

Vayikra Leviticus - Vayikra (1:1-5:26)

Wholeheartedly the Israelites gave materials and their talents to build together a portable Sanctuary for God. Inside would be a gold Ark for holding the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments. It would be separated by a curtain, then directly in front the gold seven branched menorah lamp, and to its side a bread table, and an incense alter for fragrance. Outside in the courtyard there is the Altar of Copper which has horns and a Fire Altar. Moses anointed everything and ordained the ministers to God and the Divine Presence filled the Tabernacle.

God said to Moses, "Teach the Children of Israel: Each person, voluntarily, with his own hands must present to God their offerings in front of the Tabernacle. For Elevation Meat Offerings use only pure male livestock. Only after the person making the offering presses their hands against its head, shall it be accepted as atonement. After proper slaughtering, drink none of its blood nor eat its fat. The priests are to burn it all on the Fire Altar, thus creating smoke and a satisfying aroma for God.

For the Fine Grain Offering, use only fine wheat flour, the purest olive oil, frankincense and salt, then burn it on the Altar. It is to be unleavened and salted. It can be baked, pan fried or deep fried. When the priests receive the Meal Offering, they will take a memorial portion and burn it is a Fire Offering, creating a fragrant aroma to God. The rest shall be eaten by Aaron and his sons in the Courtyard. Bring meat and/or fine grains for the Offerings of Well-Being and Thanksgiving.

The priests must keep the fire burning day and night upon the Altar and clean ashes daily.

There are First Grain Offerings, Peace Offerings, and specific offerings to be made when an individual, priest, King, Commoner or High Priest accidentally sins. If an inadvertent sin is created by the community, the elders shall make the offering. For all Sin Offerings, a person (or community) is considered guilty as soon as there is awareness of the sin. A person must be honest about the sin, confess it, rectify it and ask for forgiveness by bringing a designated offering to God's ministers who will atone with God to grant forgiveness.

Guilt Offerings are to be made when sees a person sees a crime and does not testify, when the sacred is contaminated by the impure, and when a person breaks a sworn oath. Teach the Children of Israel that a person allies against God by lying, breaking a promise, stealing, misappropriation or withholding funds, not returning something borrowed and being false in personal relations. In all Guilt Offerings, whether of livestock, birds, breads, oils, first fruits or money, on the day of awareness, the person must make good and fulfill any oaths, returning what belongs to others (including any profits gained from it), and tell the truth. The person must make restitution by adding an extra fifth to their offering when they give to the priests. Thus the priest shall make atonement for the person before God and then the sin will be forgiven.

Questions: 1) What do you do when you feel guilty? 2) How can an offering to God clear you of sin? 3) Describe forgiveness. **Illustration Ideas:** An Israelite bringing an animal, grain, money or fruits to God..people feeling guilty...a guilty face.....asking for forgiveness or granting forgiveness