

Commentary on Hebrews

Review

PEACE “FELLOWSHIP” OFFERING

It was to be offered by the worshiper who was in good standing with God. This peace offering, also called the *fellowship offering*, 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. Sacrifice offered as a final sacrifice when a Jew who had sinned and lost his fellowship with God repented, and desired a restoration of fellowship.
 1. First the Sin or Trespass Offering brought reconciliation with God. Atonement leads to fellowship with God.
 2. The fellowship led to a festive celebration.
- C. 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 worshiper 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 – when the freewill offering was made with an ox or sheep that was deformed or stunted – a spontaneous gift.

III. Stages of the Peace Offering

- A. The Presentation – a dedication for intensification of fellowship, not consecration.
- B. Laying On Of Hands – not for passing along sins as in the burnt offering.
- C. Killing The Victim – confirms God's judgment and penalty against sins.
- D. Sprinkling Blood On The Base Of The Altar – stages 1 – 4 are in keeping with the stages of the burnt offering.
- E. Removal Of All The Fat – All the fat is the Lord's – Lev 3:16 Israel was not to eat fat nor blood – Lev 3:17
- F. Division Of The Animal – the high priest takes his portion home to eat. It is waved towards the altar as acknowledgement that God provides for the high priest. The officiating priest takes his portion home as well.
- G. Disposal Of The Rest – the rest of the animal is given to the worshipper to use as the festive banquet. To be eaten in the tabernacle courtyard with his immediate family.

Continuation

THE PEACE “FELLOWSHIP” OFFERING

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

- i. *He is our peace* – [Ephesians 2:14-17 NIV](#) For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, (15) by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, (16) and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. (17) He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.
- ii. *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 3:1; 9:11
- ii. He is able to sympathize with us since He was tempted in every way yet remained sinless. – Heb 4:14-15
- iii. He did not appoint himself but was appointed by God. Heb 5:5
- iv. He has a permanent priesthood – Heb 7:21-28
 - i. Because of God's oath
 - ii. Because of a better covenant
 - iii. Because He lives forever
 - iv. Because he can save completely
 - v. Because he is pure, holy, blameless and exalted
 - vi. Because he does not need to offer sacrifices again and again since He offered Himself
 - vii. Because He is perfect

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](#) Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

- iii. **Romans 5:6-9 NIV** You see, at just the right time, **when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.** (7) Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. (8) But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.** (9) **Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!**
 - 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**
 - ii. **Matthew 10:34-39 NIV** "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. **I did not come to bring peace,** but a sword. (35) For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law-- (36) a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.' (37) "Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (38) Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. (39) **Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.**
 - b. Only if we are willing to hold each other accountable can we live in peace
 - i. **Matthew 18:15-18 NIV** "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. (16) But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' (17) If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. (18) "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
 - c. True fellowship with one another comes by knowing Jesus and walking as He did – 1 John 1:7-10

- i. [1 John 1:7 NIV](#) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.
- d. If our peace is not received then we take it with us by removing yourself from the situation – [Luke 10:6 NIV](#) If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you.
- e. 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.