

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. Important Lessons From The Peace Offering

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

1. Primary is peace between man and God
 - a. **He is our high priest and mediator** – Heb 3:1; 4:14-15; Heb 5:5
 - b. **God provided the sacrifice for sins and fellowship on our behalf!**
2. Peace within the family creates social harmony that encourages spiritual growth in all the family.
 - a. True fellowship with one another comes by knowing Jesus and walking as He did – 1 John 1:7-10
3. Peace comes by training in righteousness – Hebrews 12:11 NIV
4. 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
 - ii. Guilt breaks peace
 - 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.

Continuation

THE PEACE “FELLOWSHIP” OFFERING

- c. We believe God has secured our inheritance and provides a way out from under testing/tempting
 - i. We are not able to ascertain this inheritance by our own reasoning or what we learn from the world.
 - ii. His peace does not come by logic or thinking but by faith – [Philippians 4:7 NIV](#) And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- iii. His peace comes by wisdom from above, not earthly wisdom – [James 3:17 NIV](#) But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.
- iv. He provides a way out always – he is faithful! – [1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV](#) No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. **But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.**
- v. He wants to secure our inheritance! It is ours!
 - i. [Deuteronomy 9:5 NIV](#) It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the LORD your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
 - ii. [Deuteronomy 9:23 NIV](#) And when the LORD sent you out from Kadesh Barnea, he said, "Go up and take possession of the land I have given you." But you rebelled against the command of the LORD your God. You did not trust him or obey him.

B. GOD IS THE HOST OF THIS BANQUET/FEAST

1. The restored wanderer is the guest at God's table.
 - a. The meal is designed to illustrate at who's table we sit while in His kingdom – a reminder of the promise of what is coming!
 - b. [Matthew 22:1-14 NIV](#) – The Parable of the Wedding Banquet
 - c. All are invited but refuse to come. They make excuses as to why they don't come – Also see [Luke 14:18-20](#) (a variant of the parable). They were distracted by the world and its ways, the illusion of who they thought they were.
 - d. The undeserving are especially invited since his primary guests refused to come. We are the undeserving!
 - e. All are invited but only those who are changed by God's grace are accepted. Wedding clothes are needed!
 - f. Don't be underdressed! The kingdom imposes conditions on us. We must bear its fruits. We have a particular kind of clothing to wear to the feast. In the words of Paul, we must put on, "as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility," and the like ([Colossians 3:12](#)). A bitter and unforgiving heart is as much out of line for the Christian as a flip-flopping funeral-goer.

- g. Finally — and we mustn't miss this point — the kingdom of God is a feast. And we should act like it. God means to be enjoyed. He is the God of laughter, full bellies, and second helpings. In his presence, says David, there is fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11). Do you believe that?
- 2. Must be eaten in the Tabernacle courtyard. This is God's house.
 - a. Do you behave as if you were in God's house? Who are you clothed with? [Ephesians 4:22-24 NIV](#) You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; (23) to be made new in the attitude of your minds; (24) and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
 - b. Are you showing up in flip-flops and shorts, inadequately dressed? In other words, are you coming in trying to justify yourself with your deeds or goodness? [Colossians 3:9-10 NIV](#) Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices (10) and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.
 - c. Are we living as if we are God's children? Are you living as children of light? [Ephesians 5:8-11 NIV](#) For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (9) (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) (10) and find out what pleases the Lord. (11) Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.
- 3. The worshiper is eating at the "King's table."
 - a. This reminds me of Mephibosheth – son of Jonathan, a lame man invited to sit at the king's table. 2 Samuel 9:7-13
 - b. We are lame and undeserving, but have been shown grace to come eat at the king's table.

C. A PHYSICAL MEAL WITH SPIRITUAL VALUES

1. The worshiper ate a physical meal – the peace offering. He partook of that which was offered up to be sacrificed, its blood shed for peace and deeper fellowship.
2. The meal had a spiritual value. Any resemblance to what we do today?
3. The Lord's Supper: a physical meal with spiritual values
4. Eat of His body, drink of His blood. – [John 6:53-58 NIV](#) Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. (54) Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. (55) For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. (56) Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. (57) Just as the living Father sent me and I

live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me.
(58) This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."