

Commentary on Hebrews

Review

PEACE “FELLOWSHIP” OFFERING

Also called the *fellowship offering*, it is a festive banquet that intensifies the fellowship and the enjoyment of fellowship between a man and his God. It is the most joyful of all of the sacrifices of the Law of Moses because it involves the festive celebration.

I. Purpose

- A. To commemorate a deep sense of fellowship between man and his God.
- B. The **main object** is found in the final stage of the peace offering – a festive **sacrificial meal** designed to express gratitude to God and intensify the commitment of the worshipper of God.

II. Kinds of Peace Offerings

- A. Of Thanks to God – Ho-Rah – shout of joy! “Thank you Lord!”
- B. Of a Vow – Freewill Offering – making an oath
- C. Of Free Will – possibly involving stunted or deformed animals

III. Stages of the Peace Offering

- A. Stages 1 – 4 are in keeping with the stages of the burnt offering.
- B. The last stages are particular to this offering in how the priest receives his portion and the rest of the animal is given as the main fellowship meal for the worshipper.

IV. Important Lessons From The Peace Offering

A. PEACE IS MULTI-FACETED IN SPIRITUAL/SOCIAL QUALITIES

1. Primary is peace between man and God
 - a. **Jesus is our mediator**
Ephesians 2:14-17 *He negotiated the terms of peace (reconciliation) –*
Colossians 1:19-20 NIV For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, (20) and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, **by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.**
 - b. **He is our high priest** – Heb 3:1; 4:14-15; Heb 5:5
 - i. He ascended into the very throne of God, not copies – Heb 9:11
 - ii. He is able to sympathize with us since He was tempted in every way yet remained sinless.
 - iii. He did not appoint himself but was appointed by God.
 - iv. He has a permanent priesthood – Heb 7:21-28
 - c. **God provided the sacrifice for sins and fellowship on our behalf!**
 - i. Because we were weak and unable to provide for our own sin God provided His Son

- ii. Just like he provided a ram for Abram and Isaac in Moriah – Genesis 22:2-12 - Genesis 22:8 NIV
2. Peace within the family creates social harmony that encourages spiritual growth in all the family.
 - a. We don't look for peace for peace itself, but peace comes from being reconciled to God through Christ
 - i. No Jesus, no peace – Know Jesus, know peace
 - b. Only if we are willing to hold each other accountable can we live in peace – Matthew 18:15-18
 - c. True fellowship with one another comes by knowing Jesus and walking as He did – 1 John 1:7-10
 - d. Peace comes by training in righteousness – Hebrews 12:11 NIV No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Continuation

THE PEACE “FELLOWSHIP” OFFERING

3. Peace with self is important for self-image, security and disposition to holy living.
 - a. Peace indicates removal of guilt
 - i. Satan bullies us with guilt
 - i. *Satan* comes from the Hebrew *saw-tawn*, meaning adversary, or accuser; and *devil* comes from the Greek *diabolos*, which also means false accuser; slanderer. Someone who stands against you.
 - ii. Revelation 12:10 NIV Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.
 - iii. Jesus destroyed the works of the devil: 1 John 3:8 NIV The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. **The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.**
 - ii. Guilt breaks peace

- i. John 9:41 NIV Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.
 - ii. Romans 9:33 NIV As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame."
 - iii. Deuteronomy 28:28-29 NIV The LORD will afflict you with madness, blindness and confusion of mind. (29) At midday you will grope about like a blind person in the dark. You will be unsuccessful in everything you do; day after day you will be oppressed and robbed, with no one to rescue you.
 - iv. Deuteronomy 28:65-66 NIV Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the LORD will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. (66) You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life.
 - v. Deuteronomy 28:45 NIV All these curses will come on you. They will pursue you and overtake you until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the LORD your God and observe the commands and decrees he gave you.
- b. It is not a passive peace but an active peace
 - i. John 14:27 NIV Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
 - ii. Romans 12:21 NIV Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
 - iii. 1 John 2:14 NIV I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.
 - iv. 1 John 4:4 NIV You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

- v. John 16:33 NIV "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
- vi. It is the work of God's kingdom – Romans 14:17-19 NIV For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, (18) because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval. (19) Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.