

Tzav Leviticus - Vayikra (6:1-8:36)

God has told Moses to tell the Israelites about offerings that can clear them of their individual sins, including accidental sins. Along with bringing offerings of animals, or grains, each person must be honest with him or herself about the sin, then ask for forgiveness from God and from all the victims. Moses is to tell Aaron and his sons how to make specific offerings. Then God said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites that each person must use his or her own hands when they bring offerings for God to the priests at the Tent of Meeting.

For the Burnt offering, make sure all the meat fat turns into smoke and never let the fire burn out. For the Respect offering which shows reverence to God, mix flour, oil, and spices into unleavened cakes. Then take a little pinch and burn it on the altar to make God a sweet smell. The priests shall eat these cakes in the sacred space within God's Meeting Tent.

When a priest is anointed for service, make a tribute to God by frying flour in a pan of oil. Watch it smoke and completely burn it. It is not to be eaten. The sin offering which clears one who sins is especially holy. Whether the offering is meat, bird or grain, it is to be made by the priest on the same altar as the burnt offering. He may eat it in the sacred space within the Tent of Meeting.

For the holy of holies Guilt offerings, take any blood and sprinkle it on the altar, then the priests may eat the meat. For the Peace offering to give thanks to God, use unleavened and leavened bread. If meat is used, do not eat the hard fat. Offer it to God. Do not eat or drink any blood for anyone who does shall have his soul cut off from his people."

Then God tells Moses to bring everyone to the entrance of the Tent of Meeting with God. It is time to begin the ceremony that will sanctify and make holy everything that is part of the Tent as well as ordain the priests who Minister to God. Then Moses did as God commanded.

Moses brought forth Aaron and his sons and immersed them in the mikvah of natural waters. He dressed Aaron in his special High Priest tunic, gemmed shoulder plates and the special Breastplate of Judgment, followed by the turban and the gold "Holy To God" head plate.

Then Moses took the anointing oil and sprinkled it seven times all around the Tent and the altars and the utensils.

Moses then brought forth Aaron's sons, dressing them in their tunics and head plates. When he brought forth a pure bull, Aaron and his sons pressed their hands against its head, then made the Sin Offering. They did the same with the ram for the Burnt offering, and the Fire Offering of a second ram to ordain the priests before God. Using anointing oil, Moses anoints Aaron and his sons as priests to serve God. He tells them to stay at the entrance of the Tent of Meeting entrance, day and night, for seven days, repeating this ceremony every day, until their ordination is complete. So Aaron and his sons do all these things, just as God had commanded through Moses.

Questions: 1) What makes an offering to God holy? 2) Why must an offering be presented "by one's own hand"? 3) Do we still need "priests" or rabbis to make offerings to God for us? Why or why not? **Illustration Ideas:** A burnt or sin offering, a Respect offering to thank God, or ceremony