allowing individuals to have fellowship with God and honor Him with their gifts, the practice was abused.
5. During the days of Malachi the prophet (c. 432 BC), the Jews were weary of worship. They were not offering the corban in good faith and on acceptable terms. Even the priests resented giving gifts to God and began to bring blemished animals.
  - *Malachi 1:6 A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? And if I be a master, where is my fear? Saith the Lord of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say, Wherein have we despised thy name? 7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the Lord is contemptible.*

- *Malachi 1:14 But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the Lord of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen.*
6. During the days of Christ, some Jews were using the corban as a way to dishonour their parents. Children were saying that their resources were “corban” or dedicated to God thereby reserving their goods for their own selfish use.
- *Mark 7:11 But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free.*
7. If a person desires to offer a corban to God today, it does not need to be a blood sacrifice. But there are acceptable sacrifices to be offered to God.
- *A broken spirit. Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

***Special Note.***

After being confronted by Nathan the prophet, David was a broken man with a contrite spirit. After seeing the look in the eyes of Jesus, Peter became a broken man and went out and wept tears of bitterness. Such brokenness God will not despise.

8. The psalmist exhorts the saints to offer the sacrifice of righteousness which is to put one’s trust in the Lord.
- *Psalms 4:5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the Lord.*

***Special Note.***

Abraham believed in God and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Rahab believed in God. She was moved by faith and was spared. She put her trust in the Lord. All be place their trust in Jesus Christ are offering up the sacrifice of righteousness.

9. Peter reminds the church to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.
- *1 Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*

***Special Note.***

- *The sacrifice of one’s body. Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

- The sacrifice of faith. *Philippians 2:17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.*
- The sacrifice of thanksgiving. *Psalms 107:22 And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.*

*Psalms 105:1 O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.*

- The sacrifice of doing good to others. *Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*
- The sacrifice of meeting the financial needs of others. *Hebrews 13:16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*

*Philippians 4:14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.*

*1 Timothy 6:18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate.*