

Doctrine of Peace Offering

1. The Peace Offering spoke of reconciliation with God followed by communion with the Lord and His people.

Like the prodigal son in Luke 15, every person is invited to fellowship with God the Father based upon the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God “*which taketh away the sin of the world*” (John 1:29).

2. The basis of fellowship with the Lord in the Old Testament economy was the offering of an acceptable animal sacrifice.
3. In the Peace Offering, an acceptable sacrifice was an animal from the herd, or the flock, which was without blemish.
 - From the herd. *Leviticus 3:1 And if his oblation be a sacrifice of peace offering, if he offer it of the herd; whether it be a male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the Lord.*
 - Of the flock. *Leviticus 3:6 And if his offering for a sacrifice of peace offering unto the Lord be of the flock; male or female, he shall offer it without blemish.*
4. The animal was to be killed at the door of the Tabernacle.
 - *Leviticus 3:2 And he shall lay his hand upon the head of his offering, and kill it at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron's sons the priests, shall sprinkle the blood upon the altar round about.*
5. The animal could be a male or female. Perhaps that is significant.

Special Note.

The male animal is characterized by strength and service. The male is aggressive and speaks of active obedience, a willing sacrifice. Of Christ it was said that He had to be about His Father’s business (Luke 2:49). In His maturity Jesus “*steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem*” (Luke 9:51).

The female animal is characterized by being passive and submissive. Again, Christ was submissive to His Father’s will. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed, “*nevertheless, not my will, but thine, be done*” (Luke 22:42).

6. The Peace Offering demanded various body parts.
 - All the fat was to be burned upon the altar. That was the Lord’s portion for it was considered to be the choice portion (Lev. 3:3, 4, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17).

- The kidneys were also to be burned upon the altar. *Leviticus 3:4 And the two kidneys, and the fat that is on them, which is by the flanks, and the caul above the liver, with the kidneys, it shall he take away.*

The Hebrew word *kilyah* (kil-yaw) is sometimes translated “reigns”. The kidneys, or reigns, were considered to be the seat of emotion, much like the heart today. People will say, “*I love you with all my heart,*” and we know that deep affection is being expressed. The Psalm prayed, “*Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart*” (Psalm 26:2).

7. The distinguishing feature of the Peace Offering is that a portion went to the Lord, the priest, and the offerer.

- The fat went to the Lord by being consumed with the fire of purification on the altar of burnt offering.
- The breasts and the right shoulder of the animal went to the priests.

Leviticus 7:32 And the right shoulder shall ye give unto the priest for an heave offering of the sacrifices of your peace offerings. 33 He among the sons of Aaron, that offereth the blood of the peace offerings, and the fat, shall have the right shoulder for his part. 34 For the wave breast and the heave shoulder have I taken of the children of Israel from off the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and have given them unto Aaron the priest and unto his sons by a statute for ever from among the children of Israel.

- The rest of the sacrifice belonged to the offerer.

Leviticus 7:15 And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day that it is offered; he shall not leave any of it until the morning. 16 But if the sacrifice of his offering be a vow, or a voluntary offering, it shall be eaten the same day that he offereth his sacrifice: and on the morrow also the remainder of it shall be eaten: 17 But the remainder of the flesh of the sacrifice on the third day shall be burnt with fire.

8. The spiritual teaching of the Peace Offering of Leviticus 3 is summarized in Ephesians 2. The Peace Offering spoke of Christ.

Ephesians 2:14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.