

Offerings

BURNT OFFERING - (Lev. 1 ; 6:9–13)

Male animal without blemish ... Originally the animal was to be a firstborn ... The animal used varied according to the position and personal possessions of the individual, as well as the occasion of the sacrifice: bull, ram, he-goat, turtledoves, or young pigeons. Administered privately and publicly beginning with Adam.

(Commitment to God.)

PEACE OFFERING - (Lev. 3 ; 7:11–38)

Male or female animal without blemish ... and cattle, sheep, or goats, but no fowl or other substitutes ... The fat and inward portions were burned upon the altar, a specified part was given to the priests (Heave Offering), and the remainder was used for meat in the special dinner (Lev. 7:16). These were private offerings or a personal sacrifice for family or individuals.

(The direction of your life is acceptable to God.)

SIN OFFERING - (Lev. 4 ; 5:1–13 ; 6:25–30)

Male or female animal or fowl without blemish. ... the priest offered a bull, the ruler among the people a he-goat, the people in general a she-goat, the poor two turtledoves or two young pigeons, and those of extreme poverty an offering of fowl or meall. A special sin-offering for all the people was offered on the Day of Atonement. All other sin offerings were private and personal offerings, most often given at the times of the appointed feasts.

(Forgiveness for our human mistakes and weaknesses.)

TRESPASS OFFERING - (Lev. 5:15–19 ; 6:1–7 ; 7:1–10)

Ram without blemish. All trespass offerings were private and personal offerings, most commonly given at the times of the appointed feasts.

(Forgiveness for specific sins.)

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MEAL OR MEAT OFFERING GIFTS - (Exod. 29:40–41 ; Lev. 2 ; 6:14–23 ; 7:9–10 ; Num. 15:4–24 ; 28 ; 29)

An unleavened bread. Few ingredients were permitted with the basic flour: salt, oil, even incense, but no leavening or honey. However, it could be baked or fried in various ways. This offering was always given with the burnt offerings and peace offerings and could even substitute for a sin offering in the stress of poverty. An expression of gratitude?

(All you have comes from God.)

HEAVE OFFERING - (Exod. 29:26–27 ; Lev. 7:14, 32–34 ; Num. 18:19)

The heave offering is the right shoulder and the wave offering the breast of the peace offering animal given in payment by the offerer for the services of the priest.

Whatever the Levites received for their priesthood service—heave or wave offering, meat offering, or tithe (Num. 18)—they were required to offer to the Lord in sacrifice a portion as a memorial offering (Lev. 2:2, 9, 16 ; 5:12 ; 6:15 ; Num. 5:26 ; 18:26–29).

“Heave” and “wave” refer to gestures of lifting the offerings up and extending them toward the priest who received them on behalf of the Lord.