

# THE LEVITICAL OFFERINGS

## 1. Introduction

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When the Lord redeemed Israel and brought His people out of Egypt, He revealed His will in three ways, emphasizing three all-important truths:

1. He gave them the Ten Commandments.
2. He gave them the detailed plans for the building of the Tabernacle.
3. He gave them in great detail the details of the sacrifices and services necessary in worshipping Him.

The all-important truths He taught by these revelations were:

1. **The Ten Commandments establish His standard of righteousness.**

Perfect obedience to this standard is what He requires.

His law is a reflection of His own moral perfection; As *the righteous judge* (2 Timothy 4:8) He cannot and will not lower the standards of His law.

But who among men could ever meet such the standard of legal perfection?

It would seem that God's law must shut man out from His presence.

One thing is clear: *By the works of the law shall no flesh be justified* (Galatians 2:16; cf. Romans 3:20).

Another thing we learn is that *salvation is of the Lord* (Jonah 2:9; cf. Psalm 3:8) and is therefore *by grace* (Ephesians 2:8; cf. Titus 2:11; 3:5).

2. **The Tabernacle is the place of God's dwelling with man and demonstrates the only way of man's fellowship with God.**

The Epistle to the Hebrews contrasts the Tabernacle with *the sanctuary, the true tabernacle* (Hebrews 8:2) where the Lord Jesus Christ now ministers—i.e. the *true tabernacle* is the place where He dwells in glory.

The Tabernacle not only typifies this but answers the question of how sinful men may ever live in fellowship with the God of glory.

Each major piece of furniture is a type of some aspect of the person and work of Christ: thus, the way of acceptance with and approach to God is solely through Christ's merit and mediation.

The Tabernacle was God's place of dwelling (Exodus 25:8), meeting (Exodus 19: 42-43; 25:22).

It may be considered historically, typically, and prophetically.

- a. **Considered historically** it teaches us many lessons about the work and worship of the Lord in our wilderness journey in this present evil world.
- b. **Considered typically** it clearly reveals the Lord Jesus Christ, but also speaks of the church and even the bodies of individual believers, for both are called *the temple of God* in the New Testament (see Ephesians 2:21; 1 Corinthians 3:13; 6:19; 2 Peter 1:13-14).
- c. **Considered prophetically** it points forward to the day when Christ will come to reign: Ezekiel 37:21-28 (especially v. 26-28); Revelation 11:15; 21:3.

*It is very significant that it was from the Tabernacle that the Lord gave Moses the laws of the offerings and the services of the priests in the sanctuary.*

The significance of this fact is that here we have a revelation of the covenant of grace that has its fulfilment in Christ and its consummation in His *everlasting kingdom* (2 Peter 1:11).

Here is a fundamental truth of Biblical theology:

*God has presented to men only one way of acceptance with Him and access to His presence. It is the way of grace through blood and righteousness of His Son Jesus Christ. That way alone leads to glory for both Jew and Gentile.*

### **3. The sacrifices and the Levitical priests who served in the Tabernacle typify the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ and His priestly ministry for His people: Hebrews 10:11-14.**

*Leviticus* starts by giving us the details of the five major offerings of that God instituted as temporary types until Christ's one *sacrifice for sins for ever* (Hebrews 10:12).

They are the **Burnt Offering**, the **Meal Offering**, the **Peace Offering**, the **Sin Offering**, and the **Trespass Offering**.