

Day 122 - TUESDAY: March 14th

Leviticus 3

Leviticus 3:1-17 NKJV

'When his offering is a sacrifice of a peace offering, if he offers it of the herd, whether male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the LORD. And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering, and kill it at the door of the tabernacle of meeting; and Aaron's sons, the priests, shall sprinkle the blood all around on the altar. Then he shall offer from the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire to the LORD. The fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails, the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove; and Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is on the wood that is on the fire, as an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD. 'If his offering as a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD is of the flock, whether male or female, he shall offer it without blemish. If he offers a lamb as his offering, then he shall offer it before the LORD. And he shall lay his hand on the head of his offering, and kill it before the tabernacle of meeting; and Aaron's sons shall sprinkle its blood all around on the altar. 'Then he shall offer from the sacrifice of the peace offering, as an offering made by fire to the LORD, its fat and the whole fat tail which he shall remove close to the backbone. And the fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on the entrails, the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove; and the priest shall burn them on the altar as food, an offering made by fire to the LORD. 'And if his offering is a goat, then he shall offer it before the LORD. He shall lay his hand on its head and kill it before the tabernacle of meeting; and the sons of Aaron shall sprinkle its blood all around on the altar. Then he shall offer from it his offering, as an offering made by fire to the LORD. The fat that covers the entrails and all the fat that is on

the entrails, the two kidneys and the fat that is on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe attached to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove; and the priest shall burn them on the altar as food, an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma; all the fat is the LORD's. 'This shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations in all your dwellings: you shall eat neither fat nor blood.' "

Daily Deep Dive:

Let's begin with the UCG reading plan comments on this chapter: "As *The Nelson Study Bible* notes: "The Hebrew word for peace means 'wholeness, completeness, soundness, health.' When a person has this, in all its dimensions, that person is at peace. The peace offerings were times of feasting, drinking, talking, singing, and enjoying salvation as a great gift from God (see Leviticus 7:11–21). Paul describes Jesus Christ as our perfect peace offering (see Colossians 1:20)" (note on Leviticus 3:1). In the peace offering, unlike other offerings, the *offerer* was allowed to eat and thus find satisfaction in the offering: "God, man, and the priest, all fed together, all finding satisfaction in the offering. God first has His part and is satisfied, for He declares it to be very good. 'It is an offering made by fire of a sweet savour unto the Lord.' Man (in Christ) as offerer has his part and is permitted to share this offering with his friends. And the priest, that is, Christ in His official

character, is satisfied also, and His children are satisfied with Him. What a picture is here presented to us! The offerer feasts with God, with His priest, and with the priest's children" (Jukes, p. 108).

In this picture, not only is God satisfied but so is the whole priestly family—symbolic of Christ's family, the Church of God. So, too, is the offerer himself. Christ set the example here. Isaiah prophesied of Him, "He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied" (Isaiah 53:11, King James Version). Indeed, His life offering in God's service sustained Him as food. He said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work" (John 4:34). Indeed, there normally had to be a "burnt offering" in order that a peace offering could follow. For the peace offering was to be offered "upon the burnt sacrifice" (Leviticus 3:5). Being in alignment with God's will, as represented by the burnt offering, the worshiper would then be in a position to fellowship with God and with his or her family in the sharing of the peace offering.

As with the other offerings, there is much more to the peace offering that could be said—particularly when it comes to their being used in chapter 7 as thanksgiving or praise offerings or for taking a vow. Again, you are

encouraged to study this subject on your own, as it is much broader than can possibly be covered here.” [END]

Verse 1 – The Peace Offering appears to be designed as the pinnacle of the offerings. Both in its placement in the center of the five main offerings at the beginning of Leviticus, but also in that it generally came last in order when the offerings were carried out together (The Sin Offering was performed first, then Burnt Offering, then Grain Offering and lastly the Peace Offering). This progression makes sense when we consider that among the “sweet smelling” offerings to God, the first great commandment is fully met when Jesus Christ gave Himself fully and completely to God, pictured in the Burnt Offering, and we likewise in imitating Jesus Christ as Christians strive to give ourselves to God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Then through the symbolism of the Grain offering, we see Jesus Christ, giving to God and Priesthood (Holy Nation) the perfect fruits of His life, satisfying the great second commandment to love His neighbor. We as Christians likewise strive to imitate Jesus Christ by allowing the Holy Spirit to develop the Fruits of the Spirit in our lives and to lead us in loving our neighbor. With the law satisfied (Matt 22:40) we now come to the climatic moment

of Peace, where all of mankind who are clean are allowed to participate in the feast (God, the Priest & family, as well as the offerer and their friends and family (see Leviticus 7), all together in perfect peace and unity).

When will the world finally have peace? Only after Satan and his system are destroyed, and only after all enemies of God are destroyed (including those who refuse to obey and follow Him, as well as the last enemy, death).

In 1 Corinthians 23-26 it states: “But each one in his own order: Christ the Firstfruit, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming. Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death.”

Then all the world will be at peace, and all who remain will be spirit beings in the Family of God. We see this pictured in that while friends & family could share in this feast, they had to be clean (see Leviticus 7:20–21). We've already discussed that the principal theme of the book of Leviticus is Holiness. Those who are clean, are those who are Holy to God.

We as Christians get to experience this to a degree now. This drawing close in peace with God through Jesus Christ is brought out in

Ephesians 2:13-16. It says: “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.” Additionally, we learn in Colossians 1:20: “and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.”

Unlike the burnt offering, this offering could be male or female of either the heard (verse 1) or the flock (verse 6). Certainly, as we just read in both Ephesians and Colossians, we understand that the way of peace with God was made possible through the perfect offering of Jesus Christ. Whether male or female, once we are baptized and become one with Christ, we can have a close meaningful relationship with God the Father in peace. Within the meaning of the Hebrew word for peace is the idea of

“wholeness” or “oneness”. That is why we see this idea of two becoming one and at peace. Galatians 3:27–28 states: “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Verses 3 – 5: Regarding the fat that belonged to God, the Ellicott’s commentary states: “That is, the best or choicest part. Hence the expression is also used for the best produce of the ground (Genesis 45:18; Numbers 18:12). As the most valuable part of the animal, the fat belonged to God, and hence had a peculiar sanctity, for which reason it was not allowed to be eaten (Leviticus 3:17; Leviticus 7:23).” [END]

Later in this chapter, in verse 16, God clearly states: “all the fat *is* the LORD's”.

God is very clear which parts of fat were to be removed and burned on the altar to Him. God did not tell Israel to go through their steaks and remove all the lines of marbling. We see the specific details for both the fat of the herds and flocks (verse 9 & 10), clearly outlined by God.

Verse 16 – Notice that what is burned to God is called His “food”. He is satisfied with this portion.

Verse 17 – The prohibition against eating fat or blood is clearly laid out by God. The fat (the best portion representing its vitality) and the blood (the life of the animal), belong to God and should never be eaten. This is talked about more in Leviticus chapter 7.

For some, this raises a question about eating “pink steaks”. Even though we use the term “bloody”, the red liquid on your plate and the red/pink color of the meat is not due to blood. It’s natural to think it is, but it’s actually a combination of water and a protein called myoglobin.

Myoglobin has the job to transport oxygen through your muscles. Myoglobin looks red on your plate because like hemoglobin, the iron in myoglobin turns red when exposed to oxygen. The longer it’s left out, the meat turns from red to brown. Supermarkets will actually treat meats at times in order to keep them “red” longer. So the long and short of it, even a completely rare steak (tartare) does not contain blood.

We will get into more detail about the types of Peace Offerings in Leviticus 7.