

Handout 1: Lesson 1
The Three Major Categories of Offerings to Yahweh

Types of offerings	1. Tribute Offerings/Vassal payments (compulsory) Ex 13:11-16; Num 3:45-48; 18:13-19	2. Sanctuary endowments (voluntary offerings) Ex 25:1-2; 35:4-5, 29; 36:3; Ezra 7:16; 8:28-30	3. Altar-sacrifices (voluntary and compulsory) Lev chapters 1-7; 16; 23
Reason	Owed for services rendered by God to His people	To support God's Sanctuary	Liturgical service and covenant continuation
Gifts / Offerer	First fruits of animals, sons, and harvest presented to God by individuals.	Any gift for use in the Sanctuary presented by the people	Offerings to God made by individuals or presented by the priests for the whole community
Purpose	For the maintenance of the ministerial priesthood	Used by the priests for the Sanctuary and liturgical services	1. To provide for communal and personal expiation of sins. 2. To reestablish communion with God through a sacred meal.
Categories	A. first produce of the harvest 1. grains 2. fruits B. animals from the herd and flock 1. clean 2. unclean C. first-born sons redeemed by a redemption tax	Bloodless offerings 1. grain 2. olive oil 3. wine 4. money 5. anything of value	A. Bleeding sacrifices from 5 kinds of animals: 1. Daily communal Tamid whole burnt offering (male lamb) 2. Sabbath sacrifice (2 male lambs). 3. Individual gift whole burnt offerings according to wealth: male from herd or flock, or turtle dove and pigeon, or wheat flour 4. Individual sin offering (animal designated according to wealth/status) 5. Individual sin of reparation offering (ram and restoration plus 1/5 th of the value) 6. Communion offering (male or female from flock or herd) 7. Feast day compulsory and communal offerings (designated according to the feast) B. Bloodless sacrifices: 1. five classes of wheat flour / unleavened bread offerings 2. wine 3. incense 4. olive oil 5. salt
Who received	Priests and Levites	Priests on behalf of the Sanctuary	God or shared with God in a sacred meal

Handout 2: Lesson 1
Summary of the Book of Leviticus

Biblical Period	The Twelve Tribes of Israel / The Sinai Covenant									
Focus	Sacrifice and Consecration					Sanctification				
Covenant	The Sinai Covenant & the Aaronic Covenant									
Scripture	1:1-----8:1-----11:1-----16:1-----18:1-----21:1-----23:1-----25:1-----27:1-34									
Division	Sacrificial & Liturgical Rites					Moral and Religious Holiness				
	sacrifices & offerings	investiture of the priests	laws of ritual purity	national atonement & reconciliation		for the people	for the priests	for liturgical worship	in Canaan	vows
Topic	Laws of sacrifice (atonement of sins and restoration of fellowship with God)					Laws of holiness ensuring covenant continuation (continued fellowship with God)				
	authentic worship					authentic holiness				
Location	Mt. Sinai (Mt. Horeb)									
Time	one month									

There were three main categories of offerings to Yahweh:

1. Compulsory tribute offerings/ vassal payments (Ex 13:11-16; Num 3:45-48; 18:13-19).
2. Free-will Sanctuary endowments (Ex 25:1-2; 35:4-5).
3. Voluntary and compulsory altar sacrifices (Lev chapters 1-7).

The first section of Leviticus in chapters 1-7 contains the laws and methods pertaining to authentic liturgical and sacrificial rites for altar sacrifices that are acceptable to Yahweh in His Sanctuary:

- Chapter 1: the voluntary *olah* (whole burnt offering) and the five kinds of animals that an individual covenant member can bring as blood sacrifices in a gift offering to God.
- Chapter 2: the voluntary *minhah* (gift/grain offerings). This chapter lists five different kinds of wheat offerings given as a voluntary gift/ loyalty tribute or as a compulsory first-fruits offering to God by individual covenant members.
- Chapter 3: the voluntary *zevah ha-selamim /shelamim* (the sacred gifts of peace = communion offerings) offered by individual covenant members.
- Chapter 4: obligatory sacrifice for the sins of a High Priest, the covenant community, the leader of the community, and a private individual.
- Chapter 5: obligatory sacrifice for the sins of private individuals continued including sins of reparation.
- Chapter 6-7: the priest's liturgical obligations and duties in the sacrificial rites.

In the Old Covenant rites of sacrifice and worship an acceptable sacrifice made the offerer acceptable to God.

Handout 3: Leviticus Lesson 1

The Covenant Treaty of Sinai was a 3-fold covenant, which can be expressed in its simplest terms as a covenant of creed, code, and cult:

1. Creed: What to believe
2. Code: What to do
3. Cult: How to worship

The book of Leviticus provides instruction on how to worship a Holy God as a holy people

Ritual of sacrifice for an individual's whole burnt ('olah) sacrifice on the Altar:

1. An unblemished male from the herd or flock, or a turtledove or pigeon (sacrifice for the poor).
2. The victim was offered between the altar in the courtyard and the entrance to the Tabernacle (to the west) if a bull, on the north side of the altar if a ram or he-goat, on the altar by the priest if birds.
3. The offerer laid his hands upon the victim's head if a bull, ram, or he-goat.
4. The offerer slaughtered the victim; birds were sacrificed by the priest on the altar.
5. The priests sprinkled the victim's blood around the base of the altar.
6. The priest skinned the carcass and quartered it; birds were halved but not split
7. Having set the altar fire the priest laid the head, fat, and quarters of the victim on the fire (the crop and feathers of birds were deposited on the east side of the altar).
8. The priest washed the intestines and legs of animals of the herd and flock and burned all the pieces of the animals on the altar.

In the Bible the laying-on-of-hands denotes a transfer:

1. In the essence of the offerer to the life of the animal to be offered in sacrifice (Lev 1:4).
2. In communicating the power of a spiritual gift in the act of a blessing (Gen 48:13-14; Mt 19:13-15).
3. In communicating the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17ff; 19:6).
4. In the act of consecration to a theological or ecclesiastical office (Num 27:18; Dt 34:9; Acts 6:6; 1 Tim 5:22).
5. In healing by Jesus and the Apostles (Mt 9:18; Mk 6:5; Lk 13:13; Acts 9:12, 17).
6. In the selection of a substitute or successor (Num 8:10; 27:18; Dt 34:9).
7. In sentencing a criminal to death (Lev 24:14).

Grain Offerings (minhah) presented on the Altar and first fruits grain offerings:

In chapter 2 God gave Moses the instructions for an individual's grain offerings for the altar in five different forms:

1. A grain offering of wheat flour.
2. Baked unleavened wheat cakes or thin wafers.
3. Griddle cooked unleavened wheat cakes.
4. Deep fired unleavened wheat bread.
5. Grain as a "first-fruits" offering

In each case the priest presented a portion of the offering with oil, incense and salt, breaking the bread over the altar fire as a "remembrance/ memorial" sacrifice. In the fifth category a portion of grain first-fruits was presented in the form of roasted ears of wheat with oil and incense burnt by the priest on the altar with salt, some bread and oil and all the incense as a "remembrance/ memorial" sacrifice with the remainder reverting to the priests.